

Celebrating the Life of



Sunrise
April 21, 1965

Sunset
December 24, 2020

Tony McElam

Friday, January 8, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

207 Broadway, Paterson, New Jersey

Rev. D Andra Johnson, Pastor

Bishop Carswell Jackson, Officiating

Obituary

Tony McClam was born on April 21, 1965 in Lake City, South Carolina. He was the son of the late Wilbur McClam, Sr. and Elena (Graham) McClam.

Tony was educated in the Paterson Public School District System. He was considered a “Knight for Life” upon graduating from John F. Kennedy High School in 1983. After graduation, he went on to serve in the United States Army from 1983 to 1987. Tony was a proud veteran who was Honorably Discharged. During his tour of duty in the Army he was a cook who served Five Star Generals, Lieutenants, Sergeants, and his fellow first class platoons.

In 1988, Tony met the love of his life Belinda (Webb) McClam. They share 3 beautiful children, Sanobia, Shakira, and Shamari McClam.

Upon completing his time in the military, Tony knew his passion for cooking was evident. He was employed at William Paterson University as a cook before transitioning himself to North Jersey Developmental School Totowa in 1988. During his tenure at NJDC he started as a Food Handler, was promoted to a cook, Head Cook Supervisor, Head Supervisor 1 and Assistant Food Director. While employed, Tony elevated his career in the food industry by furthering his education and graduating top of his class at the Culinary Arts Institute of New York (formerly known as the New York Restaurant School). After obtaining his degree in Culinary Arts, he received an opportunity to create authentic dishes at Madison Square Garden.

In 2014, after the closing of North Jersey Developmental Center, "NJDC STRONG" he became employed at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital for 3 years until his sweet release called "RETIREMENT" in 2017. Shortly after retiring, Tony joined the Passaic Valley Elks Lodge # 2111 of Totowa, New Jersey. Where he was a active member.

Some of Tony's favorite things to do during his downtime was play sports, exercise, spend quality time with family, and inspire others to do better. No matter what he always loved to make people laugh or just help them out any way he could.

Tony's favorite sports teams were the NY Yankees, Georgetown Hoyas, Philadelphia 76ers and his all time favorite team was the Dallas Cowboys.

Tony is preceded in death by his three siblings, Evangelist Dorothy Clark, Deacon Wilbur McClam Jr. and Pastor Michael McClam.

On Thursday, December 24, 2020, Tony McClam departed this life.

He leaves to cherish wonderful memories, his loving wife, Belinda McClam; two daughters, Sanobia and Shakira McClam; one son, Shamari McClam; two grandchildren, Sharif Qawi Pittman and Sariah Alani Rose Thomas; one brother, Ervin (Janet) McClam of Paterson, NJ; four sisters, Pastor Eloise Brown of Lake City, SC, Pastor Lena White of Florence, SC, Rosa (Henry) Reams of Paterson, NJ, Pastor Laura (Bishop Carswell) Jackson of Charlotte, NC; brothers-in-law, Joseph Thomas, Kevin Webb and Wilbur Clark of Paterson, NJ; sister-in-law, Joanna McClam of Columbia, SC; special friends, cousin Sharon Jones, Debbie Williams, Pastor Ronald Smalls, David Dixon (Ernestine), Medgar Barnes and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Tony would always say, “I am not a prophet, but I can prophesize.” He truly believed that loving and caring for people is what the world truly needs. Tony will be missed!

Order of Service

Presiding: Minister Daron Custis

Old Testament: Elder Joaquim Thomas

New Testament: Elder Joaquim Thomas

Selection

Bishop Carswell Jackson

Prayer of Comfort

Elder Joaquim Thomas

Remarks

Please limit to 2 minutes

Reflections of Life and Acknowledgements:

Minister Daron Custis

Eulogy

Bishop Carswell Jackson, Brother-in-law

Pastor, New Life Evangelistic Church, Charlotte, NC

Entombment

Saturday, January 9th, 2021 - 10AM

George Washington Memorial Cemetery

234 Paramus Road

Paramus, New Jersey



The Master Called

*I'm sorry I had to leave you.
My loved ones, oh so dear.
But you see, the Master called me,
His voice was very clear!
I had made my reservation
A heaven bound ticket for one,
And I knew that He would call me
When He felt my work was done.
I know that your hearts are heavy
Because I have gone away,
But when the Master called me,
I knew that I could not stay.
Yes, I'm sorry I had to leave you
My loved ones, oh so dear,
But, you see, the Master called me
And, now I'm resting here.
Yes, I've crossed on over to glory
And to you all I say
Just stay in the hands of Jesus
And we'll meet again someday.
-Author unknown*

Acknowledgment

The family of the late **Tony McClam** wishes to thank all of you for your prayers, messages of comfort and the many other acts of kindness shown during our hour of bereavement.

May God continue to bless you in a very special way.

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