

The Final Flight

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 end 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 too I 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.

Author: Unknown



A Letter From Heaven

To my dearest family, some things I'd like to say.
But first of all, to let you know, that I arrived okay.
I'm writing this from heaven.

Here I dwell with God above.
Here, there's no more tears of sadness;
Here is just eternal love.

Please do not be unhappy just because I am out of sight.
Remember that I am with you every morning, noon and night.
That day I had to leave you when my life on earth was through.
God picked me up and hugged me and He said, "I welcome you.
It's good to have you back again,
You were missed while you were gone.
As for your dearest family,
They'll be here later on.

I need you here so badly, you are part of my plan.
There is so much that we can do, to help our mortal man".
God gave me a list of things, that he wished for me to do.
And foremost on the list, was to watch and care for you.
And when you lie in bed at night the days chores put to flight.
God and I are closest to you...in the middle of the night.
When you think of my life on earth, and all those loving years.
Because you are only human, they are bound to bring you tears.
But do not be afraid to cry; it does relieve the pain.
Remember there would be no flowers, unless there was some rain.
I wish that I could tell you all that God has planned.
But if I were to tell you, you wouldn't understand.
But one thing is for certain, though my life on earth is over.
I'm closer to you now, than I ever was before.
There are rocky roads ahead of you and many hills to climb;
But together we can do it by taking one day at a time.
It was always my philosophy and I'd like it for you too;
That as you give unto the world, the world will give to you.
If you can help somebody who is in sorrow and pain;
Then you can say to God at night....My day was not in vain.
And now I am contented... that my life was worthwhile.
Knowing as I passed along the way I made somebody smile.
So if you meet somebody who is sad and feeling low;
Just lend a hand to pick them up, as on your way you go.
When you're walking down the street and you've got me on your mind;
I'm walking in your footsteps only half a step behind.
And when its time for you to go...from that body to be free.
Remember you're not going...you're coming here to me.

Author: Ruth Ann Mahaffey

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.*

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6600

1025 Bergen Street
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COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR WILLIAM ROUNTREE

April 27, 1950 - January 6, 2022



TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022 - 11:00 AM

Cotton Funeral Service
130 Main Street • Orange, New Jersey
Emory Lee, Organist

BIOGRAPHY

In life, there is a birth date, a dash and then the day of a persons death. That dash represents what a person did while they were on this earth and their service rendered to and for others. This is a short biography of a wonderful man , nephew , father , friend, son, cousin, grandfather and a sailor . Although this biography is short, Hoppy as family and close friends fondly called him lived out his long dash with tender memories that we all cherished.

He was born William Rountree on April 27, 1950, in Newark New Jersey , seventy one years ago. His parents Bernice and Al Rountree , who preceded him in their promotion to be with the God , shared him with the world. Because he was such a loving child, he was adored and nurtured by all his aunts and uncles as if he were their own. He was educated in the New Jersey public schools system. Attending Miller Street Grammar School, then Newark Tech High School where he graduated in 1968. After graduation he volunteered and enlisted in the United States Navy during the time of the Vietnam War. The American war efforts in Vietnam peaked in 1968 as the American public support takes a huge hit after the Tet Offensive killing 246 Americans in one day . Needless to say we were all worried and simultaneously proudly thankful for his service. He honorably served 4 years and was discharged to continue his dash.

William came from a large family and loved his cousins: first, second, third and fourth. He was a permanent fixture as a companion for his grandfather. He made sure that his grandfather Wilbert Major, who was blind was well cared for. He frequently took him to church along with his mother, dressed him and enjoyed listening to his stories of his glory days of the year gone by. Being an only child he considered himself lucky to have so many close first cousins that were like brothers and sisters to him. William relished in family time from holidays, birthdays ,reunions and graduations among other events. He would attend even if he had to take several buses to get there. He delighted in playing cards, watching sports, movies and listening to music especially old school jams .

Hoppy had two sons, Darrell and Derrick as well as a bonus daughter Michelle. He was so proud of all three of them. He admired seeing Derrick with his kids and took pride in cooking one of their favorite cuisines when he visited, which was fried whiting and spaghetti. While he was cooking for his family, he generously shared his meals with seniors in the building.

He appreciated Darrell’s service as a police officer and a loving father. He treasured spending a lot of time with the loves of his life, his grandchildren: Rayne, Ethan, Ian, Mya, Zamir, Caiden and DJ and was always willing to drop what he was doing to help others. He was employed at several different businesses such as: Nynex Telecommunications, Continental Airlines and United States Postal Service , in which he use to change his work schedules to attend his sons basketball games and other events.

William reveled in being a veteran and received the Navy Metal of Honor, which is presented for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. One of the most beautiful moments of a Navy homecoming is the instant when the ship slips over the horizon and into view. One minute there is nothing but some ugly oiler jacking up the horizon. The next moment there is this huge, grey vessel slipping across the ocean like a mist. The whole thing makes you choke up with the joy of it. This is a navy homecoming, let us stand and symbolically line the rails of the ship as he ascends onto the pier of heaven from the arms of his loved ones, as service members salute to this Metal of Honor recipient as a show of respect. In Navy life , the limited number of bases means that you never really say goodbye to the people you meet. Instead they say “Fair Winds and Follow the Seas” , which translates “Bye for now and we’ll catch up two duty stations from now”

Never Say Goodbye.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional
Selection
Scripture Reading Old Testament New Testament
Prayer of Comfort
Selection
Remarks by Shawnette Culver (cousin) on behalf of Gail Goodwin
Acknowledgements
Reading of the Biography by Lorin Kim Barnes (cousin)
Selection
Eulogy
Recessional

Interment

Fairmount Crematory
Newark, New Jersey