

A Celebration Of Life



John
Fleming Farmer

Sunrise
March 25, 1929

Sunset
December 8, 2015



Obituary

John Fleming (Pop) Farmer was born on March 25, 1929 to the late Paul and Pearl Fleming-Farmer of Warsaw, NC. John was the younger of two children who migrated to New York City with their parents in 1943. He attended Alexander Hamilton High School in Brooklyn, NY. Before his tour in Korea, John worked at St. John's Hospital (a.k.a. Interfaith) on Atlantic Ave. where he met the love of his life, Melvina "Betty" Nelson in 1948. The ever patient John waited for Melvina, his Betty, to graduate from high school, after a two year courtship, they were united in holy matrimony on June 12, 1951, and to their union they were blessed with three children. The compassion of this couple's heart led them to adopt and raise Jessie Richardson as one of their own. John was a devoted husband and father determined to build a strong family base, family was his most prized possessions.

A true American patriot, John attempted to enlist in the Military at the age of thirteen, however, he was turned down due to being much too young. A few years later, John would be drafted into the Army to fight in the Korean War. As a result of being wounded in combat and for service to his country, he was given the Purple Heart. Upon discharge from the Military, John worked as a Maintenance Engineer at PBM in Manhattan. Later, the company appointed John to the position of Regional Supervisor for the Tri-state area. John resigned from PBM to take on the responsibility of caring for his beautiful grandchildren; however, he returned to work after only one week with Curtis and Cocoa, his sweet darlings. John was employed as a Supervising Security officer at Boro Investigations, in Brooklyn, he was a faithful and dependable worker and was well respected by his subordinates and his supervisors.

John and Betty came to know and love the Lord under the leadership of the late Bishop Landon E. Penn D.D. Pastor and Founder of Universal Temple C.O.G. in 1986. In 1991, John and Betty retired and relocated to Roanoke, VA where they later became members of Central Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Joseph A. Keaton, D.D. They always maintained their fellowships with both their New York and Virginia church families; they would have it no other way. While living in Roanoke, VA, John was co-care provider for his grandson, Demetrius Farmer Cerge, and later, his brother-in-law, Earl Nelson. After Betty's demise in 2011, John returned to New York and resumed his full time membership at Universal Temple under the leadership of Overseer Tracy Henderson. John always felt the need to attend church services, so, whenever he wasn't able to attend UTC services, he would attend Rhema House of Deliverance with his son, Elder Farmer. He was loved and affectionately known as "Senior" by all of the worshippers and Overseer Rebecca Wright. No matter what church John attended, he was loved by everyone who met him.

John had several roles, hats and faces, of which he was well known. He was a devoted husband of sixty years, a disciplinarian to his children, nieces and nephews, and a caring grandfather. In addition to these we must add a humorous great-grandfather as well as a spectacular father-in-law. John was a warm hearted man with a smile that would light up a room. He was independent and enterprising learning from his parents early on, that there is value in investing in real estate. He was the proud owner of several properties in his lifetime. If you needed to make repairs around the house, you could call upon him for his resourceful expertise. A chef of the finest caliber, John's signature dish was his Chopped Bar-b-Que. In his younger days, he would tell you that a hog wouldn't stand a chance against him, there was no part that could not be utilized for delectable consumption.

We have lost a valiant soldier. On December 8, 2015 at 1:23 p.m., John departed this life in the same manner that he lived, peacefully. John was preceded in death by his Beloved Melvina, "Betty"; his parents, Paul and Pearl Farmer; his sister, Mary Shellow; his brother-in-law, Earl Nelson; and his great grandson, Deon (DW). He leaves his three children to cherish his memory: his son, Elder Gregory J. Farmer, Sr. (Belinda) of Brooklyn, NY; his daughters, Desiree Farmer-Rashid of Roanoke, VA, Sheree Farmer-Johnson (Erick) of New York, NY and Jessie Richardson of Brooklyn, NY. Also mourning his departure are his grandchildren, Gregory Jr. (Taren), Desiree, Curtis (Sheena), Jeremiah, Deon (La Shonda), Tabitha, Dominique, Demetrius, Jermaine, Chijioke and Savannah; his great grandchildren, Christopher, Tyrell, Kahleek, Quashaun, Shyrell, Layla, Germani, Italy, Myles, McKenzie, Nevaeh, Major and Aiden. John's nieces and nephews and their families among whom are Bishop and Lady Fowle of Delaware, Herman, Paula and Todd, Raynard and Mary, Hennalaura, Clenaire and Bridgette. In his life he also adopted as his own, Earlene Franklin, Lisa Haywood, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Gates and Overseer Tracy Henderson. Pop's longtime friends, Ms. Pearl and Lucy White, and Eddie and Loula Hines. There is no doubt that his buddy and pet, Peanut, will miss him. This beloved man adopted and was adopted as Pop by an amazing number of people of whom this document cannot contain, but you are recognized. There are countless relatives and friends, also too numerous to list, who will miss this wonderful man. We have a date for our beginning as well as a date for our end, but the way we live the dash in between, is what is most important and what we celebrate tonight for this extraordinary man. We loved him, but God loved him best.

Order of Service

Friday, December 18, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.

UNIVERSAL TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD

1403 Eastern Parkway • Brooklyn, NY
Presiding Officiant - Rev. Hezekiah Grice

Organ Prelude	Organist
Processional	Clergy & Family
Congregational Hymn	"Amazing Grace"
Prayer of Comfort	Overseer Virginia Bell
Holy Scriptures	
Old Testament	Rev. Acey Pettaway
New Testament	Rev. Reginald Hall
Solo	Overseer Tracy Henderson
Reflections	Sis. Desiree Farmer-Rashid Bishop Dwayne Castro Overseer Rebecca Wright Mother Elizabeth Jackson Ms. Pearl White Bro. Herman Shellow Bishop Allen Fowle
Remarks by Family & Friends	<i>2 minutes each please</i>
Solo	Evangelist Denise Hicks-Francis
Obituary	Sis. Desiree (Cocoa) Farmer and Bro. Curtis Farmer
Selection	
Acknowledgement of Condolences	Sis. Myrtle Robinson
Solo	Sis. Karen Chaneyfield
Expressions of Gratitude	Elder Gregory J. Farmer, Sr.
Eulogy	Overseer Tracy Henderson
Recessional	Clergy & Family

Following the service, family and friends are invited to the repast in the church.

Final Disposition

(Saturday, December 19, 2015)
Greenwood Crematory
Brooklyn, New York

*They say memories are golden, well maybe that is true.
We never wanted memories, we only wanted you.
A million times we needed you, a million times we've cried.
If love alone could have saved you, you never would have died.
In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still.
In our hearts you hold a place no one can ever fill.
If tears could build a stairway and heartache make a lane,
We'd walk the path to heaven to bring you back again.
Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same.
But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link together again.*

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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