

In Loving Memory of



William Francis

Sunrise
March 2, 1930

Sunset
October 7, 2020

Service:
Saturday, October 17, 2020 - 9:00 am

MCCALL'S BRONXWOOD FUNERAL HOME

4035 Bronxwood Avenue • Bronx, New York 10466

Rev. Canon Franklin L. Reid, Officiating

Min. Ernest Billups, Organist

Obituary

Mr. William Francis was born March 2, 1930, in St. Andrews, Jamaica, West Indies. As a young man, he left Jamaica to live in England before coming to New York City where he first resided in Manhattan and then the Bronx. He often travelled to England and Jamaica.

Known to everyone as Mr. Francis, or just Francis, in his early twenties he apprenticed to become a Master carpenter. He also attended trade school where he graduated with an Associate's degree in construction management. Combining both of these skills, Mr. Francis was very proud of his craft as he worked as construction foreman and master carpenter on many large projects in New York City for many years.

Mr. Francis was a faithful and long-time member of All Souls' Episcopal Church. He has been a member of the Vestry, and was an active member of the Willing and Able Committee and the Men's Club. He participated in many church projects and events. He cherished his church family. Mr. Francis was always willing to share the Sunday sermon in a conversation with family and friends. He loved the Lord and knew the importance of living a Christ-centered life.

He enjoyed all sports, especially baseball, basketball and football. His favorite sports team was the New York Mets. He was a true die-hard Mets fan. He enjoyed attending games in person and watching them on TV.

He loved music, but he especially loved Jazz and Reggae music (Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Beres Hammond and so many others). He would sit back, cross his legs, close his eyes, nod his head while grooving to the music, and become quiet as he would go into his own zone. Additionally, Mr. Francis was a big fan of Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune television game shows.

Mr. Francis was well known in his Co-op City neighborhood. He was loved and respected by many people. And this was not limited to his neighbors and friends; he was very well respected when he entered the bank, the pizza shop, the supermarket etc.

He had a very special friendship with a group of Co-op City men that became his "Bench Buddies". They regularly held "court" a few times a week when they met on the benches outside of Mr. Francis's building. Their bond was unbreakable. They had fun discussing everything from sports, to food, to the condition of the world.

He was also an avid fitness buff. He regularly worked-out at the local gym. He also formed very strong friendships at this gym. This group also had an unbreakable bond and would spend hours exercising, encouraging each other, and also discussing everything from sports, to food, to the condition of the world. He continued to work-out at the gym until he was almost 88 years old.

In 2018 Mr. Francis was diagnosed with dementia. It robbed him of his independence and his mental and physical strength. It was a challenging time for him, but he was surrounded by family and friends that supported him during this stage of his life. In the early morning of Wednesday, October 7, 2020, Mr. Francis left peacefully to be with the Lord. He will be missed by all!!

Order of Service

Celebrant: The Rev. Canon Franklin L. Reid

The Anthem

The Collect

Old Testament LessonIsaiah 25:6-9 Dennis Buchanan

Psalms 121..... Hope Buchanan

New Testament LessonRevelation 7:9-17 Angela Reid

Selection..... “I Won’t Complain”..... Min. Ernest Billups

The Gospel John 14:1-6

HomilyThe Rev. Canon Franklin L. Reid

Obituary.....Hope Buchanan

Selection“How Great Thou Art”..... Min. Ernest Billups

AcknowledgementsAngela Reid

The Commendation and Committal

Interment

Mt. Hope Cemetery

50 Jackson Avenue

Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706

I've changed my address to Heaven
I've crossed the Great Divide.
I know there's no sorrow or crying,
Because I've reached the other side.
I am so happy to be here for the Lord Himself I see.
I've changed my address to Heaven, I bid this world goodbye.
I now live forever with Jesus
In my new home in the sky.
I have no burdens or heartaches
And from tears I am now free.
I've changed my address to Heaven, I'm safe forevermore.
For the Lord built all mansion
And my name is on the door.
You can find us walking together,
For where He is, I'll always be.
I've changed my address to Heaven,
That's the place you'll find me.

Acknowledgments

The family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.

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