

The Homecoming of



WALTER C. WOOD

SUNRISE: December 11, 1934

SUNSET: September 21, 2021

Thursday, October 14, 2021 - 10AM

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Obituary

Known to most as Woody, to others as Junior, by me as Dad, and to my daughter, he was Poppa.

He was born in Harlem, New York, one of three children. He was the only boy, and he survived his parents, Hilda and Walter, and his sisters, June, and Marilyn. When he was 13 years old, his father died in a work-related accident. He tried hard to be the man of the house and to take care of his mother and sisters as best he could.

As a young man, he was smart, tall, and handsome. He enjoyed going to parties and hanging out with his friends. Around 1961, he went with a few friends to a dance in Harlem. That was the night he met the love of his life, Joan. She was quite beautiful with many suitors. That night she gave out her phone number to Woody and one other guy. The next day, the other guy complained to Woody that the number he was given did not work. Woody smiled and let him know that the number he had, worked just fine. He married Joan later that year. They had one daughter, Allison.

They moved to Esplanade Gardens in 1967. Shortly after they settled in, he ran for a seat on the Board of Directors. He later became the President of the Board. He was a natural leader, well-respected by residents and staff, thoughtful, and focused on improving the quality of life for everyone.

They both had many friends from the “neighborhood” where they each grew up; and they made new friends. Woody loved having people at the house and there were always people at the house. Laughing, drinking, and listening to jazz. Their friends became Aunt this and Uncle that, and the kids became play cousins to Allison. There was a huge bookcase to store all his albums. Then cassette tapes. Then giant reels of music that would play uninterrupted for hours. Reluctant at first, he made the transition to CD’s. If you didn’t like jazz before you came to the house, you loved it by the time you left. There was John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald, Charlie Parker, and Oscar Peterson to name a few.

They say that jazz has all the elements that other music has: It has melody; that’s the tune of the song, the part you’re most likely to remember. It has harmony, the notes that make the melody sound fuller. It has rhythm, which is the heartbeat of the song. This is Poppa’s jazz playing right now, the melody of his life.

The harmony that made his life fuller was his love of travel with Joan. Sometimes just the two of them travelled. Sometimes they travelled with groups of friends. Travel to places where there were jazz festivals were the best. He took wonderful pictures of every place he went. He enlarged some of his favorites, framed them, and put them on the walls in his house. His desire to share his travels was so strong that at one point he had a projector and a screen. When people came to visit, he would roll out the projector, play the jazz, make sure everyone had what they needed, and then narrate the pictures as they flashed on the screen. He later discovered cruises and continued to share stories about his travels.

His rhythm, the heartbeat of his life, was Joan. They would have celebrated 60 years of marriage in a few weeks. He always wanted her by his side. He was always there for his family. He was a warm and loving presence for his daughter Allison, and even more so for his granddaughter, Arielle. He is also survived by his nieces, Marcine, Kenya, Rhonda, and Crystal; his nephews, Ron, Martin, Donald, Robert, Michael, and David; grandnieces, Tabia and Leana; and grandnephew, Michael.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional



INTERMENT:
Mt. Rest Cemetery
Butler, New Jersey

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 his call,
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah 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 savoured 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.

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.

2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300
1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY • (718) 774-1023
1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833



Clifford V. James, President & CEO

www.unityfuneralchapels.com

[email: unityfc@aol.com](mailto:unityfc@aol.com)

"Your Loved Ones Deserve The Best - Unity"



God