

In Loving Memory of

Johnnie Harris Jr.

Sunrise

June 1, 1952

Sunset

April 2, 2020



Monday, April 13, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
130 Main Street • Orange, New Jersey

Reflections of Life

Johnnie Harris, Jr., affectionately known as Sonny, was born to Ester and Johnnie Harris, Sr. in Columbia, South Carolina on June 1, 1952.

The family moved to Newark, NJ around 1959, where he attended Abington Ave. School, then went onto Barringer High School where he received his diploma. After graduating from high school, Johnnie worked for Hartz Mountain for a year before obtaining employment in 1972, with the Newark Board of Education (NBOE). Johnnie secured a position as a Custodian while looking to improve himself. A hard worker with an impeccable work ethic, Johnnie eventually became a Security Guard. His first appointed location was Webster Jr. High School. He was a security guard at several Newark Public School locations before being elevated to Guard of Public Property and Security Patrolman. Johnnie would continue to advance his professional career as an Investigator, Senior Security Guard, and Senior Security Manager. His progression through the ranks is the true definition of starting at the bottom and elevating to higher levels. Johnnie dedicated 47 yrs of his life to the Newark Board of Education.

Johnnie met Deidre Hodge, the love of his life, while they were both employed at the Newark Board of Education. Shortly after, they started dating and married in April of 2000. Johnnie was a very loving and devoted husband. He was a caring and loving father, who adored and protected his family; both personal and the NBOE.

Johnnie was always happy- a respected and beloved husband, father and colleague. There wasn't anything he wouldn't do to help anyone. Many have thanked him for assisting them in becoming employed with NBOE. He was so passionate about work and helping others that although he was ill, he still made time for others by answering calls from his colleagues and co-workers when they were having problems. Johnnie's generosity was so widespread that he donated his earned sick and personal time to other employees who were in need. Johnnie loved his job (career) and awoke every morning, eager to go to work. Johnnie loved serving others. He will be a class act to follow.

In his spare time, Johnnie enjoyed traveling with his wife, visiting with his children and grandchildren, collecting different genres of music and movies. His huge heart and capacity to accept and love everyone were remarkable. Although we are saying goodbye to his physical body, we know God has earned an angel.

Johnnie is survived by Deidre Harris, his wife; Johnnie Harris Sr., his father of Maryland; predeceased by his mother, Ester Harris. He is survived by his children Keith Harris, Teekia Harris, Terik Harris and Sukoya Harris all of Newark, New Jersey, Awanda Hodge of Delaware; fifteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Johnnie also leaves to mourn his siblings, Eugene Harris (Suki) of Houston, Texas, Anthony Harris (Pat) of Newark, New Jersey; Sharon Fritz of Salt Lake City, Utah, Basimah Abdul-Hakeem of Boundbrook, New Jersey and a host of in-laws, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Until We Meet Again

*Those special memories of you will always bring a smile
if only I could have you back for just a little while
then we could sit and talk again just like we used to do
you always meant so very much and always will do too
the fact that you're no longer here will always cause me pain
but you're forever in my heart until we meet again.*

I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free. I'm following the path God has chosen for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call; I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day, To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way I've found now peace at the end of the day.
If my parting has left a void, Then fill it with remembered joys.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss; Oh yes, these things, I too will I miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow; Look for sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much; Good friends, good times, a loved ones touch.
Perhaps my time seems all too brief; Don't lengthen your time with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and peace to thee, God wanted me now - He set me free.*

Professional Services Provided By

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