

In Loving Memory of



Willie Lee Howze

Sunrise
December 17, 1947

Sunset
February 11, 2021

Thursday, February 25, 2021 - 10am

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Obituary

Willie Lee Howze was born on December 17, 1947 to the late Jessie and Herbert Howze in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Willie attended the public school system in Rock Hill until he moved to New York City with his mother Jessie and two brothers, John and Kenny. Willie attended the NYC public school system upon his arrival up north in the summer of 1959. Willie met his future wife, Barbara while enrolled at P.S. 191. Willie always kept a job since the age of 13. As a teenager he worked in a grocery store and delivered newspapers to save enough money to take Barbara on dates. He attended Commerce High School until the 10th grade.

In 1966, Willie was drafted to the Army and was deployed to Vietnam. While in active combat Willie accelerated in defending his company. On one occasion, Willie won the Bronze Star of Valor. While on a routine mission, 2 Viet Cong attacked Willie and his company with rifles and automatic weapons. Willie jumped into action and directed machine gun fire on the enemy. He began maneuvering out of the center of the ambush when the Viet Cong increased their attack, Willie found himself fighting them off in hand to hand combat. Once out of danger, Willie aided in the evacuation of his wounded peers and repairing the damaged communication system. He ran from vehicle to vehicle hand delivering messages to ensure everyone's safety.

In 1968, Willie returned home from Vietnam. He began working for the Post Office while dating Barbara. He left the Post Office to begin his lifelong career with the NYC Transit Authority. In 1973, Willie married Barbara and the two purchased their first home in St. Albans, NY. In 1977, Willie and Barbara had their first son, Rashaun. Willie continued his work with the Transit Authority and his role as a loving husband and father. In 1983, Willie and Barbara gave birth to their second son, Shane.

Willie enjoyed working double shifts and fishing on his days off. In 1995, Willie retired from the NYC Transit Authority. At that time, he returned to his hometown of Rock Hill, SC and resided there until 2017 when he suffered a stroke. Barbara and Shane brought Willie to NY to receive better care. On February 11, 2021, Willie succumbed to his illness at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Jessie Howze and father, Herbert Howze. Left to mourn his death is: his wife Barbara; his two sons Rashaun and Shane; his granddaughter Jayla; three brothers John, Kenny and Michael; his sister Rhonda; along with a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

INTERMENT:
Calverton National Cemetery
Calverton, New York



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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