

They Called Him Bill

In Honor of

William Drayton

By Ronald Drayton

GLADIATOR, draped in black satin, a smile that filled a room with sunshine. Tender eyes of the storm; His spirit like a dagger. They called him Bill. Sibling of four brothers, a twin and four sisters.

Drayton Men, guardian and protector of 14th street's women and children: drenched in the sounds of Dinah Washington, Lavern Baker, Chuck Jackson, the Dells, and the Temptations.

Bill lived and observed the ravaged Harlem streets, tarnished with white powder, called "dougie" and "scag".

Corridors of wine-stained Thunderbird nightmares; intensive care units of death.

A mother's haunting cry of despair "Bill, another one of my sons is gone. Do what you can do for your brother" ...and Bill delivered

They called him Bill

They called him Bill

They called him Bill

A profound marriage of love, beauty and longevity

Socializer, organizing genius

Lover of family and friends

They called him Bill

They called him Bill

Bill, I will always love you...

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.



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In Loving Memory of ***William Clifford Drayton***



Sunrise
June 2, 1935

Sunset
August 31, 2012

Service
Saturday, September 8, 2012 - 10:00 a.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.
2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Obituary

William Clifford Drayton was born on June 2, 1935 in New York City to the late John and Anna Drayton. He was predeceased by his brothers, Fred, Herbert, Gilbert, Percy and his twin brother, Willis. Also his sisters, Constance, Alberta, Frances and Anna.

He was educated in the public school system of New York City. He graduated from DeWitt Cliton High School. While attending high school, he worked for “Julien” Maternity Wear school and on summer breaks. When he graduated from Dewitt, he worked for “Julien” full time as the Shipping Manager. When “Julien” closed down, he became an employee of the Board of Education as a School Safety Agent. Upon semi-retirement, he worked at The Children’s Aid Society as a Security Counselor.

He resided at The Riverbend Development at its inception in 1968. He served at Riverbend on The Advisory Council, Security Committee, Board of Directors and Building Captain of 2289 at various times. His last endeavor at Riverbend was as Building Fund Chairman.

William was initiated into the Lewis Hayden Lodge #69 on February 16, 1971 and raised to the degree of Master Mason on June 15, 1971 over forty-one years ago. He served as Worshipful Master at Lewis Hayden Lodge #69 from December 1979 to December 1981. He was elevated to Life Master of The Lodge in 2003.

He leaves to mourn: his wife, Anita; his nieces, Barbara Cloud, Lorraine (Samuel) Williams, Selina Drayton and Joanne Williams; his nephews, Ronald Drayton, Marvin (Thelma) Riley, David Williams and Jaime Williams; grand-nephews, grand-nieces and a host of cousins and friends.

If We Must Die

*If we must die, let it not be like hogs
hunted and penned in an inglorious spot,
While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,
Making their mock at our accursed lot.
If we must die, O let us nobly die,
So that our precious blood may not be shed
In vain; then even the monsters we defy
Shall be constrained to honor us through dead!
O kinsmen! we must meet the common foe!
Though far outnumbered let us show us brave,
And for their thousand blows deal one deathblow!
What though before us lies the open grave?
Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,
Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back!*

By Claude McKoy

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture

Prayer

Selection
Vernon Dorsey

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary
Peter Gibson

Selection
Joseph Forsythe

Eulogy
Rev. Gregory R. Smith

Committal

Interment

Evergreen Cemetery
Brooklyn, New York