

# *Celebration of Life for*



*William James Massie Jr.*  
*"The Funk Master #1"*

**Sunrise**

October 18, 1958

**Sunset**

April 5, 2020

**Service**

Monday, July 6, 2020 - 11:00 a.m.

**CARNIE P. BRAGG FUNERAL HOME**

256 Rosa Parks Blvd., Paterson, New Jersey

**Elder Carmelita Chestnut, Officiating**

# *Reflections of Life for William James Massie Jr.* *Aka "The Funk Master #1"*

William Massie was born on October 18, 1958 in Bronx, New York. He was the son of the late William J. Massie Sr. and Lola M. Massie. "Billy," lovingly named by his family, grew up on Myrtle Avenue in Jersey City, New Jersey, he attended Sacred Heart School, and Henry S. Snyder High School, both in Jersey City.

William Jr. was very musically inclined. He learned to play the bass guitar at the tender age of four. This was due to his father, William Massie Sr.'s eye for spotting gifted and talents musicians. It was Bill's father who taught him how to play the bass guitar. His love and passion for playing the bass grew over the years, as he readily shared his love of music with everyone he met. In his teenage years, he played in the Henry S. Snyder High School Jazz Band, and as well as improving his talents by practicing with some of Jersey City's most talented musicians. Many of the musicians he played with, were managed by his father. At sixteen years of age, he was sought after by the famed group, Kool and the Gang, but was too young to travel. Since education was most important to his parents, they wanted him to continue his education and graduate high school. However, after graduating high school, Bill decided to leave home and take the music world by storm!

Bill loved to laugh and just have fun! In his younger years, he would watch Saturday morning cartoons with his sisters, Carmelita and Cellestine. He would play Charlie Brown Christmas Dance and the Pink Panther Theme song on his bass guitar, while they laughed and danced. After high school, Bill moved to Canada for two years, and lived in California for one year because he experienced living through an earthquake! Bill returned home in 1983, after touring for many years. His two younger sisters weren't deprived of his phenomenal music abilities either. Vonisha and Angyl along with his other sisters and brothers- in- law played in the Christ Memorial Christian Faith Ministries choir for five years under the leadership of the late Bishop Edward L. Hackett and continued to play locally.

Following the footsteps of his Dad, Bill began a career in Trucking, Bill's trucking career included working for companies such as John Sexton Foods, Englewood, New Jersey, Fleetwood Forwarding, Kearny, New Jersey, and Fedway Associates Incorporated, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Bill had a huge heart and an infectious smile! He never met a stranger and would help everyone that he could. Bill's friends loved him very much! His friends Mike, Agnus, and Terry were very special to him. They often hung out together and shared many aspects of their lives! To Bill, they were the brother's that he never had, and Agnus was just like a sister to him. Two years prior to his passing, Bill began a loving relationship with his girlfriend, Ms. Dorothy Mentor. Dorothy was his devoted friend and stayed by his side until his death.

In William's sickness, he never lost hope or faith! In late February of 2020, Bill received Jesus Christ as his Lord and personal Savior! William was preceded in death by his paternal and maternal grandparents, Royal and Marion Massie, John and May Francis Wheeler, and his father, William J. Massie Sr.

Mr. William James Massie Jr. aka "Bill" (The Funk Master), peaceful slipped away from "works to reward" at Saint Barnabas Medical Center on Sunday, April 5, 2020 at the age of 61.

He is survived by his loving mother, Lola M. Massie, his four sisters Carmelita (Thomas) Chestnut, Stroudsburg, PA, Cellestine (Reggie) Qualls, Newark, NJ, Vonisha (Alford Jr.) Mullin, Raleigh, NC, and Angyl (Kevin) Moses, Jersey City, NJ, his devoted friend, Dorothy Mentor, one uncle, nine aunts, and a host of cousins, nephews, nieces, great nephews and one great niece, his closest friends Donnie, Mike, Terry, and Agnes, as well as the Myrtle Avenue Crew, and a host of other friends.

# Order Service

*He that believeth on the Son, has everlasting life St. John 3:36a*

Musical Prelude ..... Musician

Invocation ..... Clergy

Old Testament Scripture ..... Deacon Kevin Moses

New Testament Scripture ..... Deacon Thomas Chestnut

Prayer of Comfort ..... Pastor Loretta Phillips

Solo

Acknowledgements & Resolutions

Reflections of Life

Family Reflections & Remarks

Musical Selection ..... Family Ensemble

Eulogy ..... Elder Carmelita Chestnut

Benediction ..... Elder Carmelita Chestnut

Recessional ..... Clergy

## Interment

Hollywood Memorial Park and Cemetery  
1621 Stuyvesant Avenue  
Union, New Jersey 07083-5339

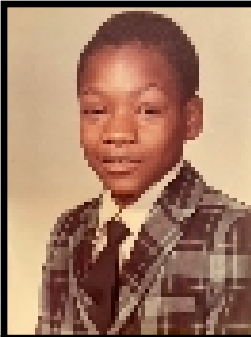


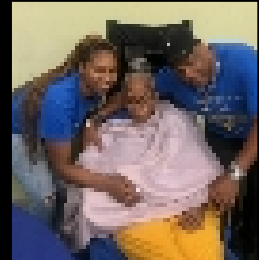
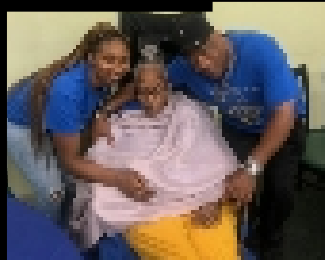
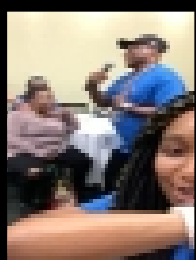
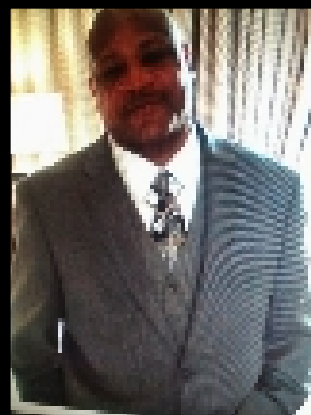
# *A Brother Like You*

When God gave me a brother  
He gave me YOU  
People say we look alike,  
That's definitely true  
You are our only brother  
As everyone could see  
You protected your four sisters,  
That was a guarantee.  
I can still hear your voice  
It is very clear.

You laughed, joked, and sang  
the song "Birdland" in my ear.  
The heavenly choir is sure gonna jam  
Now that "Funk Master #1" has joined the band!  
So pick up your bass and tune your strings,  
What a joyful sound in heaven that will bring!  
You were always so kind, so meek, and so sweet.  
The memories that I hold, run so very deep!  
You have earned your wings,  
I wasn't ready for you to depart,  
I will always hold on to these precious memories  
"Funk Master #1," way down in my heart.

Love Always,  
Your sister  
Nisha







# Billy's Prayer

*THE WORD OF WISDOM ★ Obeying your heart of  
hearts will allow you to focus on an extensive path with simplicity  
KEEP THE FAITH*

*If I should lose YOU as a friend I've lost nothing  
If I should lose Jesus + Christ as a friend I've lost everything  
BEING STRONG*

*Keeping your head up and knowing you have the  
power to conquer whatever life brings your way*

*ALWAYS THINK POSITIVE*

*Negativity creeps its way right in and gets messy in  
your life. PERIOD! It doesn't discriminate at all, ever!  
So wait on the goodness within yourself  
LOVE IS THE POWER OF LIFE*

*In Placing God first & knowing how to love yourself  
& others while being humble and helpful is a  
benediction that speaks exceptionally loud!*

## Acknowledgement

Perhaps you sang a lovely song or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you sent beautiful flowers, if so, we saw them there.  
Perhaps you sent or spoke a kind word, as any friend would say.  
Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day.  
Perhaps you prepared some tasty food, or maybe furnished a car,  
Perhaps you rendered a service unseen near at hand, or from afar.  
The Family sincerely says. THANK YOU" for playing an important part,  
We love you and greatly appreciate you from the bottom of our heart!

The Family gratefully appreciates all of your prayers and expressions of Love.  
God Bless and keep you all!  
~The Family~

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