

Celebrating The Life of John David Sparrow

**Sunrise
December 24, 1937**

**Sunset
May 23, 2017**



Tuesday, May 30, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

575 E. 18th Street

Paterson, New Jersey

Rev. Randall M. Lassiter, Pastor

Reflections of Life

John David Sparrow of Allentown, PA, formerly of Paterson, NJ, entered eternal rest peacefully on Tuesday, May 23, 2017. Born December 24, 1937 to the late William David Sparrow and Marie Barnes Sparrow in Suffolk, VA. John was one of seven children born from that union (Bertha, Lucille, William, Fred, Willie Mae and Princess).

John was educated in the Suffolk School system in Nasmond County, VA, where he was a stellar athlete in basketball and football. In 1956, he met and married Claudia Anthony. In 1961, they moved to Paterson, NJ to seek better opportunities to raise their children. John was a devoted father to his five children, Johnetta, Rory, Shernita, Cassandra and Edward. He was a household leader that taught his children to love and respect all. He was also a man that loved God and was a member of the Greater Bethel Church of Christ (Paterson, NJ) and Greater Refuge Temple (New York, NY).

While in Paterson, he was employed by Stephen Chemical, PSE&G, and Fisher Scientific. He was known for his larger than life presence, his kindness, sense of humor, love of people and that “infamous Cowboy Hat” of his. John loved his family and there wasn't a child in his community that would not come to him for fatherly advice and guidance, which he embraced and gave with great pride. He was a quick learner and a “Jack of All Trades”. He believed that there wasn't anything he couldn't fix and could be seen working tirelessly on his house or his cars.

John was an avid sportsman and fan. He played basketball, football, baseball, and loved to bowl. He often bowled a “Perfect Score” (300). He enjoyed watching his “Dallas Cowboys” and New York Knicks. One of his proudest moments was when his very own son, Rory, became a member of the NBA and his beloved Knicks. He was a regular at Madison Square Garden and often rivaled Walt Frazier for the most “flamboyantly” dressed.

Johns leaves behind to cherish wonderful memories and carry on his legacy: his beloved wife Barbara (Hadley) Sparrow. Siblings, Bertha Taylor (John), Lucille Dildy, William Sparrow (Miriam) and Fred Sparrow (Jerry); His five Children, Johnetta Sparrow, Rory Sparrow, Shernita Copper (Gerald), Cassandra Sparrow and Edward Sparrow. Daughters-in-law: Jacqui Sparrow and Shertina Sparrow; Stepchildren: Mark Brown and Tiffany Jones. Nine Grandchildren; Shaquan Daniels, Kenneth Sparrow, Jaques Sparrow, Stephon Sparrow, Rory Jr., Malik Copper, Aliyah Copper, Jayallen Turner, Christian Sparrow and Javon Brown; Three Great-grandchildren; Aniyah Sparrow, Heaven Coleman, Denver Sparrow-Long; God-children: Henry Baker Jr., Zeb Vance McRae and Rev. Pamela M. Powell Special friends: Ray Lyde Sr., “Tootie” Harrell; and Willie Mansfield. A host of cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. A Special Thank You to the Carnie P. Bragg Funeral Home for their professional services provided.

Order of Service

Rev. Randall M. Lassiter, Presiding

Opening Selection

Scripture Readings

Old Testament.....Malik Copper

New TestamentTyrone Powell

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Remarks (2 Minutes).....Ray Lyde, Sr.

Kenneth Sparrow

Special "Wife's Tribute" Barbara Sparrow

The Reflections of Life Reading.....Henry Baker, Jr.

SoloFelisha Farrar

Eulogy.....Rev. Pamela M. Powell

Benediction

Recessional.....Clergy and The Family

Interment

Carver Cemetery

Suffolk, Virginia

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 of the late **John David Sparrow** 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

CARNE P. BRAGG FUNERAL HOMES, INC.

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