

*"Going Home"*

*Perstine Wesley*



*Sunrise*  
*August 14, 1934*

*Sunset*  
*September 24, 2016*



## Obituary



**Perstine Wesley** was born in Luray, SC on August 14, 1934. To the Reverend John Henry Wesley and Ellenora Sanders Wesley. He was the third child of eight children. He was affectionately called “Steve”, “Harry” and the “Mayor of North Broadway”. Perstine was smitten by Maude Combs and after a ten year courtship they married in 1993.

In his early years his parents moved the family from Allendale, SC to Savannah, GA. Perstine was educated in the Allendale County, SC School System and later in the Chatham County school system in Savannah, GA. As a young man he was employed at Rakestraw Funeral Home, Savannah, GA as a mortician and later he was employed at Blair’s Shoe Shop where he worked until he left for Yonkers, NY. In 1962 he became a business associate with his best friend Harry Ward of Harry’s Shoe Repair. After his best friends passing he became the sole proprietor in 1965. He

kept the name of the shop to honor his friend as a business man. He retired after 50 years.

Perstine Wesley leaves to cherish his memories a devoted wife, Maude Wesley; two daughters, Cathy Denny (Montague) of Savannah, GA and Sharon Wesley of Savannah, GA; four sons, Reginald Wesley (Joan) of Atlanta, GA, Veron “Skippy” Wesley of Atlanta, GA, Steven Wesley (Sharonda) of Newark, DE, Nigel Wesley (Pam), Northeast, MD; eighteen grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren; two brothers, John Wesley (Liz), Bear, DE and Anthony “Tony” Wesley (Pam) of Savannah, GA; two sisters-in-law, Lisa West (Dan), Briantree, MA and Joyce Crawford of Boston, MA; his Godson and nephew, Eric Wesley; his favorite Aunt Leola Young of Philadelphia, PA and favorite cousins, Lillian Lee of Charlotte, NC and Barbara Young of Ocean City, MD and his relatives of the Wesley-Sanders Family & City of Yonkers, NY. He is preceded in death by his parents, one daughter, Tonya Wesley, two sisters, Rumell Wesley and Marie Morgan, three brothers, William Wesley, Thomas Wesley, and James Wesley.

***“If you are going to do business in this community then it is your obligation to put something back into it by helping wherever there is a need.”- Perstine Wesley***

The proprietor of Harry's Shoe Repair in Getty Square, for over 50 years his business was a symbol of longevity and he has contributed to the stability of downtown Yonkers. He took tremendous pride in being a part of the downtown area, serving as "Goodwill Ambassador", welcoming new businesses and serving as a mentor by advising and supporting new business ventures. He achieved success in the entrepreneurial arena but did not hesitate to "give back" to the community. He served humbly, never looking or expecting recognition. He worked tirelessly for the sake of those less fortunate.

Perstine started a city- wide organization called "Wesley and Friends" that benefited two pivotal community service organizations: The Yonkers YWCA and the Nepperhan Community Center, as well as scholarship awards, In 2009 "Wesley and Friends" would start their own Food pantry for seniors, his organization partnered with the Yonkers Fire Department, and held an annual coat and clothing drive for children and adults.

Perstine along with former Mayor Phil Amicone and the Yonkers Police Department, successfully held the Community 5K Run/Walk race that encouraged positive relationships with our children and Yonkers police officers in 2007- 2010.

His vigorous fundraising, recruitment of chefs, and donations of in-kind goods and services, has been a driving force behind the success of the Yonkers YWCA Celebrity Chefs; he enjoyed serving as event co-chair.



## “The Mayor of North Broadway”

During his life he received many Accolades: The YWCA of Yonkers

- The Yonkers Minority Business Association, Inc.
- The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Club
- The African-American Heritage Committee
- The Sharing Community Inc.
- The National Association of Negro Musicians
- The Don Cloud Jr. Scholarship Foundation
- The National Council of Churches
- The Westchester– Rockland Guardian Association
- The Concerned Clergy Association
- The Women’s Civic Club of Nepperhan, Inc.
- Luther V. Garrison Sr. Masonic Foundation Inc.
- Salvation Army Citadel Corps
- Yonkers Guardians Association
- Downtown Star Award from the Yonkers Downtown Waterfront BID
- Nepperhan Community Center, Inc.
- Key to the City of Yonkers from Mayor Mike Spano on October 23, 2012

*Perstine Wesley’s character is best summarized in a song  
by the gospel group the “Consolers”  
“May the work I’ve done speak for me –  
may the service that I gave speak for me.”*



Service

Tuesday, October 4, 2016 - 12:00 Noon

**COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**

156 North Broadway • Yonkers, New York 10701

*Officiating*

*Rev. Clarence Bolling, Pastor*

*Order of Service*

Organ Prelude ..... Wm Tommy Moore

Scripture Readings ..... Pastor Wm E. Norman Sr.  
SolidRock Christian Center • Yonkers, New York

Old Testament ..... 23rd Psalm

New Testament ..... John 14: 1-6

Prayer of Comfort ..... Overseer Hazel Perry  
City of Lord’s Praise Temple • Yonkers, New York

“May The Work I’ve Done” ..... Wm Tommy Moore

Reflections ..... Charles Gardner - Yonkers Police Commissioner  
Lisa Best - Community Activist  
Ja’Donna Wesley, Niece  
Ja’Rome Wesley, Nephew

Acknowledgments

Obituary ..... Gwen Walker

“If I Can Help Somebody” ..... Cecelia Myers

Eulogy ..... Rev. Clarence Bolling

Benediction

Recessional

Repast

*Nepperhan Community Center  
342 Warburton Ave, Yonkers, New York*



## *My Dearest Perstine*

*The moment that you left me*

*My heart was torn in two*

*One side filled with heartache*

*The other left with you.*

*I often lie awake at night*

*When the world is fast asleep, and*

*Take a walk down memory lane*

*With tears upon my cheeks.*

*Remembering you is easy*

*I do it everyday*

*But missing you is a heartache*

*That never goes away.*

*I hold you tightly within my heart*

*And where you will remain.*

*Until the joyous day arrives.*

*That we will meet again*

*Your Loving Wife*

## *Owr Dad*

*If I could write a story  
It would be the greatest ever told  
Of a kind and loving father  
Who had a heart of gold*

*If could write a million pages  
But still be unable to say, just how  
Much I love and miss him  
Every single day*

*I will remember all he taught me  
I'm hurt but won't be sad  
Because he'll send me down the answers  
And he'll always be "Owr DAD"*

*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 his call,  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I've found that peace at the end of the day.  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah, yes, these things too I 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' 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.  
*Janice M. Fair-Salters*

### Pallbearers

Nigel Wesley, Sr.	Nigel Wesley, Jr.
Brandon Wesley	Dan West
Derek Crosby	Willie Williams

## *Acknowledgements*

*The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to  
all who have supported us during this time of loss.  
– The Wesley Family*

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*Brooks Memorial Home, Inc.*

275 Warburton Ave.  
Yonkers, New York 10701  
Ph: (914) 965-3781  
*Brooksmemorialhome.com*

