



In Loving Memory of
Johnnie L. Petway

Sunrise
March 17, 1954

Sunset
August 14, 2025

Memorial Service
Saturday, August 30, 2025 - 3:00 p.m.

MCCALL'S BRONXWOOD FUNERAL HOME
4035 Bronxwood Avenue • Bronx, New York 10466

Miss Me But Let Me Go

*When I come to the end of the
road and the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom filled room,
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little-but not too long,
and not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared,
Miss me-but let me go.
For this is a journey that we all must take,
And each must go alone.
It's all part of the Master's plan,
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart,
Go to the friends we know.
Laugh at the things we use to do
Miss me-but let me go.*

-author unknown

Obituary

Johnnie Lee Petway, 71 of Brooklyn, New York, passed away on August 14, 2025.

Johnnie was born on March 17, 1954, in Camden, Alabama, to the late Bessie M. Petway. He spent much of his early childhood in Harlem before moving with his family to the Bronx, where he came of age and built lasting friendships. In his later years, Johnnie made Brooklyn his home, where he remained a beloved presence in his community.

Johnnie had a deep passion for many things in life—music that lifted the soul, cars that spoke to his sense of style and freedom, politics that stirred his sharp mind and convictions, and health, which he valued and advocated for throughout his life. His curiosity and zest for living made him a man of wide interests and strong opinions, never shy about sharing his perspective.

Johnnie was previously married to Sharmaine Edwards, with whom he shared many years.

He is preceded in death by his mother; Bessie M. Petway, and his sister; Gloria D. Petway. He is survived by his siblings, Rhonda Petway, Maggie Petway, and Jeffrey Petway; his partner of 11 years, Judlee; and many extended family members and friends who will continue to honor his memory. Johnnie also played an instrumental role in the lives of Judlee's children, Autumn & Aubrey; whom he lovingly embraced and guided as his own. He is further remembered with love by his many nieces and nephews, who cherished him deeply.

He will be remembered most for his intellect, his generous spirit, and his unwavering love for family.

I Did Not Die

Do not stand at my grave and weep:

I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow:

I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain:

I am the gentle autumn's rain.

When you awaken in the

Morning's hush,

I am the swift uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the soft star that shines at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry.

I am not there: I did not die.

-Melinda Sue Pacheco

Acknowledgments

The family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.

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