

In Loving Memory of



Robert Sylvan Hermitt

Sunrise: June 6, 1953 - Sunset: January 13, 2022

Thursday, January 27, 2022 - 5PM

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

Robert Sylvan Hermitt Life Story

Robert Sylvan Hermitt, also known as “Shaft,” was the son of the late Herbert and Rosetta Hermitt. He was born in St. Mary, Jamaica, on June 6, 1953.

From humble beginnings to one of the toughest cities in the world, Robert arrived in New York City in 1972. He stayed in Harlem and attended Benjamin Franklin High School. Robert loved his Jamaican roots and all he left behind to embark on a journey to NYC.

He learned to navigate his way in NYC with his self-motivation and strong determination. The streets were the vehicle that awarded him the opportunity to provide for his children and his family. The community and every person he met learned of his generosity and big heart.

Shaft was a smart and successful business owner. He owned and operated several social clubs, restaurants, candy stores, and arcade game rooms for neighborhood children. Notorious for his dapper attire and sense of style, he had a passion for fashion and was always well groomed.

With hustle, vision and so many talents, he used his variety of skills to help other people. Cooking was his passion; he loved to cook and share food. There wasn't a dish he couldn't make; he was the master of authentic Caribbean cuisine and legendary for his oxtails. Cooking was how he connected and grew with his community. When he wasn't cooking, he knew where to find the best restaurants. It made him happy to dine with friends and family.

Shaft was a social butterfly and loved being around people. He had a soft spot for children and older people. Although, he was known for his tough and stern way of operating—inside he was a giver with a larger-than-life aura. Every person he met walked away with a gem of some sort. Everyone has their own heartfelt memory of him.

Unfortunately, Rob's health began to decline. During the last two years, Rob suffered with heart problems that eventually led to renal failure and later requiring dialysis. He was a proud man and began to lose the mover and shaker attitude he once embodied. This man lived a life filled with humor, entertainment, and love. He gained his eternal wings on January 13, 2022 in New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Robert lived in the River Park Tower community for 41 years. We would like to thank all our neighbors who checked on him during his final days on this earth. He chose the life he wanted to live. He did it his way.

He leaves to cherish his love and memories to: his life partner of 41 years, Barbara aka “Reds”; his children, Takeema, Shane, Robert, Justin, and Passion; his grandchildren, Chantelle, Madison, Justice, Princeton, and Marley; as well as his true and trusted hombre, he called him his son, Robert Rojas aka “Spanish Rob”; a host of special cousins; and a large number of other relatives and friends.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

FINAL DISPOSITION:

Rosehill Crematory
Linden, 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 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

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

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