

In Loving Memory of
Charles E. McCray
"Simba"

Sunrise
August 8, 1935

Sunset
July 31, 2011



Service

Monday, August 8, 2011 - 10:00 a.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue
New York, New York 10027

Obituary

"The Revolutionary, Family Man, Athlete, Entrepreneur, Gentlemen & Husband"

Mr. Huxtable

A Man Of & For The People

Born in Birmingham, Alabama on August 8th, 1935 - **Charles Earle McCray**, the son of Clara B. Varner & William "Bill" McCray. His mother a school teacher and a cosmetologist. His father worked in the Birmingham Steel Mill and later owned small businesses and properties in New York City. As a child he was raised with a host of family who taught him family values, respect and how to cook. At the age of fourteen Charles moved from Birmingham, Alabama to Harlem, NY to live with his father. There he launched a small public shoe shining parlor and newspaper stand Jeen as a young entrepreneur. Charles attended Howard University and enjoyed playing football and running track. While in Howard Simba roomed with his soon to be close friend Leroi Jones aka. Amiri Baraka.

The struggle for justice and equality was on the agenda. Charles was drafted and served his country in Korea. In the 60's, he fought against segregation being inspired by revolutionary leaders such as Malcolm X, Mao Zedong, and Martin Luther King, Jr. He knew of the Black Panthers and eventually worked with Amiri Baraka in the Congress of African People. In addition, he became part of the Newark Rebellion which opened learning faculties, schools and daycare. He was a member of the former club, The Third World where he met one of his best friends, Ben Caldwell and Richard. He also met a woman named Marian who he couldn't live without. Eventually, the two would get married and start a family. Simba was a fighter, an intellectual, comedian, poet, artist, musician, sharp dresser and compassionate man. Now living in the Bronx he continued his career while working at HPD as a director then would retire at the age of sixty-five.

His legacy continues through his children, Gregory, Charles, Jr., Delores, Lashuan, Wangavu, Juba, Johari, Taifa, Jaha, Tarikh, Hodari, Onaje and Simba, Jr. In addition to his grandchildren, Kelly, Cierra, Alex, Mariah, Jaha, Jr., Kiara, Juba, Jr., Taifa, Jr., Kito, Malaika, Reign, Anisa, Jubar, Amina/Kariah, Wangavu, Jr./Dakari; his wife, Marian McCray; brother, Gregory; sister, Brenda; and a host of family and friends.

Order of Service

Prayer of Comfort The Williams Family Pastor

Selection Inge Smith Jones

Scripture Anthony Williams

Reflections Guest

Selection Guest

Obituary Johari Commusdore

Eulogy The Williams Family Pastor

Recessional



Interment

Calverton National Cemetery
Calverton, NY

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 wishes to express their deep appreciation
and sincere thanks for your kindness during a time of sorrow.



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