

*A Service of Memory
Celebrating the Life
Of*

Arthur Lee Graves

December 4, 1939 - August 18, 2014



Service

Saturday, August 23, 2014 ~ 11:00 am

Bethany Baptist Church

303 West 153rd Street
New York, New York

Officiating

Reverend Richard Gibbs



I'm Home!

*Now I am gone, release me, let me go! I have so many things to see and do. You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears; Be happy that we had so many beautiful years. I gave to you my love. You can only guess how much you gave to me in happiness. I thank you for the love you have shown. But now it's time I travel on alone. So grieve for me awhile if grieve you must. Then let your grief be comforted by trust. It's only for a while that we must part, So bless the memories within your heart. I won't be far away, for life goes on; So if you need me, call and I will come.. Though you cannot see or touch me, I'll be near, And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear All my love around you, soft and clear. And then when you must come this way alone, I'll greet you with a smile, And say,
"Welcome Home!"*

Obituary

On Monday morning, August 18, 2014, one of God's angels informed him that the time had come for eternal peace; the battle fought, the victory won.

Mr. Arthur Lee Graves was born on December 4, 1939, to the late Henry and Julia Graves of Furman, South Carolina, and was one of thirteen children born to that union. On September 24, 1973, he married Mattie Mae Gibbs and out of this blessed union they had two beautiful daughters.

While in New York, Arthur, known to many as Artie, was employed at Sweet Construction as a Labor Forman for many years and decided to retire in 2002 in Chesapeake, Virginia. He was a hard worker and devoted family provider. His caring nature extended beyond his biological family, becoming a father-like figure to many and loving them all the same. He was a man of Rhythm & Blues and had a good sense of humor, never passing up the opportunity to tell a funny story!

Arthur recently accepted Christ as his personal savior and was baptized on the 30th of July, 2014, being united with the New Light Church of Chesapeake, VA.

Arthur Lee Graves was preceded in death by his loving parents, Henry and Julia Graves.

He leaves to treasure his memory, his loving and adoring wife, Mattie Graves; four children, Robert, Richard, Amanda and Monique; three sisters, Rosetta Atkins, Ernestine (James) Bulloch, and Lela Taylor; a brother, James "Son" Graves; six grandchildren, Denell Graves, Terrence Graves, Sheldon Davis, Latoya Graves, Christopher Santiago, and Yahsia Graves; a great-granddaughter, Nevaeh Santiago; a goddaughter, Levette McCray-Smith; and a host of brother and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

He will truly be missed by all.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

The Processional..Minister, Family, and Friends

The Scripture Message

Old Testament (Psalm 23).....Nette Reaves

New Testament (John 14:1-6).....Amanda Graves

The Prayer.....Darren Richburg

The Solo.....Deacon Copeland

The Acknowledgments

Words of Comfort.....Family and Friends
(2 Minutes)

The Obituary Reading.....Silent Reading

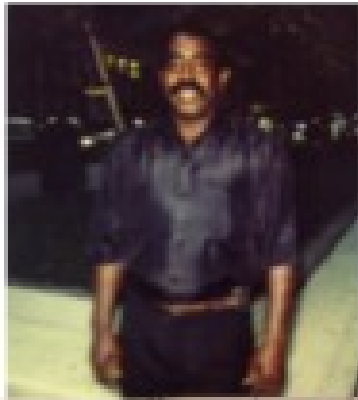
The Song.....Jennifer Hudson
"Jesus Promised Me A Home Over There"

The Eulogy.....Reverend Richard Gibbs

The Recessional

Interment

George Washington Memorial Park Cemetery
234 Paramus Road
Paramus, NJ 07652



Pallbearers

Ben Atkins
Art Jones
Richard Jones
Darren Richburg
Javier Rosa
Eugene Scott

Flower Bearers

Friends of the Family



In Appreciation

The family acknowledges with sincere appreciation, the many comforting messages, support, and other expressions of kindness during our bereavement of our loved one.
May God bless each of you.

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