

In Loving Memory of



Richard Spencer Monroe, Jr.

Sunrise: March 10, 1943

Sunset: January 24, 2017

Service

Tuesday, January 31, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

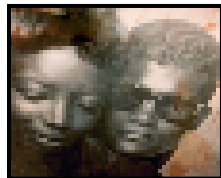
Obituary



Richard Spencer Monroe, Jr. was born March 10, 1943 to the late Richard Spencer Monroe, Sr. and Margaret Monroe, nee Daniels at Harlem Hospital. He departed this life on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at the VA Medical Center in Manhattan. He was the eldest of five children born to this union and grew up in Harlem. Affectionately known as "Ricky", he attended elementary and high school in New

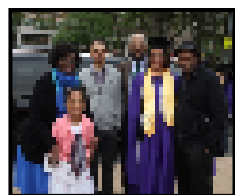
York City before attending City College where he earned his Bachelor of Social Work degree. One summer day on 133rd Street, he met the woman he would marry and often referred to her "big legs" as the main feature that caught his eye. On Friday, June 13, 1966, Richard pledged his love to Thelma Robinson in a civil ceremony in Manhattan, a union that lasted 50 years, 7 months, 11 days. From this union were born three children: Richard Spencer III (deceased), Ryan Philip (deceased) and Margaret Isabelle.

Richard often spoke about the numerous jobs he held in the garment district in lower Manhattan and as a mixologist at Smalls Paradise and Wells Restaurant in Harlem. He was drafted into the United States Army where he served our country during the Vietnam Era. He trained with the 101st Airborne Division, received the National Defense Service Medal and Sharpshooter Marksmanship Badge with M-14 before being honorably discharged in 1969. Upon returning to civilian life, Richard continued his service to our city



as one of "New York's Finest" with the New York City Police Department. He began his career as a "beat cop" whose presence in the community was appreciated and everyone knew his name. He continued to work diligently within the Department, he earned commendations for his writing and rose to rank of Sergeant. He was a dedicated member of Local 237 Teamsters Union for 25 years

upon his retirement in 1995. During his young adult life, he played pickup basketball in the local parks, enjoyed riding his many bicycles, watching sports on television and eating Chinese food. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather who worked hard to provide for his family, gave generously to those



around him and took great pride in seeing those he loved happy. He would go the extra mile to help anyone who needed assistance. He is deeply loved and will be greatly missed.

Richard is survived by: his devoted wife, Thelma; daughter, Margaret (Steven); grandchildren, Joseph Richard and Stefanie-Grace Monroe Woods; his dear aunt, Margaret Monroe of New York City; brothers, Ronald, Robert and Reginald Monroe of New York City; brothers-in-law, George G. Robinson, Brooklyn, NY, Garfield P. Robinson (Kathleen), Spring Valley, NY; a sister-in-law, Joyce J. Robinson, North Carolina; along with a host of uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and former colleagues in New York, Virginia and North Carolina.

Order of Service

Officiant: Pastor Garfield P. Robinson, Gospel Temple Ministries
Minister of Music: Minister Scott A. White, New Vision of Hope Ministries
Soloist: Elder Tanya Goldsmith-Shuler, New Vision of Hope Ministries

Processional

Scripture Readings

Old Testament: Job 14:1-14.....*Evangelist Kathleen M. Robinson*
New Testament: 1 Corinthians 15:51-58.....*Elder Tanya Goldsmith-Shuler*

Prayer

Selection.....*Elder Tanya Goldsmith-Shuler*

Acknowledgements

Poem.....*"For the Fallen" by Robert Laurence Binyon*
Joseph Richard Monroe Woods

Reflections of My Father.....*Margaret Monroe Woods*

Reading of Obituary

Eulogy.....*Pastor Garfield P. Robinson*

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

Interment

Calverton National Cemetery
Calverton, New York

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,
Oh, 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!*

-author unknown

Acknowledgement

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of
kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.
May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

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