



*In Loving Memory*  
of

*James Neely*

*Sunrise*  
December 20, 1941

*"Double"*

*Sunset*  
February 9, 2012

Service

*Thursday, February 16, 2012 - 10:00 a.m.*

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

2352 8th Avenue • New York, New York 10027

*Rev. Nelson C. Dukes, Jr., Officiating*

*Marvin Hadley, Organist*

# Obituary

## **James Curtis Neely**

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished the course. I have kept the faith.*

2nd Timothy 4:7

**James Curtis Neely** affectionately known as “Double” was born December 20, 1941 to the late Marshall Neely and Julia Mae Gill Neely in Rock Hill, SC. James was the second of six children. From the beginning, it was clear that James would be a special and gracious child based upon his birth order.

James early education began in the Rock Hill County School system where he stood out as an outstanding athlete in football and basketball. It was during those years when James joined the St. Mary’s parish where he was baptized into the Catholic faith. James’s passion for swimming led him to become a highly skilled public recreation lifeguard. He excelled at teaching and coaching swim teams in Rock Hill City and regional competitions. James was serious about water safety and known for saving a few lives.

After graduating from high school, James briefly worked at the Rock Hill Printing Finishing Company to gain experience and earn extra money. His plans were to move to New York City with several dozen relatives to begin a new life adventure. It was during this time, that James became a proud father to Monique “GiGi” Neely who preceded him in death.

Early on in James’s career, he gained much of his practical experience working at Lever Brothers of New Jersey. He worked there while settling in Harlem, New York. Later, James worked for Columbia University for many years as a maintenance engineer. It was then, when James met and fell in love with the late, Estella Neely. They joined in holy matrimony on August 15, 1980. Together, they reared their two sons, Curtis and Camara.

I Corinthians 2:9 - But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.

James leaves to mourn and cherish his memories: his two sons, Curtis and Camara; four brothers, Melvin Neely (Brooklyn, NY), Phillip Neely (Rock Hill, SC), Collie Neely (Chesterfield, MO) and Semmie Neely (Dayton, OH); adopted sister, Clara Hartley (Sharon Hill, PA) and beloved sister, Ann Neely Mayo (Seat Pleasant, MD); two sisters-in-law, Karen Neely (Chesterfield, MO) and Doris Neely of (Rock Hill, SC); four aunts, Mary Nelson, Ann Sulton, Helen Neely (New York) and Lathene McDuffie (Rock Hill, SC); one uncle, Mack McDuffie (Rock Hill, SC); grandchildren, Dakota, Curtis Jr., Kevon, Edonte, Estera, Jada, Sahara, Camara, Camar and Amara. James also leaves two brothers-in-law and four sisters-in-law from his predeceased wife, Estella, Mack Bruton, Isacc Bruton, Rosemary Edmondson, Onella Steele, Pasty Bruton and Jeanette Bruton; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends that loved him dearly.

God arranged to give us all a “lovely special treasure”, who has lovingly touched and changed all of our lives.

# *Order of Service*

Processional

Selection

Scripture

Old Testament - Psalm 23 ..... Jenny Vangas

New Testament - John 14:1-4 ..... Sister Gonzalez

Prayer ..... Deaconess Mattie Ingram  
Greater Tabernacle Baptist Church

Selection

Acknowledgements

Reading His Journey - "Just Begun" ..... Carol Green-Powell

Remarks

Obituary ..... Angela Dendy

Eulogy ..... Rev. Nelson C. Dukes, Jr.

Selection

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

**Interment**

Rosedale Cemetery  
Linden, New Jersey



*Inseparable!  
Reunited Again  
At Last*

## *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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*Clifford V. James, V.P. & Gen. Mgr.*

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