

Celebrating the Life of



Rodney Francis

October 21, 1970 - March 24, 2012

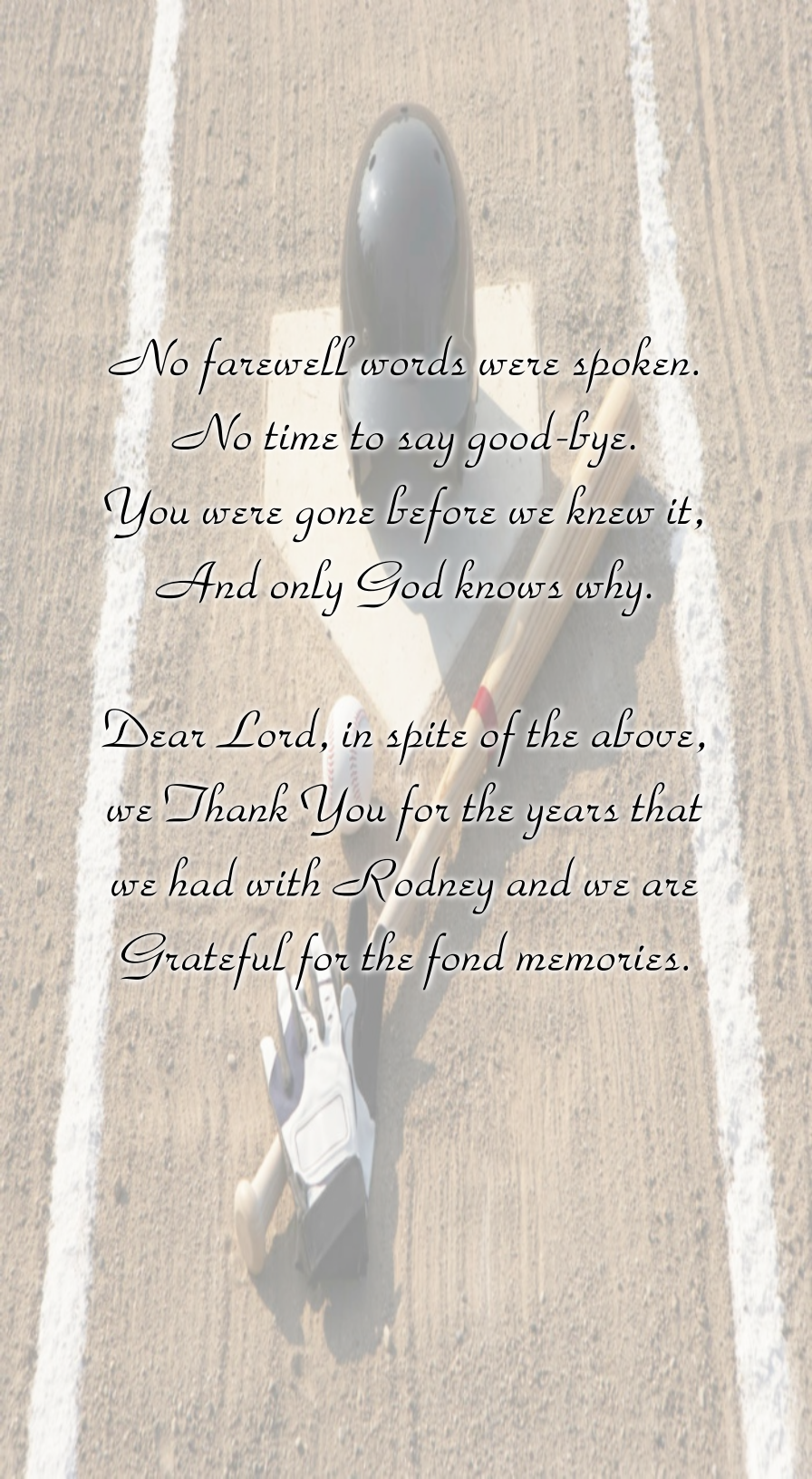
Service

Wednesday, April 4, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CENTER

359 Van Houten Street
Paterson, New Jersey

Rev. Dr. Joel D. Rudolph, Sr., Officiating

A photograph of a baseball bat, a baseball, and a white glove lying on a baseball field's dirt path. The bat is positioned vertically, with the handle pointing downwards. The baseball is resting on the dirt near the bat's handle. The white glove is also lying on the dirt, with its fingers pointing towards the bottom of the frame. The background is a sandy dirt path with white chalk lines.

*No farewell words were spoken.
No time to say good-bye.
You were gone before we knew it,
And only God knows why.*

*Dear Lord, in spite of the above,
we Thank You for the years that
we had with Rodney and we are
Grateful for the fond memories.*

Reflections of Life

Rodney Francis, a life long Paterson, NJ resident departed this life at the young age of 41 on Saturday, March 24, 2012 in St. Joseph's Hospital. He was born on October 21, 1970 to the late Anna Francis and Fred Shipp. Rodney received his education from the Paterson Public School System; was employed by Grant Industries and loved sports, especially men's soft ball. Rodney was called "Maheem" by his family and friends.

Maheem is described by his brother and sisters as "not only a brother, but a best friend, we did everything together;" "a part of my everyday life, a father figure who I could always count on for advice and in my time of need;" and "my baby brother, a guy with a "mellow" spirit who always had a smile on his face and only one of my tall and handsome brothers."

Rodney is described by his wife as Other than God and their children, he was her everything. Over the past fourteen years, he has been my friend, when I needed a friend; a confidant, when I needed a listening ear; a support system when I needed encouragement and inspiration. He was a great dad who was supportive, involved and actively participated in his children's lives. We shared a couple of favorite songs, including Must Be Nice by Lyfe Jennings and Closer by Jaheim. Rodney was my buddy, my boy and the love of my life, he made me want to sing.

Maheem is described by his friends as "a family oriented, people's person, willing to listen, give advice and respectful of others regardless of who they were;" "a good brother, glad he was a part of my life," "a person who died as a hero and not a victim of these mean streets;" and "a well-liked, caring, good-person, who was very friendly and got along with everybody. He loved kids, he was funny and laughed a lot, he was a good-friend."

Left to cherish Rodney's memories are his wife, Ashona (Hayes) Francis; three sons Jazhair Hickman, Ya' Zeir and Rod Diere Francis; three daughters, As'neshra, Faith and Trinity Francis: a brother, Kevin Francis; two sisters, Sheri Boddie (Greg) and Stacey Francis (Tyrone); godchildren, Kiona Bruce, Jakiena Leak, Ziyad Sparks and Imani Rogers; devoted friend, Reginald "Show Time" Williams; parents-in-law, Grady Page and Mary Hayes; brothers and sisters-in-law; and also a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, in-laws, other relatives, friends and neighbors.

Precious Memories



Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Processional

Prayer of Comfort Pastor Ron Gonzalez

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - John 15:9-13

New Testament - Ecclesiastics 3:1-2, 4, 8, 11, 12

Selection “I Won’t Complain”

Remarks Ashona Francis

Selection “He Saw The Best In Me”

Eulogy Pastor Ron Gonzalez

Benediction

Recessional .. “God Has Spoken, Let The Church Say Amen”

Interment

Thursday, April 5, 2012

East Ridgelawn Cemetery

255 Main Avenue

Clifton, New Jersey

***Following the interment the family invites everyone
to join them for a repast at the
Masonic Temple 224 Broadway, Paterson, NJ***

The Master Called

*I'm sorry I had to leave you.
My loved ones, oh so dear.
But you see, the Master called me,
His voice was very clear!
I had made my reservation
A heaven bound ticket for one,
And I knew that He would call me
When He felt my work was done.
I know that your hearts are heavy
Because I have gone away,
But when the Master called me,
I knew that I could not stay.
Yes, I'm sorry I had to leave you
My loved ones, oh so dear,
But, you see, the Master called me
And, now I'm resting here.
Yes, I've crossed on over to glory
And to you all I say
Just stay in the hands of Jesus
And we'll meet again someday.*

-Author unknown

Acknowledgements

The family wishes 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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