



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

BENJAMIN R. GRAHAM

February 9, 1940 - July 17, 2021

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021 - 11:00 A.M.

Cotton Funeral Service

130 Main Street • Orange, New Jersey

OBITUARY

Benjamin R. Graham- known lovingly as Benny- was born February 9th, 1940 in Zebulon, NC to Lona and Russel Graham. He departed this life on July 17, 2021 surrounded by his wife and family.

As a child, Benny and his family moved to NJ where he attended the Newark Public School System. He would later go on to retire in 2002 as an awarded and beloved member of staff from this same school system. Prior to this chapter of his life, Benny led a colorful and vibrant life that was filled with his love of music, food, and family. As a young man, Benny joined a band, the Gay Blades Band, where along with his band mates, he could show off his love of singing and dancing to his favorite songs. Music moved his soul!

Benny made his mark on many lives including the love of his life, his beautiful wife Carol. After decades together, the two married in 1993 and remained united in love until his final moments. He loved being outdoors and cooking for his family and friends. Holidays were filled with his signature dishes- especially his collared greens- and, in the summers, he will be remembered for the smell of his grill, his friendly wave from his front porch, and the sound of jazz music playing from his sparkling car that he kept lovingly detailed.

Benny was a strong, resilient, compassionate, and loving man. He fought hard in life and beat cancer, kidney failure, and cancer again! His large family will forever be connected by his love and his memory. He leaves to mourn his brothers James Graham and Lewis Graham and their wives Dorothy Graham and Pearl respectively; his children, Adrian LaSure (Graham), Donald Brown (Graham), Eric LaSure (Graham) and his wife Shaltetha, H. Lisa Brown-Cobb (Graham) and her husband - Benny's devoted Chemo partner Shawn Cobb; and his step children Vanessa, Robin, and Stu. Benny leaves his grandchildren Travis, Mahasin, Jamilah, Faizah, Avin, Swiyyah, Erica, and Amir to mourn their Pop Pop, along with a slew of step and great-grand children. In heaven, he was surely greeted by his siblings, step son Charles "Irvy" Brown, daughter Georgianna Graham, grandson Eric Jr, his closest friends Lionel and Al, and a host of other relatives and friends. He leaves this life in body, but not in spirit or legacy.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Selection- Antoinette Montague and Danny Mixon

Prayer of Comfort- Eric LaSure

Obituary Reading- Faizah Pitts

Tributes and reflections: Family and friends (2 minutes please)

Closing Selection-Carla Stewart

Recessional Selection

*Today you did the bravest thing
Today you set me free
Thank ~ you for showing me The ultimate dignity
I'm sorry that my leaving
Has broken your kind heart
But we knew this day would come
The day we had to part Don't think I did not hear
Every last word you said Don't think I did not feel
your trembling hand touch my head Today you did the bravest thing.
Today you set me free Thank~you for a wonderful life
Thank- you for loving me*

INTERMENT

Fairmount Cemetery
Newark, New Jersey

DEAR POP POP,

WE THANK YOU FOR LOVING US.

WE THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS BEING THERE FOR US.

WE THANK YOU FOR NEVER BEING JUDGMENTAL.

WE THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS SHOWING UP.

WE THANK YOU FOR SPOILING US INDIVIDUALLY.

WE THANK YOU FOR TEACHING US PATIENCE.

WE THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS BEING ONE CALL AWAY.

WE THANK YOU FOR BEING UNCONDITIONALLY SUPPORTIVE.

WE THANK YOU FOR SHOWING US WHAT REAL LOVE LOOKS LIKE, FOR SETTING THE STANDARD FOR US WHEN WE ALL FIND OUR OWN LOVE. WE THANK YOU FOR FIGHTING SO HARD, AND TELLING US WHEN YOU WERE READY. IT MADE IT A LOT EASIER TO SAY GOOD BYE.

THANK YOU FOR STICKING AROUND TO MEET YOUR GREAT-GRANDKIDS.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING US PEACE.

THANK YOU FOR A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*The family of **Benjamin R. Graham** would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who have shown support during this time of bereavement. Thank you all for your kind gestures and loving words, and for showing us just how loved Benny was to your families and our community. We would like to give a special thanks to Cousin Antoinette Montague who was not only a cousin and friend to Benny, but stepped up to help officiate this service. Thank you for sharing a life long love of music with Benny, and for sharing your beautiful voice and the talents of Danny Mixon with us today.*

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME

37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000

