

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Gerald Francis, Sr.

Sunrise
November 23, 1953

Sunset
May 5, 2023



Reflections of Life

On Friday, May 5, 2023, God sent an angel down to earth to escort Gerald Francis Sr. from earth to his heavenly home. Heaven's reward was realized at 7:30PM.

GERALD FRANCIS was born November 23, 1953, during the Civil Rights Movement, at a time of great turbulence and great possibilities. The Louisiana Bus Boycott in 1953 was the first large-scale boycott of a southern segregated bus system. It inspired the Montgomery Bus Boycott that took place two years later. Perhaps it is what fueled Gerald's resilient, and determined spirit from a small child growing up in Hackensack, NJ at an unsettling time during the Civil Rights Movement. This pivotal time in history laid the foundation for a young man full of dreams, optimism, and promise.

Gerald was a gift to his parents, Gilbert & Doris Francis, who preceded him in death. During their lives, he was a dedicated, dutiful and loving son. Born at Hackensack Hospital in Hackensack, NJ, Gerald was the third of five children.

Gerald was a proud student of the Hackensack school system, where he excelled in Woodshop at the High School level. There, he would learn the basics of woodworking and how to use various tools to create, repair and assemble woodworking projects. It is there that he honed his carpentry and woodworking techniques. He was crafty and enjoyed creating. He loved gardening and planting beautiful flowers in the yard. One of his favorite escapes were outdoor exploration and classic beach town fun with his grandsons, Tristyn, Taevian, Jaylin and Eli with whom he shared a special closeness. Summers spent at Rehoboth Beach located on the Delaware shores with his family were magical.

In 1981, he met and married the love of his life, Darleen "DeDe" Francis. From this union, they were blessed with two sons, Gerald Francis Jr. of Hackensack, NJ and Reggie Francis of Elmwood Park, NJ. Gerald and DeDe enjoyed 40 plus years of marriage.

Gerald retired as a Rochelle Park Postal Service employee after 30 years of service. Not one for sitting around with nothing to do post-retirement, he then became a valuable member of the City of Hackensack's Crossing Guards where he served the people for 15 years at Central Avenue and First Street. Gerald was a dedicated and dependable employee who took great pride in his work whether at the Post Office or serving as a crossing guard.

Gerald joined the Elks Lodge, a Fraternal organization located in Hackensack. It was formed to promote and practice the four cardinal virtues of charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity to encourage the wellness of its members and to inspire the spirit of patriotism and good fellowship. The Hackensack Elks have made it a personal goal to raise awareness of programs and resources available to our community's kids and vulnerable groups. Gerald was ever proud of his dedication to the organization and was named Grand District Special Deputy. He was Exalted Ruler for 10 years as well as House Chairmen for Majestic Lodge #153. It was through his tireless efforts for the organization and ultimately people in the community, that inspired this distinct recognition amongst his Fraternal brothers.

Gerald was the beloved husband to his dear wife, DeDe Francis, and perhaps his greatest honor and achievement was becoming the dedicated father to his two sons Gerald Jr. and Reginald.

Gerald carried a gregarious energy with his all too often "mind your business" quipping's. He was in many ways, the rock of the immediate and extended family. He was a kind soul who enjoyed travel, was a sports enthusiast who thoroughly enjoyed being in attendance at NY Giants football games where he loved supporting his favorite team. He was an avid fan! He really enjoyed passing the time listening to R&B and Jazz music, his favorite genres of music.

Gerald was loved dearly and will be greatly missed by his devoted wife, DeDe Francis. Also, his beloved sons, Gerald Jr. and Reginald. His legacy lives on through his sons blessing him with four beautiful grandsons, Tristyn, Taevian, Jaylin and Eli who inspired him daily to dream even bigger dreams for their futures. Gerald loved unselfishly, embodied humility in all he did, and had the courage to be true to himself, like so many of the strong and dynamic people in his life.

Gerald was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Gilbert and Doris Francis and sibling, Tee Francis.

Gerald is survived by his beloved wife; Darleen "DeDe" Francis, sons; Gerald Jr. and Reginald Francis, beloved siblings; Gilbert, Ivan and Hazel, grandsons; Tristyn, Taevian, Jaylin and Eli, daughters-in-law; Tasha and Cierra and a host of extended family which include nieces and nephews, Grand District Special Deputy of Elks Lodge, Rasheem King and niece; Tiffany A. King, his right-hand man; Dexter Howard, close friend; Ernest Spates (Lake City), and dear friends of the Wolves & She Wolves club all with whom he shared very special bonds.

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

25 E. Wesley Street, South Hackensack, New Jersey

Rev. Joann Collins, Officiating

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Processional Clergy

Invocation Minister

Selection Hymn #444 Just Over in the Gloryland, Choir

Scripture Reading

Old Testament - Psalm 23 Reverend James H. Collins

New Testament - John 14: 1-6 Minister Damon Rogers

Prayer of Comfort Minister

Acknowledgements, Cards, Telegrams, and Resolutions Sister Shelley Washington
Church Clerk

Reflections 2 Minutes Per Person

Hymn #432 I'll Fly Away, Choir

Obituary Sister Shelley Washington
Church Clerk

Musical Solo Brother William L. Moore

Eulogy Reverend Joann Pearson Collins
Pastor, Mt. Zion Baptist Church
South Hackensack, NJ

Selection Hymn #429 When We All Get to Heaven, Choir

Recessional The Family

Interment

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 - 10:00am

George Washington Memorial Park

234 Paramus Road

Paramus, New Jersey

To Sir With Real Love

Real love is seen, not just heard
Real love requires strength and dedication
Real love is fighting for your person
When they can't fight for themselves
Real love is holding on even in the midst of darkness
We are and will forever be real love, Gerald Francis, Sr.
With eternal love,
DeDe

CALL: Knock, Knock

Who's There?

Gerald: Mind your business!

An angel came anyway ...

Acknowledgment

The Francis family wishes to express their deepest and sincere gratitude and appreciation for the love and acts of kindness shown during this time of bereavement.

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