

Celebrating the Life of



Lawrence Hampden

Sunrise
July 7, 1938

Sunset
June 2, 2020

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 - 9:00 am

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.
2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Obituary

Lawrence Hampden was born on July 7th, 1938. The last of ten children born to Gladstone and Millicent Hampden in the village of Harlem, New York. Lawrence was the jokester of the family. Rarely was it that you would catch him in a somber or serious mood when he was young. He was just lighthearted and funny practically all the time. And what he lacked in formal education (he never finished high school) he more than made up for in street smarts and common sense.

Lawrence also had a great love of family, which was a hallmark of the entire Hampden clan. All of his brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, all fell under the Lawrence spell for making you laugh and making your day. He was like a big brother and uncle all rolled into one for his nieces and nephews. Many of whom he babysat for to their delight. (Even though he would sometimes steal their treats!) Many times he'd take them out to the park or to the movies or played with them with his pet, Tippy, a beautiful white haired German Sheppard.


Besides family, two things Lawrence also loved was music and baseball. He was always listening or watching a baseball game when it was in season. He really loved the game. But even that took a backseat to his love of music. As a teenager, in the mid 50's, Lawrence helped to form a singing group called The Channels. His high falsetto was a signature sound in the group. The Channels had a number of hits in their heyday. Most notably "The Closer You Are" and "That's My Desire". It was a great kick for the family to hear their sibling and uncle on the radio and enjoying a bit of fame. But Lawrence just took it all in stride and never got too swell headed. His love of his family definitely kept him rooted as he toured throughout the country and played such venues as the famous Apollo Theatre, where many of the family got a chance to see him and the group perform.

After the group split up, Lawrence found himself performing odd jobs and had a stint with the Parks Department of New York. In the 1970's, Lawrence fell ill and went into a coma. The family all banded together, visited and prayed and practically willed him back to consciousness. He continued to once again be the source of levity and good natured fun that the family had come to love and enjoy.

As he grew older, having never married or had children, he always looked to give whatever advice he could to his nieces and nephews. His philosophy throughout his life was that "No one was better than anyone else!" And encouraged them to be and do better no matter the challenges.

On Tuesday, June 2nd, Lawrence passed peacefully in his sleep. The last one to pass on of the ten children born to Gladstone and Millicent Hampden. He will always be remembered for his humor, talent, forthrightness and especially his love for all of his family. Rest In Peace dear Uncle!

Lawrence is survived by his many nieces and nephews, grand nieces and nephews, cousins, and in-laws.



Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Recessional

Interment

Forest Green Memorial Park
Morganville, New Jersey

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard his call,
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My Life's been full, I savoured much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch,

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.

Acknowledgement

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.
May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

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