



In Loving Memory of

Curtis Carlton Haven

Sunrise

September 17, 1930

Sunset

July 21, 2015

Service

Friday, July 31, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

211 W. 141st Street • New York, NY

Rev. Marcel Amadi, Officiating

Obituary

Curtis Carlton Haven was born on September 17, 1930 in Savannah, Georgia, one of Wilbur Haven and Ruth Andrews' seven children—Alice, Wilbur, Gerald, Georgia, Katherine and Nona. His parents valued education and instilled this in their children, all of whom would go on to graduate from college and earn terminal degrees.

Curtis attended local schools in his home town: Florence Street School, Beach Cuyler Junior High School and Beach Cuyler High School. Following his high school graduation, he matriculated at Savannah State College and upon successful completion of his studies, he earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in General Sciences in 1949.

In 1952, Curtis relocated to New York City to join his elder brother, Wilbur and his family. Curtis obtained employment with the New York City Parks Department. He later joined the New York City Health Department, where he remained until his retirement in 1991. Curtis served as a civil service employee for over 32 years.

Curtis obtained his formative religious training at St. Paul Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.) Church in Savannah, GA. He remained a devout Christian and in 1981, joined St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church under Sister Madeline's leadership. He was a faithful congregant and regularly attended the 8am Sunday Mass until his health declined. He was delighted that he was able to attend the 125th Anniversary of St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church in October, 2014.

Curtis appreciated and was a lover of all kinds of music ranging from Jazz to Classical to R&B and Soul. During his earlier adult years, he was well-known for welcoming guests into his home and sponsoring spectacular house parties. Many featured musical combos and bands, who played live music! He was a splendid host, preparing lavish and delicious soul food meals for the attendees. Curtis was an avid reader and appreciated a good book. He enjoyed the theater and was very well traveled. Several of his most memorable trips were with the Gadabouts Social Club on their excursions to the South Jersey Shore, the Bahamas and Gabon, West Africa.

Curtis was the ultimate Renaissance Man! He was a highly intellectual individual with an uncanny ability to recall past events, with clarity and detail, including the names of the participants! Curtis was a loving and passionate person, always willing to assist another in need. He almost *always* had a gigantic, encompassing smile on his face and a twinkle in his eyes.

Although wheelchair-bound for the 6-8 years he spent in various nursing homes, he remained cheerful and the consummate gentleman. The entire staff of The Bronx Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation was well acquainted with Curtis and he knew them all by name. His nursing assistants considered it an honor to escort him to various Broadway shows, to the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, to St. Charles Borromeo Church's services and events, and to dine at assorted restaurants.

Curtis' greatest wish was to "WALK" again!

His longtime childhood friends and classmates, Elvin Maxwell and Joseph Bennett, from Savannah, GA preceded him in death. His New York friendships with Roma Drummer, a retired police officer and Robert Morgan and their families have remained faithful over the years.

Curtis is survived by: numerous nieces and nephews, Wilbur Haven, Leroy Haven and James Dearing, Jr., Margaret Haven, Shellie Ward and Viola Jackson of Atlanta, GA; William M. Farrow, III, Sylvia Haven and Delores Billingski of Illinois; Reginald Collins, Chiquita Wells, Betty Jo Woodhouse and Sherry Collins of Virginia; The Bennett, Hockaday-Leslie, McBain, Roma Drummer and Robert Morgan families.

Special gratitude to Michelle Moore, personal services; The *entire* staff of The Bronx Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation Center; and The Church family of St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church.

A special thank you to his court-appointed guardian, Carolyn G. McBain, for her love, devotion and friendship to our beloved Uncle Curtis.

Lovingly submitted,
The Haven Family

Funeral Mass

Gathering Hymn..... “Shall We Meet At The River”

Processional Hymn..... “Blessed Assurance”

Placing of the Pall..... Carolyn and Joseph McBain

First Reading

Psalm 51:1-4, 10-12..... Joseph McBain

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13..... Deacon Rodney Beckford

General Intercessions..... Deacon Rodney Beckford

Eulogy Rev. Marcel Amadi

Offertory Hymn..... “Old Rugged Cross”

Communion Hymn..... “There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood”

Communion Meditation Song..... “What A Friend We Have In Jesus”

Obituary Read Silently

Recessional..... “We Are Marching To Zion”

Interment

Lincoln Memorial Cemetery
Savannah, GA

Williams & Williams Funeral Home

Psalm 23

The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparast a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Acknowledgement

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

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