

*Celebrating the Life of*  
*Ernest Brown Strayhorn, Jr.*



**Sunrise**  
**February 8, 1957**

**Sunset**  
**March 19, 2021**

**Thursday, April 8, 2021 - 10AM**

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

**Rev. Dr. Carl L. Washington Jr., Officiating**

# Obituary

**Ernest Brown Strayhorn, Jr.** was born in Alamance County, North Carolina to the late Ernest and Geneva Ugean Hunter Strayhorn on February 8, 1957. Growing up in Mebane, North Carolina he was educated at West End Elementary School. He later went on to attend high school at Eastern High, also in Mebane, North Carolina. Ernest loved life and was a hard worker. He was employed at Red Horse restaurant as a cook for many years. Later, he went on to become a supervisor at Kentucky Fried Chicken for many years. His favorite word was “cluck.” Ernest had a gentle and kind spirit. His customers would fall in love with him at work, often asking for him when they came. He also was great with his hands and was very handy to his family. Ernest could fix anything, but had a skill at fixing shopping carts, televisions and bikes that looked broken down and unfixable.

Moreover, Ernest had a love for the arts and animals. Ernest would draw pictures and paint them with great ease and skill. He also loved putting large puzzles together and playing with his favorite pets. Most important, Ernest had a love for the Lord. Coming from a large family of 9 consisting of 5 girls and 4 boys. His parents were religious, raising them all in the church. At an early age, Ernest made the decision to give his life to the Lord and get baptized. When his father and mother passed away, he moved to New York to be with his sisters but his faith in God never wavered. He continued to attend church regularly on Sundays and loved to play Gospel music and listen to sermons daily. Ernest faith in God was strengthened everyday which helped him to love and focus on his family.

Although Ernest never had children he was surrounded by love. He attended every family function, whether near or far. He built a legacy that will never be forgotten and leaves many to mourn his death. He had a love for nicknames as he called his nephew Ricky “Piggy Wiggy,” his nephew Moe “Squirrel,” and niece Sherita “Rita Bread.” Ernest’s favorite words were, “You Outta Sight.” We are sure that when the Lord called him home on March 19, 2021 those were his words when he was welcomed into heaven.

Ernest was preceded in death by his father, Ernest Strayhorn, Sr.; mother, Geneva Strayhorn; brothers, William and Willard; sisters, Shirley Gean Strayhorn Nolly and Rachel Strayhorn; niece, Nina Latisha Nolly; and nephew, Richard Strayhorn. He is survived by his brother, Rev. James Lee Hunter of Graham, NC; sisters, Ora Lee Lloyd of Greensboro, NC, Mary Strayhorn and Margaret Strayhorn of New York; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and a special cousin, May Morrow.

*Rest well Ernest, you will be deeply missed.*

# Order of Service

## **Processional**

### **Selection**

“We Come This Far by Faith”

## **Scripture Readings**

### **Prayer**

### **Selection**

“Hold On Change is Coming”

## **Acknowledgements**

### **Remarks**

### **Obituary**

### **Selection**

“Let the Church Say Amen”

### **Eulogy**

Rev. Dr. Carl L. Washington, Jr.

## **Committal**

### **Viewing**

### **Recessional**

“Going Up Yonder”

## **INTERMENT:**

Mt. Holiness Memorial Park  
Butler, New Jersey

# To Our Brother Ernest



It broke our hearts to lose you,  
But you did not go alone.  
For part of us went with you,  
The day God called you home.

To see your face and watch your smile,  
To sit and talk with you awhile.  
To be together in the same old way,  
Would be our greatest wish today.

You left so sudden without a goodbye,  
But you left us with memories that will not die.



We will deeply miss you. We love you so much, but God loved you more. To be absent with the body is to be present with the Lord. Gone, but never forgotten. Forever in our hearts.

## Acknowledgement

*A special thank you to his nieces, Sherita Sears, Angie Hamilton, Lynn Dow and Tanya Dixon; nephew, Tony Strayhorn; and his cousin, May Morrow. We appreciate you all.*

*The family also 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.*  
- The Strayhorn Family

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