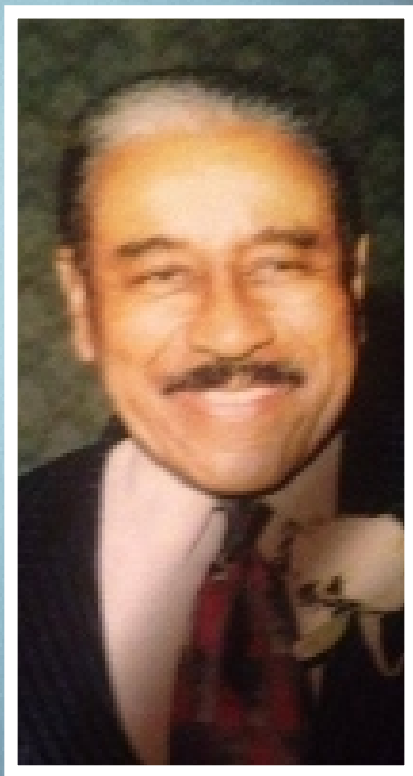


Celebrating The Life of
Dr. John William Cosby, Jr.

Sunrise
January 24, 1932

Sunset
January 18, 2016



Monday, January 25, 2016 - 11:00 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

103 Valley Street

South Orange, New Jersey 07079

Rev. Dr. Terry L. Richardson, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Lloyd Preston Terrell, Officiating

Myron Smith, Organist

Obituary

Dr. John W. Cosby, Jr. was born to the late John William Cosby, Sr. and Addis (Washington) Cosby on January 24, 1932 in Greenville, South Carolina. His younger brother, the late James Cavette Cosby would soon follow.

The family moved shortly after James' birth to South Orange, New Jersey, where Addis' sister Mamie Lou and her husband, the Reverend John Wesley Nance had settled due to Reverend Nance's position as an Associate Pastor at the First Baptist Church of South Orange. Both John and James would receive their Baptism at this church. Harlem would become John's second home with many of his family members having migrated to New York City.

John graduated from Fielding, South Orange Junior High and Columbia High School respectively in the South Orange Maplewood School District. After spending a year at Rider University, John would enlist in the United States Airforce as a Medic stationed in California and Morocco, North Africa in active duty from 1952 to 1956. Upon his expiration term of service from the Airforce he would return to college, earning his Bachelor's Degree from Bloomfield College. He would always say this was a good year for him as it was also the birth of his first daughter and the year he purchased his first house.

John was very proud of the opportunity to become an initial social worker at the Kilmer Job Corp. under President Johnson's "Great Society" initiatives. He would also hold supervisory positions at Orange Opportunity Corp. and the Hey House while earning a MA in Psychology and an MSW at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. He would finally earn his PhD in Psychology and Social Work from Rutgers University, having also done course work at Columbia University in NYC.

John Cosby was an adventurer and would earn his pilot's license, with his daughter, Tracey in tow. He loved to travel and was a food and wine connoisseur. He was charismatic and always had a welcoming smile. A critical thinker, he expected others to rise to the challenge of excellence, and made no excuses for mediocracy. He also loved Jazz and to play tennis (although it was said he wasn't too good) and unbeknownst to some outside the family, he was an accomplished vocalist who recorded a song as a child.

In 1979, his second bundle of joy, Kellei Elizabeth, was born whom he doted over and with whom he would enjoy roller blading, bicycle riding and other outdoor activities that they both relished. During the 1970's, Dr. Cosby was awarded a grant that he wrote to build a juvenile delinquency center in Atlantic County. His PhD Dissertation had been premised on the rehabilitations of juvenile delinquency. He would name the facility "Harbor Fields". It was one of his proudest moments becoming the Executive Director at its inception. Through this opportunity, he was hand-picked to become the first African American Department Head in the history of the County of Atlantic overseeing over four hundred employees as the head of the Division of Youth and Family Services, which would later be renamed the Department of Economic Development. He would be credited with being a visionary and became the recipient of numerous honors and awards.

During his employment with the County, he would also adjunct teach at a number of colleges and universities, continue to write grants, consult as a Behavioral Psychologist, sit on the Board of Trustees at Rowan University, formerly known as Glassboro College; sit on the Board of Trustee for Atlantic Shore Hospital, the Kiwanis Club and many more too numerous to mention. After retiring from the County of Atlantic, he would continue to write grants and obtain funding for the Home Team a group which built affordable homes in Atlantic County.

John, affectionately known as "Grandpapa" and "Pop Pop", loved being a grandfather and was assured his legacy would continue through them. In 2011, he relocated to Montclair, New Jersey until his passing.

He leaves to mourn his physical departure: his former wife and mother of his oldest daughter, Anita Hawkins Cosby; daughter, Tracey S. Cosby, Esq.; Mother of youngest daughter, Anne Evans; daughter, Kellei Cosby (Ivaylo); granddaughter, Zahra Small; grandsons, Isiah and Gabriel Cosby Katovkis; niece, Felicia Cosby; lifelong brothers, Everett Felder, Raymond Cubino and Kenneth Han; and a host of family and friends.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude.....Myron Smith

Seating of the Family.....The Funeral Director

Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. Dr. Lloyd Preston Terrell

Air Force Recognition.....Jan Cheema (Sgt. Air force Retired)

Trumpeter.....(Taps).....Isaia E. Conte

Scripture Readings
New Testament - I Corinthians 15:51-58.....Cecilia Gomez
New Testament - Romans 5:1-5.....Felicia Cosby

Solo.....“Amazing Grace”.....Tyrone Dunlap

Remarks.....Family and Friends.....Two Minutes Please

Acknowledgements and Resolutions

Obituary.....Talisa Coleman-Harris

Solo“The Wind Beneath My Wings”Tyrone Dunlap

Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Lloyd Preston Terrell
*Franklin St. John’s United Methodist Church
Newark, New Jersey*

Recessional.....Clergy and Family

Entombment
*Hollywood Memorial Park
1500 Stuyvesant Avenue
Union, New Jersey 07083*



The Chain Will Link Again

*Little did we know that morning,
God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
in death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
you did not go alone.
For part of us went with you,
the day God called you home.
You left us beautiful memories,
your love is still our guide.
And although we cannot see you,
you are always by our side.
Our family chain is broken,
and nothing seems the same.
But as God calls us one by one,
the chain will link again.*

-Author unknown

Pallbearers

Charles Cosby

Raymond Cubino

John Cosby M.D.

Derrick Brown

Eldridge Hawkins Esq.

Ivaylo Katovski

Acknowledgement

*The family of **Dr. John William Cosby, Jr.** would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for the many thoughtful acts of kindness, support and concern extended to us during our time of bereavement. Thank you and may God richly bless you.*

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