

Celebrating the Life of



Edward John Williams, Sr.

Sunrise
November 18, 1932

Sunset
August 24, 2021

Wednesday, September 1, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

Sampson Funeral Service, Inc.

2601 Pitkin Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11208

Obituary

Edward John Williams Sr., lovingly known as “Johnny”, was born November 18, 1932 to the late Eloise Horne Williams and Otis Williams in Savannah, GA. He was the youngest of three sons.

In the 1940’s the family, along with their paternal grandmother, his cousins Arlee and Ruthie who were raised as sisters and brothers, moved to New York City and settled in Harlem. Johnny attended the New York City public schools, and after his grandmother died, was forced by his caretaker to drop out of school from 11th grade at Haaren High School in Manhattan. From there, he worked in grocery stores and eventually a lamp factory. No matter what work he did, he always became a dedicated, punctual worker, and was always in demand.

As a teenager, he was the most popular dancer “on the block” and became known as the “King of the Mambo”. He won many dance contests while also engaging in the sport of Basketball. He played with a team called the Sultans and proudly wore his club jacket with its insignia.

In 1953, he joined the army and became a proud paratrooper. He loved the adventure of jumping out of planes. He also joined the Army Boxing Team while in Fort Bragg, NC. He soon married his sweetheart, Olive Bramble in 1954, and from that union, sired three children: Darlene, Edward Jr., and Charlayne.

Upon his honorable discharge from the Airborne, he worked different maintenance jobs under District Union 32BJ. Ironically, he wound up washing windows of tall office buildings again embracing the adventure of being in the space of these buildings from scaffolding. He relished this challenge, but as he became older, he stuck to washing windows from ground level.

His employer would give him his list of assignments for the day. He would start out early in the morning, and complete his daily assignments by 12 noon. This led to disagreements between him and his employer as Johnny felt that he could go home after successfully completing his assignment for the day. His employer wanted him to do additional jobs. He was loved and revered by all his clients, and soon Johnny got his entrepreneurial juices flowing. He decided to start his own window cleaning company, naming it: “Fast Service and Sparkle Window Cleaning Co”. This proved to be a very successful and lucrative entity as he employed his son, his son’s friends and anyone who was willing to work and make a dollar. Other entrepreneurial ventures included the management of different cocktail lounges in Harlem. He never smoked nor drank. He managed to handle all of these jobs simultaneously.

During the 1960’s, Johnny joined a group of young athletes in Harlem and the South Bronx who decided to form a sports organization that would reflect their skills and competency in FAST PITCH SOFTBALL. This, after their attempts to play in White softball leagues, rendered them as token players who were underutilized. This group eventually successfully created their own softball league, naming it Col. Charles Young Softball League. Col. Young was a Black officer of the United States Army. Johnny became the major pitcher for the Warriors Softball Team.

In his latter years, John often reminisced about his experience as a successful softball league pitcher, and especially his paratrooper experiences. He would relive these times to anyone who would listen. He especially enjoyed fraternizing with fellow servicemen whenever he attended the VA Hospital. He enjoyed sharing their experiences. He would proudly display his T-shirt and cap with “82nd Airborne Division emblazoned on them.

John passed away at Brooklyn VA Hospital after a brief illness. He held the distinction of being the longest living family member in his biological family line.

He leaves to mourn; his wife, Olive; two sons, Edward Jr. and John Devon; two daughters, Darlene, and Charlayne; 14 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, and family friends. Special acknowledgement to the Christmas Family; Alice, Noel and Orlando.

We will miss his physical presence, but are assured that he is resting peacefully in the eternal care of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

<Submitted in Sorrow>
The Family

Order of Service

Rev. Dr. Ronald J. Williams Wells – Presiding Clergy

Hymn of Comfort

Prayer of Invocation.....Rev. Wells

Musical Selection

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament - Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8.....Jaquan Williams (Grandson)

New Testament - 2nd Timothy: 6-8.....Halle Williams (Granddaughter)

Remarks (2minutes).....Family and Friends

Musical Selection

Obituary Reading and Acknowledgement of Cards.....Mutonya Nthenge
(Grandson)

Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Wells

Musical Selection

Last ViewLed by Funeral Director

Benediction.....Pastor Wells

Interment

Mount Holiness Memorial Park
1 Brown Avenue
Butler, New Jersey, 07405

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 Him call
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day.

To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it up with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Oh, 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 savored 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!

-author unknown

Acknowledgment

The family wishes to thank all of you for your prayers, messages of comfort and the many other acts of kindness shown during our hour of bereavement.

May God continue to bless you in a very special way.


Professional Service Entrusted To:

SAMPSON

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