

*Going Home Celebration
For*

*Benjamin
Hilliard
Jr.*

Alpha-March 10, 1956
Omega-February 20, 2017

Thursday, March 2, 2017 - 12: 00 Noon

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

221 Myrtle Avenue
Passaic, New Jersey

Rev. Kortney Haigler, Pastor

Reflections of Life

Benjamin Hilliard Jr. was born March 10, 1956 in Passaic, N.J. to the late Ruth Evelyn (Jackson) Simmons and the late Benjamin Corneilus Hilliard. Ben's younger years were lived in Passaic, NJ. Around the age of twelve after his mother remarried, they moved to New York where he attended the NY Public Schools. They resided there for several years and then moved to Hackensack, N.J. where Ben completed high school in 1974.

Ben's love of music began long before he completed his schooling. He learned to play the bass guitar and other instruments. His love for the bass guitar continued until he passed. Ben had other loves also, he mastered riding the unicycle and he was also a Black Belt in karate. He used to ride the unicycle from Passaic to Hackensack and was featured in the newspaper for his unicycle riding. He studied karate under sensei, Sylvester Wright. After mastering the bass guitar, Ben started playing for a short while with a well known band, Friends of Finesse. In high school, Ben was friends with James "JT" Taylor of the group, Kool and the Gang. He had the opportunity at the forming of this band to join however he passed on the opportunity to take on the responsibility to be a father. He later started his own band, The Ultra Band, which entertained Ben's fans for over 35 years. In the early 2000's, some of the band members began to move to other parts of the country, but they remained in contact.

"Ben also tried his hand at writing, singing and producing. His own voice was unbelievable. When he sang "Reasons," everyone was in awe as they couldn't tell if it was Ben or Philip Bailey. Even Philip Bailey couldn't believe he sounded so much like him.

He started the Jazzy Bear Productions located in the old bank building in Passaic and later relocated to Central Avenue. As some of the Ultra Band members moved away, Ben joined with a band from Paterson named Mr. B and The Boyz where he played until very recent. Ben helped many people in the music industry and also took two people under his wings; his cousin Jackie Copeland, a singer, and guitarist and friend, Patrick Donovan. They both have performed with the Ultra Band on many occasions.

Ben had two daughters, Kenya and Rosita Lopez with the late Miriam Lopez. His marriage to Lynda Powell produced a son, Benjamin Hilliard III. He also gained a step-son, Derrick Powell, from this marriage.

Just recently, Ben had the privilege of playing with the NJPAC 33 piece orchestra as the bassist behind the famous Stylistics. He and Mr. B and the Boyz, played at the annual Doin It In the Park celebration in Passaic, NJ as well as other festivals city festivals around the state.

Ben joined with the Union Baptist Church Family Passaic at an early age. As a member, he played his bass guitar with the choirs as well.

Ben worked from Dasco as a truck driver for years. He also worked for Benjamin Moore Paints and Portside Towers in Jersey City for more than 10 years. His last job was with Iron Mountain in Orangeburg, NY.

He was predeceased by his brother-in-law, Lenwood Lango.

Ben leaves to mourn and cherish wonderful memories: two daughters, Kenya Lopez of Passaic, NJ and Rosita Lopez of Clearwater Beach, FL; one son, Benjamin Hilliard III of Wallington, NJ; one step-son, Derrick Powell of Paterson, NJ; former wife and devoted friend, Lynda Powell of Wallington, NJ; eleven grandchildren, Khadijah, Aaliyah, Desmond, Zion, Ja'Van, Ja'vier, Richie, Justin, Dedrick, Dallas, and Syrie; one great grandchild, Kylie; one godchild, Shayla Jackson of Clifton, NJ; four sisters, Lorraine (Thomas) Gray of Clifton, NJ, Barbara Shaw of Charlotte, NC, Florence Lango of Dillwyn, VA, and Theresa Payne of Lewiston, TX; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives, friends and neighbors.



Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Selection



Scripture Reading

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection



Acknowledgements & Remarks

Reflections of Life

Selection

Eulogy

Words of Comfort

Pastor Craig Johnson

Jehovah Jireh Baptist Church, New York City, NY

Recessional

Interment

East Ridgelawn Cemetery

255 Main Avenue

Clifton, New Jersey

The Master Called

I'm sorry I had to leave you.
My loved ones, oh so dear.
But you see, the Master called me,
His voice was very clear!
I had made my reservation,
A heaven bound ticket for one.
And I know that he would call me
When He felt my work was done.
I know that your hearts are heavy
Because I have gone away.
But when the Master called me,
I knew I could not stay.
Yes, I've crossed on over to glory,
And to you all I say,
Just stay in the hands of Jesus
And we'll meet again someday.



Acknowledgement

The family of the late Benjamin Hilliard, Jr. wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this hour of bereavement. May God Bless and Keep You!

Professional Services Provided By

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