

In Loving Memory of
Michael Gardner

Sunrise
March 25, 1959

Sunset
March 6, 2021



Service

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 • 5:00 p.m.

St. John FBH Church

1016 Fulton Street • Brooklyn, NY 11238

Rev. Walter Deloatch, Officiating

Obituary

Born on March 25th, 1959, **Michael “Bysun” Gardner** was the youngest child of the late John and Bertha Gardner. A product of Brooklyn, New York, Michael’s tough, no-nonsense personality emulated the borough’s overall; however, he also knew to show and spread love because it was (and continues to be) the Brooklyn way. His comedic character drew humor on most streets he walked from Halsey St. to Lincoln Ave. helping him develop a popularity that extended far beyond his years as a student at Boys High School (the school he graduated from in the 1970s).

After graduation, Michael explored several career paths and interests ranging from military service to neighborhood basketball tournaments. It was actually on the court where Michael showcased some NBA-level skills which earned him multiple trophies, got him a coaching gig at his alma-mater P.S. 5, and helped garner him a reputation as one of the best ball players in Brooklyn. Despite that success, he ultimately decided to perform the work of law enforcement for various agencies, including NAICA (his last place of employment before he was forced into early retirement due to his medical diagnosis).

Michael was also quite the charmer. He met Vera Ezzell, a relationship that led to the birth of his daughter, Latisha Ezzell-Foster. Later, he met and married Kathy Morrison, a union that led to the birth of his son, Michael Gardner (Lil’ Mikey). Some years later, Michael would meet Janice which led to the birth of his youngest son, Jerry.

His love for basketball was strong, but he also had a penchant for fishing (an activity he picked up from his father and continued with close friends), singing and dancing (the self-proclaimed Gerald Levert singing songs anywhere he went from groups like The Manhattans and The Delfonics), casino games and playing cards/pool (with Piggy, Sis, and oldest nephew John), mooning (was the first to tell someone what to kiss), and entertaining (wanted to have to a good time wherever he went and made sure others did the same).

On March 6th, 2021, Michael’s playful spirit was called home at the age of 61. His brothers Sunny, Robert, Larry, and James preceded him in death. His legacy lives on through his children, Latisha, Michael, Jerry; oldest and one of his closest brothers John “Piggy”; his only sister Bertha “Sis”; his son-in-law Darell Foster; his grandchildren, Michael Bruce Gardner, Harold Ezzell, Lakeem Ezzell, and Tyriek Holman; his great-granddaughter, Royal Garrett; his aunt, Elease Padgett, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and lifelong friends that became extended family including Anita, Cheryl, Elijah, and his BFF Bugga.

Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Selection

Scripture Reading

Prayer of Comfort

Poem

Krisania Sessing

DVD Tribute

Expressions/Reflections

Family/Friends (2 mins)

Obituary Reading

Lisa Gardner

Eulogy

Selection

Recessional/Final Viewing

Balloon Ceremony

Lisa Gardner

Interment

Forest Green Cemetery

535 Texas Rd

Morganville, NJ 07751



A Fallen Limb

A limb has fallen from the family tree. I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for me. Remember the best times, the laughter, the song. The good life I lived while I was strong. Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you. Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through. My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest. Remembering all, how I truly was blessed. Continue traditions, no matter how small. Go on with your life, don't worry about falls. I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin. Until the day comes we're together again."

Love you Grand Pop-Pop ~ Royal

My Baby Brother, You had a long journey with your illness, but your new journey has begun. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it as your caretaker. It's time to rest now, you have a new room in a Mansion ~ Love always, Sister

I will miss you calling me "stinky" ~ Anita

*We love you Grandpa, Rest Easy...we know you're cracking jokes and singing up in Heaven...hit those 3's on the court for us, love you Grandpa
~ Harold, Lakeem, and Tyriek*

We had a friendship for many years which was beyond man's understanding with a no judgement zone. You will be missed ~ Cheryl

You are a gift, a true king, a part of me. I'm blessed to have shared part of my life with the world's greatest father. I am truly blessed to be named after you, like you said, you are in God's hands and you are in my heart forever. Peace King ~ Mikey

Acknowledgements

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this hour of bereavement. May God Bless and Keep You!

Final Arrangements Entrusted to:

Fairhaven Memorial Chapel LLC

(T) 718.622.4442 / (F) 917.979.6972

Jason M. Sheppard

Licensed Funeral Director/Owner - New York / Connecticut

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