



Celebration of Life

Donald Bennett

Sunrise: September 12, 1937

Sunset: February 20, 2017

Friday, March 3, 2017

Reflection: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Memorial Service: 2:00 p.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Rev. Dr. Sidney Hargrave, Officiating
Dante Hawkins, Organist

Obituary

Donald M. Bennett, son of the late Eugene and Edna Bennett was born September 12, 1937. He departed from his earthly life Monday, February 20, 2017. Donald received his education in New York and received his B.S. W/ M.S. W. from Adelphi University.

Born and raised in Harlem where Donald Bennett continued to live until his passing, his painting, and drawing and photography maps forty years of artistic development devoted to urban African-American lives. He was a photography instructor at the Children's Aid Society for nearly a decade and the Youth Program Director at the Henry Street Settlement, where he supervised twenty-five social workers overseeing a homeless shelter for families. Donald was more than a social worker and working artist: he was a social artist, and the soul of his work continues to find its inspiration and longevity in Harlem. With work ranging from timeless photographs taken at the Newport Jazz Festival of the likes of Duke Ellington and Ray Charles to nudes recalling the spirit of experimentation and funk of the 1970's. Donald's work is sensual, earthy as well as probing in its exploration of black genius and the black every day. Donald's formal art training includes fine arts courses at the City University of New York, in addition to film work at WNET, Channel 13. Most recently as President of DMB Media, Donald's mission was to develop and distribute his vision, focusing on his unique experience of mid-twentieth century Harlem into the millennium.

Donald had a witty sense of humor and loved to bask in the sunshine simply sitting on a bench in his neighborhood and conversing with his neighbors. At times he could be grumpy but anyone who knew him, knew it was harmless and it would often make you chuckle. He was an intellect, but he also loved sports and was an avid tennis player and Jazz listener.

He leaves to mourn: one daughter, Kim Bennett-Lee; three grandchildren, Kristopher Lee, Gina Lee and Faith Lee of New York; one son-in-law, Kevin Lee; and a host of relatives and friends.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Recessional

Final Disposition

*Oxford Hills Crematory
Chester, 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 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'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.

Janice M. Fair-Salters

Acknowledgement

How truly blessed Donald was to have wonderful friends like you! Your love and support for our family has been very much appreciated during this time of loss. The family would like to take this opportunity to express our sincerest appreciation for the thoughtfulness presented to us and love we have been given during our time of bereavement. May God bless you and the Holy Spirit guide you each and every day!

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