

In  
Loving  
Memory



# Benjamin J. Rutledge

Sunrise  
August 10, 1940

Sunset  
April 1, 2021

Thursday, April 15, 2021 - 11:00 am

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**  
1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY 11233  
Pastor Joseph Cox, Officiating  
LaTasha Jordan, Soloist

# OBITUARY

On August 10, 1940, **Benjamin James Rutledge** was born to Sadie Juanita McLaurin and Benjamin Rutledge. He was one of three children. Benjamin was born in Brooklyn, New York and grew up on Pacific Street and St. Marks Avenue. He was educated in the New York City School system. Benjamin attended Boys High School in Brooklyn.

As a teenager, Benjamin began working in the dry cleaning business, which would later on become his profession. While working there, he actually developed his sense of style and was known to be a very sharp dresser. He even pressed and creased his boxers.

In 1963, Benjamin met Beverly Granville. From this union, his first child was born. They named her Evita and he maintained a loving relationship with her through the years.

In 1968, Benjamin met his beloved Sharon with whom he is spending eternity with. Sharon affectionately called him "Caruso". From this union, they would raise five children. Toiya, Dondi, Stephanie, Eric, and Gwendolyn. Caruso was known as a family man. He was an avid bike rider and taught his children how to ride. During the summer months, he and his good friend Gypsy would sell balloons at summer functions and after would also visit their nieces and nephews and give them balloons also.

At this time, Caruso would go back to his profession in the dry cleaning business. He worked as a Manager of a dry cleaning establishment at the World Trade Center. In the summer, his children and nieces and nephews would visit, and he always took them to lunch at The Big Kitchen next door, which was always a treat. Later on in life, he would change professions. He became the Night Manager at the Boerum Hill Steppingstone Mental Health Facility.

Caruso retired in 2006. He enjoyed his retirement by spending time with his love Sharon, his grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He also spent time on catching up on old friendships. In 2010, Caruso started to develop health problems. He never let these problems change his spirit. He was always laughing and enjoying time with his family. He always had a smile for his grands and great grands. He always had a loving relationship with his nieces and nephews whom he loved like his own children.

On April 1, 2021, Caruso departed his earthly life to reunite with his heavenly family. Preceding him in death was his beloved Sharon, mother Sadie McLaurin, father Benjamin Rutledge, sister Carol Daniels, twin brothers James Peter Rutledge and his twin whom they affectionately called Weasel, and his grandson Michael A. Porter Jr.

Caruso leaves here to cherish his memory: his daughters Evita, Toiya (Lawrence), Stephanie (Corey-deceased), and Gwendolyn. His sons Dondi (Jarine), and Eric. His grandchildren Tiffany, Amber( whom he called Ambria), Noah, and Kobe. His great grandchildren Kori, Kortney, Karter (Darnelle Jr.), and Dakota. He also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends who will always keep him in their hearts.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

*Interment*  
Rosehill Cemetery  
Linden, New Jersey

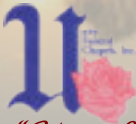
# WORDS FROM THE FAMILY

If tears could build a stairway  
and thoughts a memory lane  
We would walk right up to heaven  
and bring you home again.  
No farewell words were spoken  
No chance to say goodbye  
You were gone before we knew it  
And only God knows why.  
Our hearts are still active in sadness  
and secret tears still flow  
What it meant to lose you  
No one can ever know  
But now we know you would want us  
to mourn for you no more  
To remember all the happy times  
Life still has in store  
You'll never be forgotten  
and we pledge to you today  
That a special place within our hearts  
is where you will always stay

## 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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