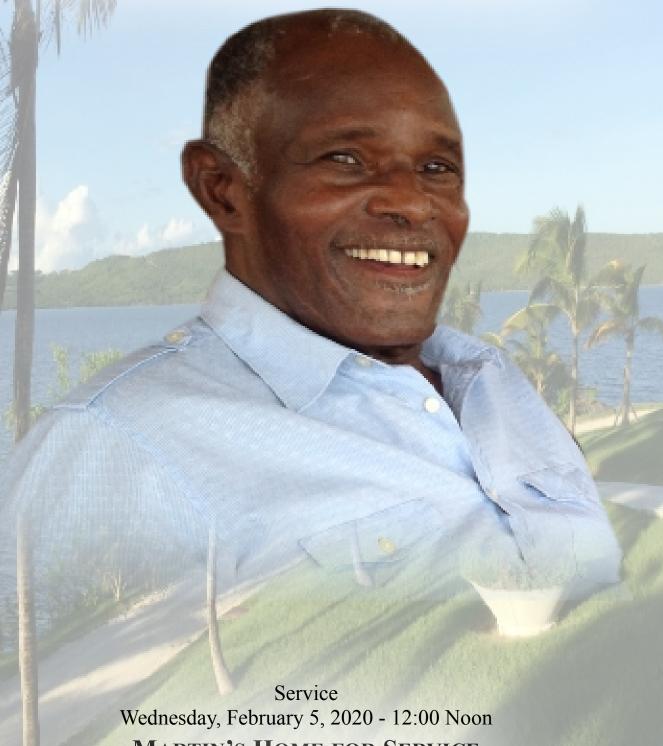
Celebrating the Life of RALPH EGBERT REYNOLDS



MARTIN'S HOME FOR SERVICE

48 Elm Street • Montclair, New Jersey

Reverend Dr. Jerome Stembridge, Officiating

Ralph's Journey

Beloved Father, **Ralph Egbert Reynolds** was born on the beautiful island of Antigua, West Indies on June 8, 1932 to Inez Winthrope and Adolphus Reynolds. Ralph was raised by his mother and loving Grandmother Florence "Dada" Winthrope in Temple Street where he also lived with his four siblings Ruth, Roy, Eunice and Gerda. Ralph also had numerous siblings on his Father's side including, Charles, Chris, Willie and Anne, among others.

Ralph attended TN Kirnon Boys School and was an apprentice at a building contracting firm where he learned carpentry and cabinet making. Ralph later worked on numerous construction projects in Antigua and sister island Barbuda, including the construction of a home for the Prime Minister as well as various road engineering projects.

Ralph was a very ambitious young man and realized that to achieve his true potential, he would need to leave his beloved Antigua. Ralph emigrated to the United States in 1956 and lived in East Elmhurst Queens (NY) with his niece Jane Hoover, husband Willie, sister Rose "Sweetheart" and three sons Terrell, Jerry and Lawrence. Ralph also lived for a period of time with his elder sister Anne.

Ralph enrolled in school where one of his favorite subjects was history and this would lead to his lifelong love of history. Ralph also worked on various construction projects around the New York area and also worked for a bookbinding company in Queens.

While at his local bank, Ralph met an employee named Loretta Jean Ennis who would become his wife in 1960 and mother of his daughters Denise and Bari. Ralph and Jean divorced a few years later and in 1968 Ralph obtained sole custody of his daughters......a selfless act of love which was incredible at a time when fathers rarely obtained sole custody of children. In 1969, Ralph married Marilyn Miranda, mother of his son Christian.

While working on a construction project, the client commented that Ralph was a very good carpenter who displayed great skill and drive. The client asked Ralph if he had considered going into business for himself. The client assured Ralph that if he opened his own business, the client would engage his firm on future projects. This was the birth of Reynolds Woodworking Company, established in 1963.

It was incredible that an Antiguan man who emigrated to America during the time of segregation had the audacity to believe that he could own a business in Manhattan and ultimately build office interiors for the most prestigious firms on Wall Street including Merrill Lynch, Chemical Bank and Phillip Morris. Ralph also worked in the Fashion District, and was awarded projects for the Rockefeller Foundation, the Museums of Art and Natural History as well as a project at the New York apartment of Diana Ross.

Over the years, Ralph made numerous visits back to Antigua and in 1977, Ralph joined family members to celebrate the 100th birthday of his beloved Dada who would live to see the wonderful age of 104.

In 1981, Ralph returned to Antigua for the funeral of a dear family friend, Noel Murphy. During this visit Ralph made a discovery that would ultimately change his life. He was told that a property on the southeast side of the island would be up for sale in the next few days. He viewed the unfinished property owned by an American and realized that it was built on land he visited as a child with Dada. Ralph bought the house and surrounding land and began the process of turning this idyllic seafront property in Willoughby Bay into a paradise for himself and his family.

In April 1988, Ralph closed the doors of Reynolds Woodworking Company and retired back to Antigua where he would live for the next 30 years. During the same month of Ralph's return, he became a grandfather for the first time to his darling Stephanie "Little Miss Stephie" with whom he held a very special bond. In April 2013, Ralph experienced the joy of being a grandfather once again with the birth of his lovely granddaughter Sonia, followed by his lovely granddaughters Zara and Mila.

Ralph spent many wonderful years back in Antigua indulging in his life long passion for gardening. With a property consisting of several acres, Ralph was able to discover new projects on a daily basis. He and his gardener Hanson planted over 100 coconut trees which lined the seafront and surrounded much of the property. They also planted several dozen fruit and nut trees including mango, banana, lemon, lime, orange, cashew and eucalyptus, among many others. Granddaughter Stephanie also helped plant trees during her many visits to Antigua.

During Ralph's first 20 years in Antigua, he was known for his great barbecues. A "small" gathering might include 40 friends and family. Ralph also developed a love for indoor cooking and his signature dish was baked lobster stuffed with shrimp and crab meat. Ralph enjoyed many happy moments over the years with family and dear friends Time Kendall, George Weaver, Elaine Murphy, Ian Mayer, Daisy Edwards, Willie George, Ann "Madame" and Rollie Edwards & Family, Hugh Bailey & Family, Louise Tack, Reg Samuels, Wright George, Bob Tillotson & Family, Julie Esty & Family, Lester Lake & Family and many others.

Ralph was also able to indulge in his passion for history and in particular, military history. Several years ago, Observer Radio Station invited Ralph to join a discussion during an "Old Time Something" broadcast and this led to regular appearances on the radio to discuss many historical events including his true interest, World War II. Ralph had an extensive collection of historical books and DVDs which he shared with his great nephew Daren's son Jonathan and friend Julie Esty's son Tucker, among others.

In January 2010, Ralph suffered two mini strokes and would require home nursing assistance for the next 8 years. Luckily, Ralph did not endure the physical constraints of a stroke so he was able to remain fairly mobile. During Ralph's latter years in Antigua, Nurses Sheroon Chung, Shaundell Fraser and Alicia Grant Joyce cared for him with a level of kindness and compassion for which his family will always be grateful.

After 30 years in Antigua, Ralph returned to the US in March 2018 to begin dialysis treatment which was unavailable to him in Antigua. Nurse Sheroon Chung joined Ralph's daughter Denise on the journey back to the US to assist Ralph with the transition. The family bought a home in New Jersey for Ralph and his daughter Bari who became his full-time caregiver. Bari was devoted to her Father and did everything possible to ensure he received the best possible care. Bari also did her very best to organize activities for Ralph that were both fun and mentally or physically stimulating to ensure that he was not only healthy, but also happy. Granddaughter Stephanie returned home in September 2019 to spend more time with her Grandpa and to assist with his care.

On Monday, January 27, 2020 Ralph closed his eyes for the very last time......

Ralph was an incredible Father who showered his children and loved ones with unconditional love and support. Ralph also had a wonderful sense of humor which will forever keep smiles on the faces and love in the hearts of those who had the privilege of sharing his amazing life!

Ralph is survived by his children Denise, Bari and Christian, daughter-in-law Eram and grandchildren Stephanie, Sonia, Zara and Mila. He is also survived by his sisters Gerda and Ruth, brother Roy, brother-in-law Pat, dear niece Carol, great nephew Daren (wife Avril and children Kayla, Jonathan and Ayden), nephews Lawrence (wife Jackie), Jerry (partner Janet), Brian (wife Jacqueline, sons Brenden and Justin), Trevor, Andrew, Jimmy (children Jessica and Christopher), nieces Judith, Heather (husband Dick), Patti, Tricia and Judy, great nieces Sarah-Anne, Rebekah and Danielle. Ralph is also survived by dear family friend Cheryl Price who was like a goddaughter and dear family friend Carin Parella.

Finally, Ralph is survived by his dear, dear friend Edith Parekh who was once the love of his life and remained a very dear friend to Ralph and his children for the rest of his life.

"The greatest thing you'll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return....."

Order of Service

Processional

"Zadok The Priest"

Selection

"Stand"

Scripture Readings

Reverend Dr. Jerome Stembridge

Selection

"I Look To You"

Acknowledgements

Daren Matthew-Ward (Nephew)

Remarks

Daren Matthew-Ward (Nephew)

Ralph's Journey

Cheryl Price (Goddaughter)

Selection

"Unforgettable"

Eulogy

Reverend Dr. Jerome Stembridge

Committal

Reverend Dr. Jerome Stembridge

Viewing

Family

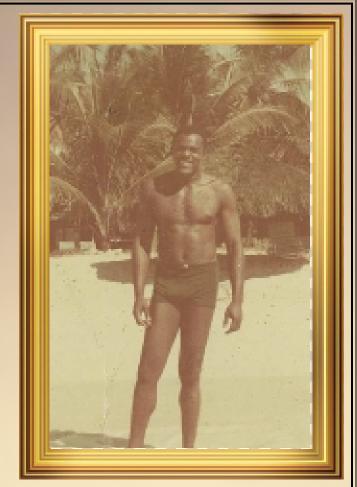
Recessional

"Hallelujah"

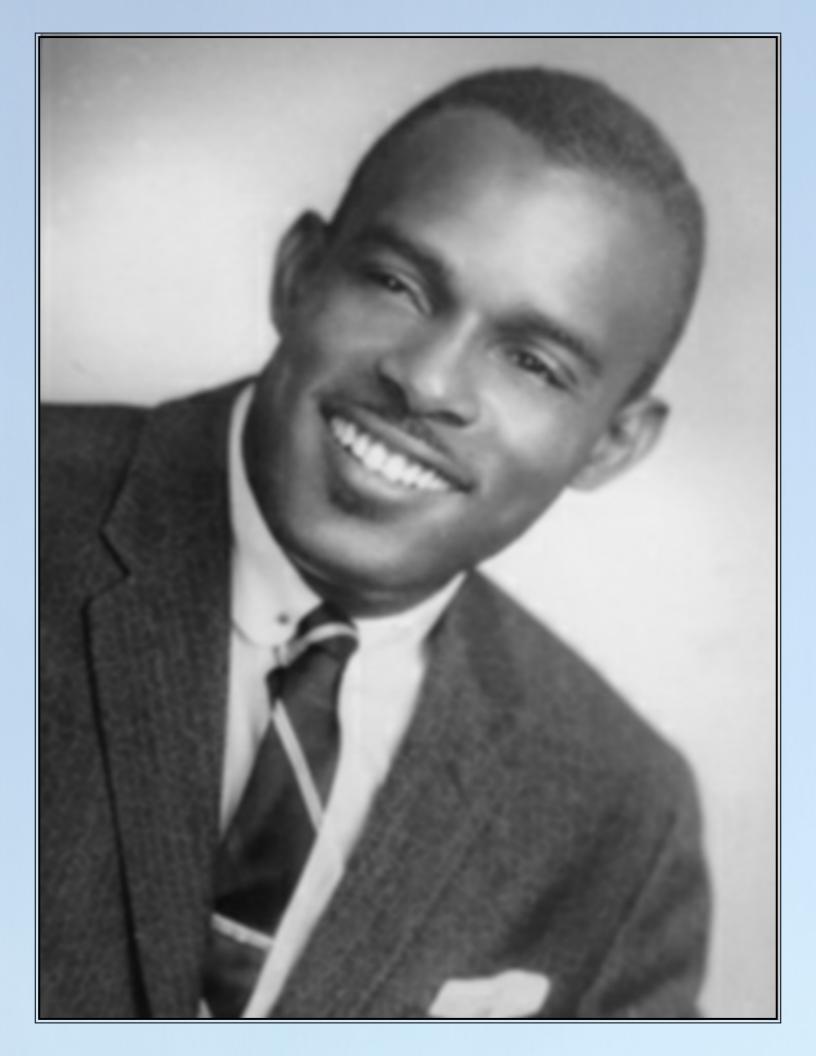
Interment

Rosedale Cemetery Orange, New Jersey























L.F. ROTHSCHILD, UNTERBERG, TOWBIN



Bank of America











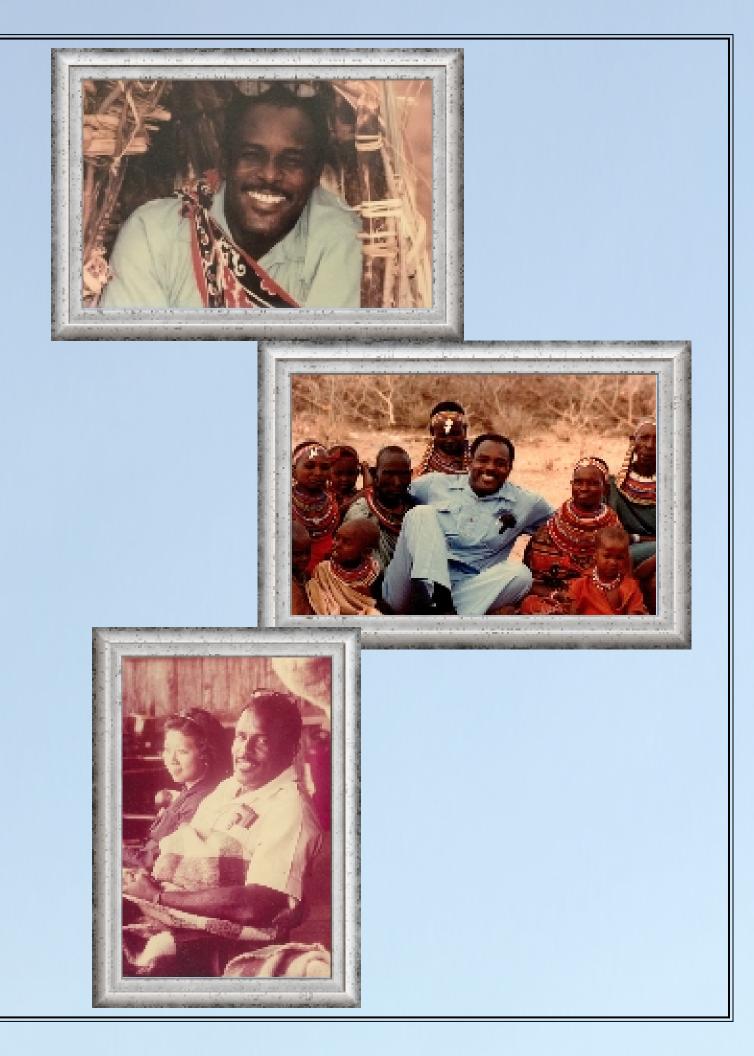


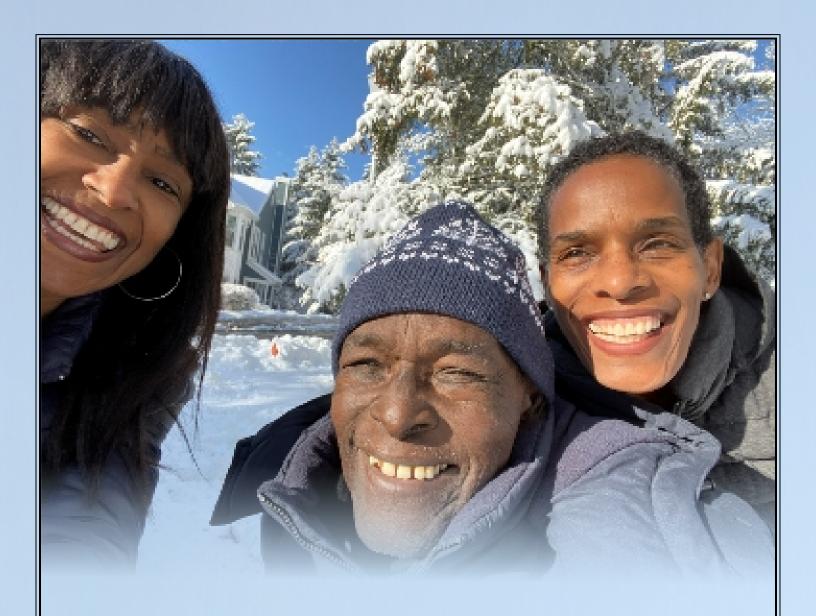
CARNEGIE HALL



GUGGENHEIM







Precious

Memories

