

CELEBRATING THE LIFE  
OF  
*Reginald Bailey*

Sunrise: August 21, 1949 - Sunset: February 14, 2017



**Service:**

Monday, February 27, 2017 - 11:00 am

**CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY AND CHRIST CHURCH**

105 Main Street • Orange, New Jersey

*Father Joseph A. Harmon, Officiating*

*Mr. Philip Field, Organist*

# Obituary

**Reginald “Reggie Byrd” Bailey** was born August 21, 1949 with his twin sister, Malikah Abdus-Salaam (Faisal), to the late Zena Bailey Blount and Crosby Smith in Jersey City, NJ at Margaret Hague Hospital.

**Reggie** was one of seven children, Gwendolyn “Gwen” Henderson-Allen, the late Albert “Bunny” Brown, the late Nadirah Bahaar, the late Regina Smith, and the late Evelyn Jones.

**Reggie** was raised primarily in Jersey City and attended the Jersey City Public School system.

In 1966, **Reggie** married his first wife, Sharon Swepson-Brazell and from that union they have three beautiful daughters, Sharonda, Cassandra “Tiny” (Patrick), and Chanse “Moonie”.

While in Jersey City, **Reggie** “Byrd” began his love for fashion and flair. He worked in a number of shoe stores, most notable The Bootery on 34<sup>th</sup> street, in NYC. During this time, **Reggie** became a member of the Jersey City Motorcycle Club where you could catch him rocking his cowboy boots, his most favorite shoes of all.

In 1987, **Reggie** married his current wife and soul-mate, Karen and the following year they celebrated the birth of their daughter Karea (Joshua).

The couple spent fourteen years in California where he worked as a photographer for several magazines. They decided to move back to the East Coast and created a home filled with love in Richmond, Virginia.

**Reggie** was also fluent in several different languages, primarily Spanish.

**Reggie’s** passion for the road lead him to a career driving with Greyhound and Trailways for over 30 years. During these years, he received much recognition and service awards. Recently he received the “Safe Drivers Award” for 22 years of safe driving.

**Reggie** became a social media sensation when one of his passengers posted his welcome to Greyhound speech on YouTube. Please check out the “Cranky Bus Driver” where you will learn what it means to be stern and have no tolerance for out of control passengers.

**Reggie** is gone in the flesh but his memories will live in our hearts forever. You can catch his great spirit from the coast of California to the snow route of 95/NJ Turnpike. He would not want us to grieve, just remember his friendly smile, his cowboy boots and his love for others.

**Reggie** loved his four daughters also known as “Daddy’s Girls”. He also enjoyed being Grandpa, Poppo, but most of all he loved being called Great Grandpa.

Along with his wife of twenty-eight years, **Reggie** leaves behind to cherish his memory his four daughters, two sisters, thirteen grandchildren, Deahna (Eric), Ashley (Curtis), Jarez (Tournae), Jarel, Terrence “Monty”, Aliayah, Kierra, Gilmore, Justin, Aminah, Grace, Nora and Judah; seven great-grandchildren, Elijah, Eryanna, Carter, Jarez Jr., Janiyah, Jasir and Sabastian. And a host of other relatives and friends that knew and loved him.

# Order of Service

The Rite of Christian Burial  
For  
Reginald Bailey  
Monday, February 27, 2017

Organ Prelude.....Mr. Philip Field, Organist  
Reception of Body (*please stand to face the back of the church*)  
Opening Sentences  
Hymn (*see the insert*).....“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”  
Opening Prayer  
A Reading From Paul’s Second Letter to the Corinthians: 4:16 - 5-9.....Michele Vereen  
Psalm 23 (*see the insert*)  
A Reading from the Gospel according to John: 5:24-27.....Tawana Williams  
Homily.....Fr. Joseph A. Harmon  
Apostles Creed (*see the insert*)  
Prayer of the People (*see the insert*)  
Reading of the Obituary.....Aniq Abdus-Salaam  
Hymn (*see the insert*).....“Blessed Assurance”  
Family Tribute.....Ashley Manley (granddaughter)  
Curtis Williams (brother-in-law)  
Tonyia Courtemanche (niece)  
Malikah Abdus-Salaam (twin sister)  
The Commendation (*see the insert*)  
Closing Hymn (*see the insert*).....“He Lives”  
Organ Postlude.....Mr. Philip Field, Organist

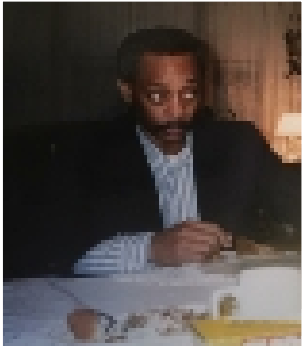
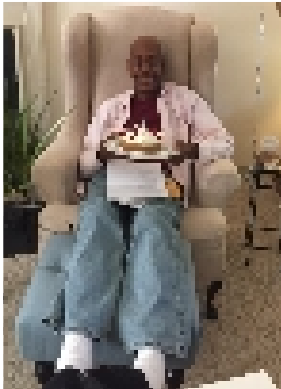
**CREMATION**  
Rosedale Crematory  
Orange, New Jersey

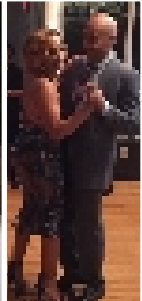
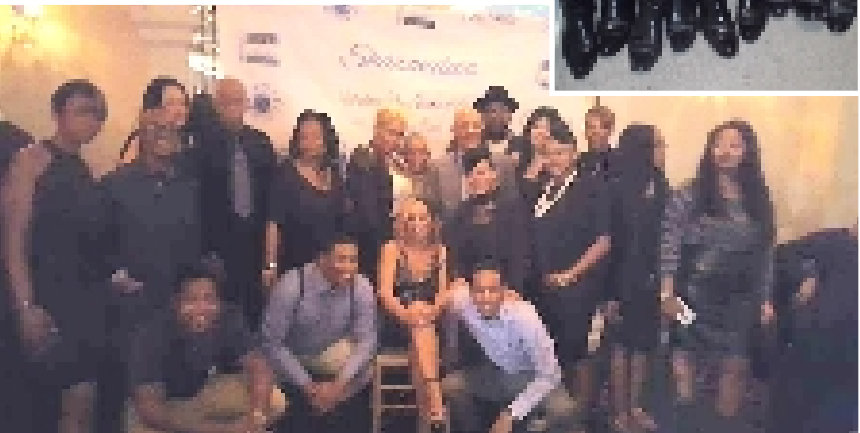
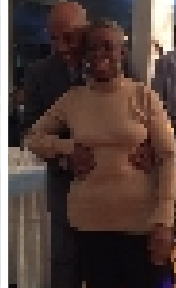
# *A Letter To Reggie*

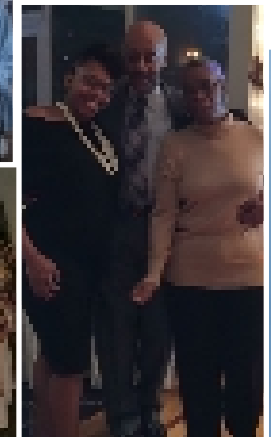
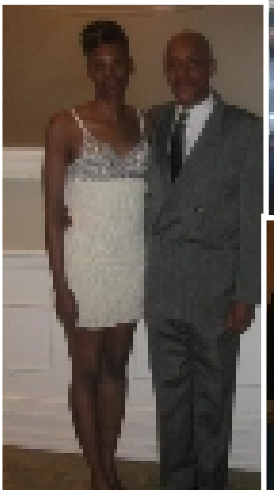
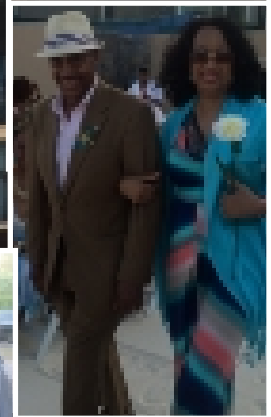
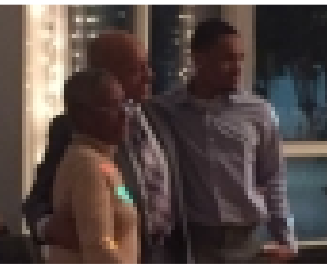
My dearest, beloved, departed Reggie. My husband, my true love. You were my ♥ always. There you will live forever. I choose to believe that one day, or at that time, there you will be, smiling, welcoming, open arms to embrace each other. That would be so awesome, pretty amazing, I mean how comforting? Such a wonderful thought to see that we are brought back together. I mean that to me is some kind of joy; everlasting, at that. I'm at peace that you are. It quiets my soul to have you on my mind in that way. Whatever we desire in this world is in this world and it stays in this world, but the things that are set on the above and even the beyond, the things that are higher than our ways and thoughts of course, leaves me with this satisfied feeling. It doesn't stop even when that last earthly breath is taken. I know you breathe again. Your real and true life has taken place at a twinkling moment. I know you have the words, if I could see what you see, feel what you feel to not be afraid, that fear does not exist where you are. You are more alive than you had known life to be in the earth. That it calls for all the rejoicing. We will celebrate all the memories we have of you, Reggie. Though the tears may still flow both of happiness and sorrow, I will cling to the love you left me with and you have taken some with you. I've always believed you take it with you, those things however small, and sometimes what we may define as insignificant or maybe not as important or meaningful I said always, it's the small stuff that carries the greatest impact. Nothing showy but just the gentle kind of goodness that would conjure up the reaction to smile within oneself. See, it can't be overlooked. Nothing forced, just as natural as it wants to be. That was you, Reggie. You were a person of such quality. People couldn't help but like you, admire you, respect you. You had that "I like being around you" force that drew people to want to be in your space. That personality of yours was inviting. That humor of yours was contagious. You had a light that would shine and radiate on others, and the absolute love that you had for your loved ones. None of us can deny that you were abundantly gifted with charm that graced your thoughts, your words, and your behavior. You left your imprinted mark on our ♥s. No more of trying to figure things out. The world will always present us with endless problems and as soon as we master one, another one pops up to challenge you, and whatever relief you get is short lived. I know too well what it was like, but instead of searching for some understanding of why, you told my mind to look at the One who keeps us in Peace, that He is there and so are you. You will always have the attention that you are still a light more dazzling than ever. I am so thankful that I shared life with you and that your light will never go out. In fact, it was switched on or rather more so illuminated. You were always a star. Shine on, my love. Your surviving sisters, Gwen, your twin sister Malika, your brother-

in-law, Faisal, all of your nieces and nephews, all of your grandchildren and great grandchildren, your daughters, Sharonda, Cassandra, Chanse and Karee, and all those who knew you and loved you, we all celebrate your rebirth in to eternal life with all our unfailing love - an excerpt from John 11:25 - whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live. We will see you again. Goodbye for now.

Dearest Reggie ♥







## *I'm Free*

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God has laid you see.

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, to 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 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 hearts and peace to thee  
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.

### **Professional Services Provided By**

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE  
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973-675-6400

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