

In Loving Memory
Of
James W. Gray
"Sonny"



Sunrise: August 1, 1936

Sunset: October 23, 2016

**Memorial Service
Saturday, November 5, 2016**

**Family Funeral Services
736 Clinton Avenue
Newark, New Jersey**

Obituary

James W. Gray fondly known as Sonny was born August 1, 1936 the 5th child of Charlotte and Richard Gray in Montclair, New Jersey on his mother's and sister Sarah's birthday.

Sonny accepted Christ at an early age and was a member of the family Church, Union Baptist Church in Montclair, NJ. He was educated in the Montclair School system and graduated from Montclair High School in 1954. Following his high school educational experience, Sonny enlisted in the service and was a member of the United States Air Force (1956-1960). He continued his undergraduate education at Art Center College Los Angeles, CA. Later he continued his work and study at Parsons School of Design, New York, New York 1974 through 1976.

Following his studies at Parsons Sonny worked in a variety of areas such as: Assistant to the Art Director, Assistant Editor, Sample Maker, Prototyper, Display Designer and Corrugated Designer.

Sonny was an award winning designer in: 1958 Christmas Decorations at Kadena Air Base Okinawa Air Force Poster Contest, 1960 Proposal for an Outdoor Athletic Facility at Cape Charles Air Force Station that was selected for construction. 1989 Montclair Art Show for his photograph of "The Harbor at Portofino, Italy".

He also had many Photographic Exhibitions: 1970 Abstract Paper Sculpture Show, 1988 and 1989 Photograph Exhibition at the Montclair and West Orange Libraries, 1989 Montclair Art Show, 1990 Photography Show at the Children's Hospital and Four Sisters Winery, 1991 Transworld Marketing Corp., 1993 Blackwell- Davis Reunion, 1994 Nabisco Art Show at Corporate Headquarters.

As you may know Sonny was a sports car enthusiast, he had numerous articles published in Popular Imported Cars Magazine from 1964-1978 many articles were written about the Triumph, MGB and the BMW, mostly under his pen name Jim Gray. He also had photographs and artwork published during that same period.

Sonny was also the set designer and Marketing Executive for the Silver Foxes Modeling Agency during the 1987- 1995 time period.

He also has several sculptures on display: 2003 'GEOM3" (Geom cubed) a steel sculpture, 2010 'RINGS' a Lucite sculpture, 2011 FLORA3 A copper sculpture.

Sonny also holds a PATENT from the United States Government for a Stemware Rack.

He was a member of: Triumph Sports Car Owners Association, International Motor Press Association, Ferrari Club of America, Nostalgic Automobile Society of Montclair (one of the founders) Society of Automobile Historians and the Walter P. Chrysler Club.

Sonny was also an avid skier and tennis player, he enjoyed both sports so much he was often traveling to places where he could ski or play tennis.

He relocated to Gaston, South Carolina in 2009 where he found the most perfect home to display his art and other treasures and to live out his busy retirement happily surrounded by the treasures he collected and loved.

Sonny leaves to mourn: his brother and sister in law, William "Dickie" and Stella Gray of Montclair, NJ, Sisters Jean Lanier of Pasadena, and Sarah Gray of Davis CA, Nephew Gene Lanier (Vickie & Children) nieces Charlotte Lanier and Alcena Hoague (Ryan) of CA and his God daughter Dorian McDuffy of Atlanta, Ga. Sony is predeceased by his sister Nettie Simmons and God daughter/Niece Sheila Gray Hale. A host of cousins and friends in New Jersey, New York, South Carolina and Canada are also left to mourn.

Order of Service

Musical Interlude

Prayer of Comfort.....Thaddeus Allen

Scripture Reading..... Lillian Dabbs and Robert Dent
Old Testament: Job 19:25-27
New Testament: John 14:1-6

Poem.....The Day God Called You Home
read by Vicki Ross Norris

Reading of the Obituary..... Sharon Giles

ReflectionsFamily and Friends
Stella Gray

*Please limit your remarks to 2 minutes

Musical Selection.....Harolyn Blackwell

Eulogy.....Thaddeus Allen
Adjourn to Heavenly Rest to Commit the Ashes

Recessional

Repast to follow

Interment
Heavenly Rest Memorial Park
East Hanover, New Jersey

The Day God Called You Home

God looked around his garden
And he found an empty place.

He then looked down upon this earth

And saw your tired face,
He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest in his garden.
The garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.

He knew you were suffering
He knew you were in pain.
He knew you would never
Get well on earth again.

He saw that the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb.
So he closed your weary eyelids and whispered

“Peace Be Thine”

It broke our hearts to lose you.
But you didn't go alone
For part of us went with you

The Day God Called You Home!

In Appreciation

The family acknowledges with sincere appreciation the many kind deeds and comforting expressions of sympathy extended to them in their time of sorrow. Special Thanks to the Family.

Professional Services Provided By:

The Family Funeral Home, LLC

736 Clinton Avenue
Newark, New Jersey
(973) 672-2200

www.thefamilyfuneralhome.com

Kenneth Cattenhead NJ Lic. No. JP04153

