

*In Loving Memory of*



*Jimmy Lewis McGriff, Sr.*

**Sunrise**

*October 12, 1961*

**Sunset**

*January 19, 2013*

**Services**

Monday, January 28, 2013 - 11:00 a.m.

***St. John's Baptist Church***

*137 Fairmount Avenue*

*Newark, New Jersey*

*Rev. Patrick Council, Officiating*

# Obituary

On October 12, 1961 a “Beautiful Child of God”, named **Jimmy Lewis McGriff, Sr.** was born to the Very Proud parents “Shelley McGriff and Annie C. McGriff both from the peach state of “Georgia.” Jimmy was the first born of five children and was born in Hawkinsville, NJ and later moved to New Jersey.

Jimmy attended Hawthorne Elementary and graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 1975. He spent the next four years being educated at Irvington Tech, where he thrived and found his passion “Anything Technical” hence (he habit of taking things apart as a child to merely see how things worked and enjoyed rebuilding them so that they worked as if they never taken apart). He graduated in 1979. Jimmy then went onto attend Kean University in Union, NJ for a year while working simultaneously. This young man was studious enough to have taught the class himself...but humble enough to be silent anyway “just in case there was a smidge of information that he may have missed.”

Jimmy has always been employed (in fact he began working at the age of twelve). He was employed with Warner-Lambert Pharmaceuticals for many years before meeting and marrying, Chantai Gupton in 1983. Of this union three children were born and Jimmy adored all three of them. He later became employed with Schering Plough Pharmaceuticals and performed as a line mechanic from 1989, until his departure from this earth. Jimmy later remarried five years ago and no children were born of the marriage.

Jimmy first joined Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Newark, NJ at a very young age, where he was also a member at of the youth choir. He later joined Saint John’s Baptist church also located in Newark, NJ where he was a member of the Sun Beams (the youth choir) and later became a part of the “Male Chorus.” And Yes....he even once had a Solo!

Jimmy L. McGriff Sr. was a devoted man who was greatly loved and respected by those who knew. He certainly touched so many lives. Many loved ones affectionately called him “Lil’ Bobby.”

Whenever he wasn’t working he enjoyed spending time with his family, being Mr. Fix it, cooking on the grill, working out at the gym, riding his motorcycle, and he enjoyed telling jokes making people laugh and he was quite good at that, the laughs alone are priceless! He enjoyed old-school music such as Johnny Gill, Maze, Pendergrass, and Jaheim (he knew how to cut a bit of a rug too!)

He answered God’s call on January 19, 2013 without hesitation or sorrow. Yes he heard the called and with the affectionate squeeze of his hand in acknowledgement of the love flowing.....He gave a knowing look and happily exited his broken building; for if it were well; there would be no need for us to gather here today for this man!

He leaves to cherish his memory: his loving mother, Annie C. McGriff; his three loving children, Officer Jimmy L. McGriff (Md), Officer Terrell S. McGriff (NJ) and Oriana T. McGriff (NJ); mother of his granddaughter, Janine, granddaughter, Riley A. McGriff both of (Md); brothers, Andrew L. McGriff, Curtis McGriff both of (NJ); and sisters, Barbara A. McGriff, (NJ) and Kathie Lewis(FL); one brother-n-law, Raymond H. Lewis Jr. (FL.); sister-n-law, Yolanda Watson (NJ); and a host of nieces, nephews, special friends and love ones.

Jimmy Sr., on many occasion spoke of the grave only being a place to comfort us; who remain behind and have has know bearing on those who have already done what we all still have to do.

# Order of Service

Organ Prelude ..... Organist

Processional ..... Clergy & Family

Selection ..... Senior Choir

Scripture Reading  
Old Testament ..... Deacon Herman Jackson  
New Testament ..... Deacon Clifford Alford

Prayer of Consolation ..... Deacon Herman Jackson

Solo ..... Lenora Hunter

Acknowledgements of Condolences / Resolution &  
Reading of the Obituary ..... Doris Carr

Special Words ..... Family & Friends

Video Presentation ..... The Family

Words of comfort ..... Rev. Glenmore Bembry

Solo ..... Gale Squire

Eulogy ..... Rev. Patrick Council

Benediction



*"If Tears Could Build a Stairway"  
If tears could build a stairway  
And memories were a lane  
We would walk right up to heaven  
And bring you back again  
No farewell words were spoken  
No time to say goodbye  
You were gone before we knew it  
And only God knows why  
Our hearts still ache in sadness  
And secret tears still flow  
What it meant to lose you  
No one will ever know  
But now we know you want us  
To mourn for you no more  
To remember all the happy times  
Life still has much in store  
Since you'll never be forgotten  
We pledge to you today  
A cherished place within our heart  
Is where you'll always stay*

### *I'm Free*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following paths God made for me  
I took his hand, I heard him call  
Then turned, and bid farewell to all  
I could stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to sing, to play  
Tasks left undone must stay that way  
I found my peace... At close of play  
And if my parting left a void  
Then fill it with remembered joy  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
Ah yes, these things I too will miss  
Be not burdened... deep with sorrow  
I wish you sunshine of tomorrow  
My life's been full I've savored much  
Good friends, good times  
A loved one's touch  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief  
Don't lengthen it now with grief  
Lift up your heart and share with me  
God wants me now... He set me free*

### *Acknowledgements*

*The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation  
the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown  
to their family during this hour of bereavement.  
May God Bless and Keep You!*

## **Professional Services Provided By:**

*Perry Funeral Home, Inc.*

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