

A Celebration of Life for
Mark A. Granderson

Sunrise
April 14, 1952

Sunset
September 22, 2012



“The Principle That “Buddhism equals life” means that everything in one’s life is itself Buddhism. The principle that “Buddhism becomes manifest in society” means that society, too, is one with Buddhism. The struggle for kosen-rufu can be waged only within the realities of life and society. Those who earnestly grapple with these realities develop strength and inner substance. They develop and grow”

-Daisaku Ikeda

(For Today & Tomorrow September 22)

Service

Tuesday, September 25, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.

ROY L. GILMORE’S FUNERAL HOME, INC.

191-02 Linden Blvd.

St. Albans, New York 11412

Eulogy

Mark Granderson: husband, father, brother, brother-in-law, son-in-law, nephew, uncle, cousin, friend and Buddhist. These were all the titles Mark was known as. Those of you who are here today knew him under some of these titles. This Eulogy will be slanted: you see, I, Aveian Granderson-Middleton, am Mark's sister and well, anyone who has siblings will probably, quietly smile as I talk.

On April 14, 1952, Mark Arnim Granderson was born to parents Norma and Arnim Granderson. By the time my parents brought him home I had decided that since I was already established as their first born, I told them, "Send him back, we don't need him." Needless to say, they ignored me and years later added three more in this order: my brother, Trevor (deceased), my sister, Lyndell (deceased) and my brother, David. So much for making demands.

As children, we were the normal, typical household yelling, screaming and fighting. Mark started a lot of fights when we were in grammar school. He would tell them, "I'm going to get my big sister to beat you up." And I did!! By the time we were in high school, our parents moved to Queens. By this time, Mark was the one now defending his sister. He was taller and stronger and he had his drivers license so I had to be beholding to him.

Our parents were from Trinidad, West Indies. They left their home in the late 1940's, married and raised their five children with a very keen and present focus that we are of West Indian descent. During the summer of 1962, Mark and I took our very first plane ride to Trinidad. We loved it. On August 31, 1962, Trinidad became an independent country from England. Mark and I were there. Words cannot express how proud we both were to be part of history.

College was something we all knew we had to complete. Mark graduated from Fordham University. Life continued. Mark and his soul mate, Harriet, became Mr. and Mrs. Granderson in 1978. Their two beautiful daughters are Adrienne and Marissa. My brother often mentioned how proud he was of Harriet for the way she took perfect care of him. He was a handfull!! He never failed to mention how much he loved his wife. He was also deliriously happy with his daughters and he thought the world of them.

Mark was introduced to Nichiren Buddhism by our mother, Norma. Mark never stopped chanting NAM-MYOHO-RENGE-KYO to the very end as he left this world during his sleep.

Mark leaves behind: his wife, Harriet; his daughters, Adrienne and Marissa; his mother-in-law, Lula Wilson; his father-in-law, Herman Wilson; his brothers-in-law, Carl Wilson and Julian Middleton; his sister, Aveian; brother, David; nieces, Unique, Joy and Jade; nephew, Julian Jr; aunt, Muriel Gordon; best friend, Fred Buggs; as well as countless cousins and loyal friends. Rest in peace, my brother.

Order of Service

Program

Master of Ceremonies

Michael Jeter

Recitation of the Sutra & Offering of Incense

Eulogy

Aveian Middleton

Sharing Joy & Memories

Final Disposition

Fresh Pond Crematory
Middle Village, New York

"Even lowly creatures know enough to repay a debt of gratitude. Thus the bird known as the wild goose will invariably carry out His filial duty to the mother bird when she is about to die. And the fox never forgets its old hillock. If even animals will do such things, then how much more should this be true of human beings?"

-Nichiren Daishonin (On Prayer, WND, p.337)

*Waking or asleep,
Thou of death must deem
Things more true and deep
Than we mortals dream,
Or how could thy notes flow in such a crystal stream?*

*We look before and after,
And pine for what is not;
Our sincerest laughter
With some pain is fraught;
Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought.*

*Yet, if we could scorn
Hate, and pride, and fear;
If we were things born
Not to shed a tear,
I know not how thy joy we ever should come near.*

*Teach me half the gladness
That thy brain must know,
Such harmonious madness
From my lips would flow
The world should listen then - as I am listening now.*

~From To A Skylark, (Percy Bysshe Shelley)

Acknowledgements

The family wishes to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to them during the passing of their loved one.

Professional Services Provided By:

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