

Celebrating the Life and Legacy
of



Claude Fuerton Patrick
LAWRENCE

Sunrise

March 23, 1953

Sunset

February 14, 2016

Service

Friday, February 19, 2016 - 7:30 p.m.

EBENEZER MISSIONARY CHAPEL

5464 Kings Highway • Brooklyn, New York

Pastor W. Desmond Lee, Officiating



Obituary

Claude Everton Patrick Lawrence was born on March 23, 1953 in Kingston, Jamaica. He was the only son and the oldest child of the late Carmen Lawrence and Egerton “Mickey” Lawrence. Claude’s formative years were spent in Jamaica, which makes him a true “Yardie.” His roots as a native son of the small Caribbean island remained evident in every characteristic that made Claude, “Claude” throughout his life, even though he was a youth of 15 years when his parents made a home for him and his sisters in Brooklyn, New York in 1969.

Claude, no doubt, experienced the common difficulties of assimilation as a young Jamaican transplant to Brooklyn. However, although tall and awkward for his age, young Claude was handsome and had a personality as thick and as charming as his accent. He made friends easily. He was eager to participate in a variety of activities. He was a good student in school, starting at Erasmus Hall High School and working his way through post-graduate work at Fordham University. As a young teen he began attending The Brooklyn Tabernacle where he became involved with a young youth minister, Pastor Nellie Leakey who had a major impact on Claude and eventually led him to faith in Jesus Christ. Claude eventually joined Pastor Leakey as she established United International Christ Crusaders, known today as Love Fellowship, New York. At UICC, Claude found a welcoming and encouraging group of young people eager to serve the Lord and those experiences helped shaped the remainder of his life. Claude played drums on occasion with the Leakey singers, went on various overseas missions trips, and participated in dramas and other performing arts endeavors. Later in life he attended Christian Cultural Center for several years before returning to his first church home, The Brooklyn Tabernacle.

In many ways Claude lived the American dream. He had a strong work ethic and worked hard to make a respectable living often working 2 or 3 jobs at a time. He worked for the City of New York in a variety of positions that included a supervisory position at the Parking Violations Bureau, the Department of School Safety and eventually, as a truant officer and the occasional substitute teacher. He met and fell in love with his wife Evelyn Patricia Holmes at Love Fellowship and married her on July 26, 1997. They welcomed a daughter, Skylar, their only child, on July 12, 1999 and settled down in a home in Flatlands, Brooklyn.

Claude enjoyed watching and talking sports and was an avid Yankees fan, and if they were having a winning season, the Knicks. He loved driving and would often take his daughter on long drives. He also enjoyed taking her fishing, to the park and to the movies. Most of all he loved to laugh and he loved making people around him laugh. Those who knew Claude well will remember, perhaps more than anything else, how distinctive was his laugh, and the bellow he would let out when something amused him. He was easily and often amused. Claude laughed with his entire body and with little to no regard for whether anyone else saw the humor. He would laugh so hard, sometimes at the most insignificant or inane thing, that his eyes would water and he’d struggle to regain his composure. His laughter was contagious and it could lighten the mood in a room in an instant.

Claude passed away on Sunday, February 14, 2016: Valentine’s Day. He left us too soon and too suddenly. His life was a gift from God that he fought as hard as he was able to in his final days, to honor.

He will be deeply missed. However, his family and friends will have indelible memories of him to gladden their hearts and lighten their spirits for the rest of their lives.

Claude is survived by his beloved wife, and daughter, his father, his four sisters, Jennifer, Marcia, Diane, and Annette, his nieces; Shannon, Olivia, Patrice and Danielle, his sisters and brothers in-law and a host of cousins and other extended family members.

Claude, your work here is done. Enjoy your eternal rest in the presence of your Lord and Savior.

Order of Service

Welcome and Opening Prayer Pastor Desmond Lee

Time In His Presence

Prayer of Comfort Pastor Valarie Baez
God's House of Healing and Restoration

Scripture Reading Danielle Wilson

Musical Selection Patrice Jameison

Remembrances Sister Louise Hemans Smith
Danielle Wilson

Words of Comfort Pastor Nelson Baez
God's House of Healing and Restoration

Pastoral Tribute Pastor Ronnie Leakey
Love Fellowship, NY

Obituary Skylar Lawrence

Solo Chaplain Jeanne Adams

Eulogy Pastor Desmond Lee

Acknowledgements Evelyn Lawrence

Final Tribute Skylar Lawrence

Benediction Pastor Desmond Lee

Final Viewing

Interment

Nassau Knolls Cemetery
Port Washington, New York

Circumstances may appear
to wreck our lives
and God's plans,
but God is not helpless
among the ruins.

~ *Carol Kent*

Pall Bearers

- Edward Adams
- Brian Gonzales
- Ivan Lee
- Edward Adams II
- Michael Holmes
- Danny Wilson

Acknowledgement

*The family wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation
for all acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy that was
shown to them during this time of bereavement.*

Professional Services Provided by:

Daniel J. Schaefer Funeral Home

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