

Homegoing Celebration for

*2nd Lt. Ricardo
F. Donato
(Poncho)*

Sunrise
September 3, 1951



Sunset
April 24, 2017

Service

Friday, May 5, 2017 - 12:00 Noon

Second Baptist Church

124 Atkins Avenue

Asbury Park, New Jersey 07111

Rev. Dr. Semaj Y. Vanzant, Sr., Pastor

Pastor Jamie Gates, Officiating

A portrait of Ricardo F. Donato, Sr., a bald man wearing sunglasses, looking slightly to the left. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a white structure.

Reflections of Life

Ricardo F. Donato, Sr., was born on September 3, 1951, in Long Branch, New Jersey to the late Frank E. & Doris L. Donato. "Poncho" as he was affectionately called by his family & friends, joined the band of heavenly angels, as he heard the voice of Jesus softly whisper his name on Monday, April 24, 2017, after completing a 12-hour shift of working in the capacity of his passion, providing service to others.

Poncho accepted Christ at an early age and joined Shrewsbury AME Zion Church in Red Bank, New Jersey, where he spent his childhood.

He later relocated to the city of Neptune. He received his formal high school education from Neptune High School, graduated with a high school diploma. Poncho matriculated at the University of North Carolina, in Chapel Hill, with a major in Music.

Poncho was a loving husband, devoted father, and grandfather. Our beloved deceased exhibited loyalty and an impeccable character within the community. He loved mankind, and had a heart and passion to be of service to others throughout his career. He was a firefighter and an Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic (EMT~PA), most recently working with Emergency Medical Services, and ranked as a Second Lieutenant with Bradley Beach First Aid Squad. Poncho was also an EMT trainer and mentor for several EMTs, actively engaging students, providing hands-on instructions and assisting those working in the Emergency Services Field.

Our beloved deceased loved music and was a professional & rhythmic percussionist, playing with several groups, including Crown Heights Affair and Incognito. He was also a semi-professional baseball player and an avid baseball enthusiast who loved the Los Angeles Dodgers. One of Poncho's greatest thrills was coaching and instructing children to use the proper techniques of playing baseball.

Poncho was indeed humorous, and enjoyed sharing jokes, but oftentimes, there was a delay catching the punchline. His favorite beverage of all times was Coca-Cola. He enjoyed a world of coke moments of happiness daily, either drinking a Coca-Cola or would have just finished one.

Poncho was predeceased by his older brother, Frank Donato. Left to cherish his loving memory is his loving and devoted wife, Debbie Donato; three sons, Rev. Dr. Ricardo "Ricky" Donato (Yoshi); Corey and Damian Donato; one daughter, Lynesha Donato; three brothers, Russell Ferguson, Gregory Donato (Menzie), and Carlos Donato (Luv); three sisters, Carole Donato, Francine Ferrer, and Quinina "Nini" Lee-Donato; four grandchildren, Jennifer, Ricky, Caris, and Jayna; his beloved Nanook; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. Also left to cherish his memory is the Bradley Beach First Aid Squad, where Poncho worked diligently and eagerly provided service to those in need of immediate medical assistance.

Order of Worship

Greeting

Hymn/ Song..... “Blessed Assurance” SBC Choir

Scripture

Old Testament - Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 Pastor Tommy Miles

New Testament - John 14: 1-6 Rev. Marcia Grayson

Solo Crystal McGhee (Jayseth Calhoun)

Prayer of ComfortPastor Tahijj Counts

ObituaryMrs. Donato

Resolution..... Sis. Verita Hill

Drum TributeMichael Savage

Remarks Rev Dr. Donato - Son

Witness/ Remarks(2 minutes please)

Hymn/ Song..... “His Eye is On the Sparrow” Wayne Hughle

Sermon/ Eulogy..... Pastor Jamie Gates

Hymn/ Song “I’ll Fly Away”

Recessional

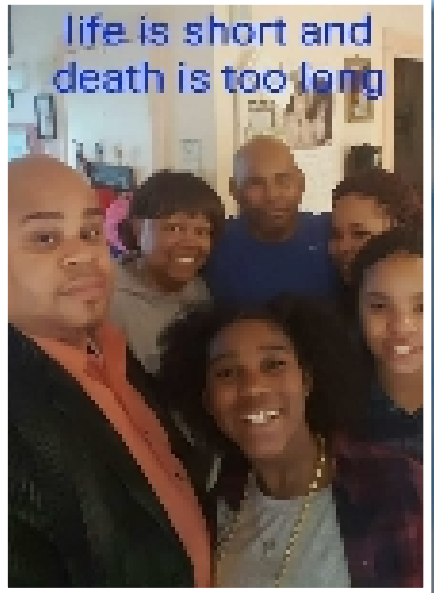
Interment
Monmouth Memorial Park
Tinton Falls, New Jersey

EMT



I Am 911

As I perform my duty, Lord,
Whatever be the call
Help to guide and keep me safe,
From dangers big and small.
I want to serve and do my best
No matter what the scene,
I promise to keep my skills refined,
My judgment sharp and keen.
This calling to give of myself,
most do not understand,
But I stand ready all the time
to help my fellow man.
To have the chance to help a child,
Restore his laugh with glee.
A word of thanks I may not hear,
But knowing is enough for me.
The praise of men is fine for some
But I feel truly blessed,
That you, oh Lord have chosen me
To serve in EMS.



Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with sincere appreciation the many kind deeds and comforting expressions of sympathy extended to them in time of sorrow. Your prayers, visits, telephone calls and other acts of thoughtfulness will be greatly remembered. We pray that blessings will continuously be bestowed upon you.

Professional Service Entrusted To:

James H. Robinson Funeral Home

2037 Utica Ave. • Brooklyn, New York 11234

Ph (718) 235-5890

James Robinson - Funeral Director,

William Robinson - Funeral Director

