

In Loving Memory of



Samuel Michael Curtis Phipps
December 1, 1949 - October 29, 2021

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 - 4PM

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.
2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Obituary

Samuel Michael Curtis Phipps passed away on Friday, October 29, 2021, at the age of 71. Sam died peacefully at home in the presence of his wife and daughter.

Sam was born in Harlem, New York, on December 1, 1949, to his mother, Emma Phipps. Sparked under his childhood mentor, Mr. Page, Sam played and developed a love for basketball. He played on his high school basketball team while attending Brandeis High School and subsequently was awarded a full scholarship for basketball from Lamar University, where he attended and graduated.

Sam was a big person who had a big heart. He knew what he loved and what he didn't love, and he wasn't afraid to share that opinion. One of his favorite pastimes was "running the streets," going on these mini-adventures, and getting into "fun" trouble. This is probably why one of his favorite jobs was driving an NYC Taxi - it gave him the freedom to meet new people and experience all that NYC had to offer. In his spirit of adventure, people-loving, and having care for others, Sam has worked as a hospital administrator with Memorial Sloan Kettering, a youth counselor in a group home, a mental health case worker with Bowery Residents' Committee and a blood donor specialist with the New York Blood Services.

Sam's family and friends were very important to him. He would often reflect and share stories of his youth and adulthood; from the initiation of becoming blood brothers and climbing the rocky mountain in Central Park to "running and being the Prince of Harlem" as he would say. He took care of his family and always took every and any opportunity to give his family an advantage in this life. Sam may have fallen short at times but his intentions were genuine and came from a place of truth and love. Sam had a special light that would radiate in any space and time he entered.

Sam is survived by: his wife, Michelle Phipps; daughters, Zelda Francena Cedeno-Thomas and Michaela Sarai Phipps; son, Scott Davis; grandchildren, Cosima Cedeno, Sarah Cedeno, Johnny Cedeno III, Shane Meaders, Tristan Thomas, Wes Davis, and Judah Davis; great-grandchildren, Sarahn Carter, Catalayah Carter, Johnny Cedeno IV, and Mariah Cedeno; beloved nephew, Justin Kearse; and a host of family and friends.

Order of Service

Opening Prayer and Greeting
Arthur Simmons

Reading from the Qur'an
"By the Token of Time"
Abduss Salaam Kadir

Reading of Obituary
Scott Davis

Reading of Poem
Sarah Cedeno

Reflections

Song
"I Can Only Imagine"
Zelda Francena Cedeno-Thomas

Islamic Benediction/Closing Prayer
Abduss Salaam Kadir

Repast
Alhambra Ballroom
2116 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd (126th Street)
New York, NY 10027

FINAL DISPOSITION:
Oxford Hills Crematory
Chester, New York

What inherent beauty do I see
In your eyes
Is it a smile, or the promise of paradise
Is it the forlorn gesture of hope
Or the trickling stream of a lovely dream
If I can cause the creative force
In you to flow
The effect would be that of motionless beauty
Time that is spent discovering the
Beauty inherent in our souls
Is time spent loving together
Creative forces joined for that space of time

~Samuel Michael Curtis Phipps

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

Indeed we belong to Allah and indeed we towards Him return



Acknowledgement

Sam's family would like to extend immense gratitude and appreciation to all our family and friends for their prayers and words of support and love.

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

"Your Loved Ones Deserve The Best - Unity"

