

Celebrating the Life of

John D. Anderson, Sr.

Sunrise
May 17, 1920

Sunset
August 31, 2011



Service

Friday, September 9, 2011 - 10:00 a.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue
New York, New York 10027

Obituary

John D. Anderson came into this world on May 17, 1920 in Brookneal, Virginia to his parents, Frazier Anderson, a farmer and Bertha Coles Anderson, a homemaker.

The youngest son in a family of thirteen children John was an eager student who excelled in arithmetic but was still full of mischief. He often told his children stories of going to school in a one room schoolhouse and of the stern teacher, Miss Euphon Williams. He marveled that the history and math lessons she taught in the 1928 were still ingrained in his memory some eighty years later.

John's formal education ended at the age of twelve during The Great Depression when he began to work with his father and brothers to run their large farm. He said his family never went hungry during this trying time because they had a full garden, fruit trees, and livestock. In addition, his older brothers bought a truck and began a business hauling lumber and scrap metal. These early experiences were the foundation for his belief in hard work and self-reliance coupled with a "can do" attitude.

In 1942 he was drafted into the Army, where he served in California as part of the detail that kept watch over the Pacific Coast. He would regale his children with anecdotes about his experience serving in the then segregated Army. Family pictures show a young man in an impeccably tailored uniform standing straight, tall and proud. Upon leaving the Army he returned to Brookneal and eventually moved to New York to work at the Bureau of Engraving along with his sister, Grace.

In 1946 he met his future wife, Ivy L. Fikes through mutual friends. They married in December 1947 and began their life in the Hamilton Grange area of Manhattan. John was an early pioneer when he joined and integrated the union Amalgamated Lithographers –Local One. He continued to engage those around him with the lessons learned from the one room schoolhouse, life on a farm and his Army experience. These gave him the foundation to be one of the best pressman in his union shop. He always stressed to his children and anyone who would listen the importance of unions in America and his unwavering belief of never crossing a picket line.

John and Ivy enjoyed their time as many young couples still do today. They went to baseball games, jazz and supper clubs, the beach and just hanging out on a Saturday night with family and friends eating good food and playing cards.

A new chapter began in 1951 when the first of their seven children was born. Working the second shift meant that John was home when his children went to school and when they returned. John did not hesitate to volunteer for school trips where his presence, as a father, brought both a sense of excitement and calm for the teachers and students. In cold weather he would drive his children to the bus stop so they could wait for the bus in a warm car. If they missed the bus, it meant a leisurely ride to school and Daddy's undivided attention.

John and his Chevy Impala filled with children were part of the West 149th Street landscape. Weekends would have him with his family nestled in the car going to all parts of the New York City area. Sampling local cuisine and engaging the culture was always a highlight of the family weekends. Every summer he would load the car and the family would go on their annual trip to Brookneal where they enjoyed life on a farm. In 1964 John excited his family with his experience as an extra in the movie "Nothing But A Man" a title that was very befitting of him. He was always willing to help a neighbor in need and believed in the power of sharing your time, food, or whatever you were blessed with.

After thirty-five years as a printing press operator John decided to retire. At the age of sixty-two, after fifty years of working he felt it was time to relax. A home filled with children, grandchildren and great grandchildren coming and going gave John and Ivy much joy for the next twenty plus years.

John didn't believe in strangers. He said they were just people that you haven't met. As the neighborhood changed he made it a point to get to know newcomers- not as faces in the elevator but who they were as people. He enjoyed walking the family dog Audrey along Riverside Drive where he met the other late night dog walkers in the area. Everyone young and old knew him.

In April of 2009 Ivy, John's wife of sixty-one years went to Heaven. Naturally he was sad but he rallied by becoming interested in popular culture and politics. He knew the latest gossip on the stars, enjoyed watching The View, Wendy Williams, Dancing With The Stars, The Food Network and the evening news. He talked with his sister, Mary Sue for hours about politics and celebrity gossip. He knew that Google could answer any question he thought of and marveled at how much music an iPod could hold. He was proud to live through so much of American history and to witness the change for the better in his lifetime. He was a son, a brother, an uncle, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a great grandfather, a number buddy, and a friend.

He was "Nothing But A Man".

John D. Anderson is survived by: **his brother**: Robert Anderson of Brookneal, VA; **his sister**, Mary Sue Thomas of Philadelphia, PA; **his children**, Voncille Anderson, Janet Anderson, John Anderson Jr., Maurice Anderson and his wife, Tamika Anderson, Kenneth Anderson, Anthony Anderson and Daymon Anderson; **his grandchildren**, Keshia McCollum, Sakina Anderson, Lance Anderson, Evan Paul, Chad Anderson, Kenneth Anderson Jr., Cayla Anderson, Michael Fraizer, Asia Smiley, Jeni Funderburke and Maurice Anderson Jr.; **great grandchildren**, Naekeshia Smith, Collie Smith, Michael Anderson, Collin Smith, Ivy Banks and Natalya Anderson. William Hicks who started as a friend and became so much more and shows his love for the Anderson Family every day; and a host of beloved relatives, lifelong friends, and neighbors.

Order of Service



Processional

Selection

Scripture

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Eulogy

Selection

Committal

Viewing

Recessional



Interment

Mt. Hope Cemetery
Hastings-On-Hudson, New York

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.



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, V.P. & Gen. Mgr.

www.unityfuneralchapels.com

email: unityfc@aol.com

"Your Loved Ones Deserve The Best - Unity"