

*In Loving Memory of*  
**Valjean Hodge**

**Sunrise**  
May 24, 1963

*"Shorty"*

**Sunset**  
March 22, 2016



*Wednesday, March 30, 2016 - 12:00 Noon*

**COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE**  
1025 Bergen Street • Newark, New Jersey

## Obituary

**Valjean Ross-Hodge** of Orange, New Jersey was born May 24, 1963 to John I. Hodge, Jr. and Bettyjean Hodge. On March 22, 2016, this precious, beloved gift that God blessed us with was requested back home to rest.

Val was small in size with a big lovable heart that was full of life and love for her family and friends that made her 10ft tall in our hearts. Her presence will be well miss especially her smile that sparkle like gold.

Val attended the Public School system of Newark, New Jersey and Fort Gaines, Georgia. She was employed by Joint Connection Department of Correction (van driver) of Newark, New Jersey. She also worked at Ivis Lee Pharmaceutical Company (Pharmaceutical Rep) of West Caldwell, New Jersey.

Val was preceded in death by her loving mother, Betty Jean Hodge and her loving daughter, Najia J. Saxton-Hodge, her grandson, Rahjon Sadeek Thomas and her grandparents, John I. Hodge and Mary Hodge and Henry Ross and Clara Ross.

Val leaves to cherish her memory: her loving father, John I. Hodge, Jr. of Carrollton, Georgia; her devoted loving sons, John P. Hodge (Tara) of Linden, New Jersey and Edwin Rahjon Thomas (Tiarra) of Newark, New Jersey; her devoted daughter, Katrina Hodge of Greensboro, North Carolina; sisters, Romaine Hodge of Newark, NJ and Skylar Hodge of Carrollton, Georgia; brothers, Edward Hodge "Peewee" of Newark, New Jersey and Tony Hodge of Donson, South Carolina, Keldien McClain of Carrollton, Georgia; her grandchildren, Raequan Hodge, Travion Hodge of Linden, New Jersey, Amir Thomas, Rahmir Thomas and Tameer Thomas of Newark, New Jersey and Kailan Hodge of Greensboro, North Carolina; her devoted, loving nephew, Timothy Hodge; her niece, Sonielle Holmes; great niece, Sa'nai Muhammad and great nephew, Jah'Cai Manns. Val longtime companion, Willie Maxwell of Orange, New Jersey; dearest friend, Cheryl Maxwell; eight aunts and six uncles; and a host of cousins, friends and family.

# *Order of Service*

Processional

Selection

Scripture Reading

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Remarks

(Two minutes each please)

Acknowledgements

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Recessional

## **INTERMENT**

Fairmount Cemetery

Newark, New Jersey

## *Farewell, Dear Mother*

Somewhere in my heart beneath all my grief and pain,  
Is a smile I still wear at the sound of your dear name.  
The precious word is 'MOTHER', she was my world you see,  
But now my heart is breaking cause she's no longer here with me.  
God chose her for His angel to watch me from above,  
To guide me and advise me and know that I'm still loved.  
The day she had to leave me when her life on earth was through,  
God had better plans for her, for this, I surely knew.  
When I think of her kind heart and all those loving years,  
She truly was my best friend, someone I could confide in,  
She always had a tender touch and a warm and gentle grin.  
I want to thank you Mother for teaching me so well,  
And though the time has come that I must bid you this farewell.  
I'll remember all you've taught me and make you proud you'll see.  
Thank you my Dear Mother for all the love you showed me.  
Although you've left this earth and now you've taken flight,  
I know that you are here with me each morning, noon and night.  
Love Your Children

## *I'm Free*

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day.  
To laugh, to love, to work or play,  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of day.  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it up with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
ah, yes these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much.  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free!

## *Acknowledgement*

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you sent a floral piece If so, we saw it there.  
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.  
Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.  
Whatever you did to console our hearts,  
We Thank You, Whatever the part.

For my family and friends  
**Val aka Shorty**

### **Professional Services Provided By**

**COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE**  
130 Main Street  
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1025 Bergen Street  
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973-926-6400

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