

IN CELEBRATION OF LIFE
WE ANNOUNCE
THE HOME GOING OF

MR. JACK (Buddy) JACKSON, SR.

Sunrise
June 15, 1934

Sunset
June 1, 2017

Service

Wednesday ~ June 7, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.

PARK HILL FUNERAL HOME

102-17 101 Avenue • Ozone Park, New York 11416

Obituary

On June 15, 1934 Guss and Henrietta Jackson along with their son Henry Lee of Tatnall County, Georgia welcomed a 2nd child, another son who they named Jack Jackson, affectionately known as “Buddy”. He was named Jack in honor of Jack Johnson, nicknamed “the Galveston Giant,” who was the first African American world heavyweight boxing champion. Little did Guss and Henrietta know this name would inspire Jack to become a great fighter as well not in the ring, but throughout his life.

The family relocated to Buffalo, NY, when Buddy was still a young boy and then to Brooklyn, NY which would be his home the rest of his life. Buddy was known as a kind, friendly and outgoing child. He showed talents both academically and athletically, excelling in his school work as well as becoming a baseball standout on the field.

He was an eager student always seeking knowledge with such voracity that he graduated from Williamsburg Vocational High School in 1949, as class valedictorian, he was college bound or baseball ready with his dream of playing for the then Brooklyn Dodgers. The world was his so he thought until, life brought him not onto the baseball diamond but into the ring and his first major fight began.

Buddy’s vision began to fail as did his promising career in baseball. By 1954 he was legally blind and trying to decide what he would do with the rest of his life. The fighter in him knew giving up and accepting a life, which during that time included racial strife, fear and loathing for those considered handicapped was not an option.

In 1956 Buddy met a young lady who would permanently change his life. She was the sister of a former schoolmate. Her name was Gwendolyn Elaine Stroud, she had held a crush on Buddy for years. She didn’t see Buddy as handicapped she saw the true fighter in him. In 1958 Gwendolyn Stroud and Jack Jackson married and welcomed their first child, a daughter Nancy Elaine Jackson.

Buddy and Gwendolyn would continue in growing their family, while both striving to become successful career-minded adults. Buddy still maintained a strong love of baseball and along with his brother Henry Lee and friends formed Baseball Enterprises with the goal of raising funds for local teams. Buddy’s love of music led him to begin making recordings in his home for social events for Baseball Enterprises as well as for sale, while Gwendolyn went to nursing school. In 1962 they welcomed their second child, a girl they named Patricia Jean Jackson. Two years later in 1964 they welcomed their third child a boy and only son, who they named Jack Jackson Jr. Buddy dreamed his son would continue his legacy. In 1972 Buddy began attending classes at Helen Keller Services, to learn braille and to develop his typing skills with the goal of returning to academia as a college student. “I wanted my children to be proud of me” he once stated as his main reason for returning to school, followed by his love of learning. At Helen Keller, Buddy met many people who would become great friends and champions for his ambitions. He encouraged his young children to always do their best and to think for themselves in life, “leaders not followers” was the message he gave his children throughout their lives. He always reminded his children to “stick together”, “be there for each other”. In 1973 Buddy and Gwendolyn were surprised by the news that another child was on the way and although they were still working on their careers while raising three they happily welcomed their fourth and final child, a girl they named Roslyn Lenora Jackson.

In 1976 Buddy returned to school attending Long Island University (LIU) where he would major in World History and Education. In 1980 Buddy graduated from LIU where again he excelled at the top of his class as a Summa Cum Laude graduate. Buddy applied for his teaching license and in September 1980 began his first teaching gig at Boys and Girls High School as the school’s first visually impaired educator. He again faced battles not with the students but with an administration that did not know how to appropriately accommodate his needs in the classroom, but as always Buddy stepped into the arena prepared. He enlisted the help of his wife, and his daughters Nancy and Patricia as well as his niece Arlene Allen to assist him with lesson plans and grading as well as in the classroom when needed. The students loved him and in tribute the school newspaper in June 1981 wrote an article about him titled “Jack Jackson a Special Teacher” describing his impact as a teacher and how he handled challenges as a visually impaired educator. He would go on to successfully educate at other schools in Brooklyn including Midwood High School and Clara Barton, where he would remain until he retired.

Family was everything to him especially his children, upon the death of Gwendolyn in 1992, Buddy continued to encourage family unity and loved family gatherings and outings. Once his children became parents he was an affectionate and doting grandfather.

Buddy had many goals and continuing his education was one of them, so he went on to New York University where he pursued and achieved a double-major in both Political Science and World Literature earning Masters in both. The fighter in him wanted more so he began working on a business proposal for an entertainment complex for the Downtown Brooklyn area that he called the BEC. His business model was reviewed by both local council persons and state legislator, who had high praise for the thoroughness and precise details of his planning, however the city was not willing to allow him to achieve his goals largely due to his disability as well as his ethnicity he was blocked from gaining the funding he needed for his project. Discouraged but not defeated the fighter Jack, as he was now called in professional settings had other dreams. After retirement he served many years as President of Senior Services for Helen Keller Services, where he organized events and outings that made him a favorite of those he served. His work with Helen Keller would inspire his next venture J and E Enterprises, with longtime friend James Eason (the “E” in J and E) who was also visually-impaired and who he befriended years ago at Helen Keller Services. J and E was a production company that would provide entertainment such as game shows, radio programs, musical events and holiday celebrations to senior citizen centers throughout the 5 boroughs. He again found great success and would serve not only as president of J and E but as host of all their events for many years until his battles with cancer and declining health issues would sideline him permanently.

Jack bravely fought and won two battles with cancer in his 70’s. He longed to return to J and E and to gatherings with his family. As his daughters and grandchildren watched his health decline his eldest daughter Nancy, her husband Gene and daughter Charla stepped in to meet his daily needs until he required placement in a nursing facility. He was pleased and surprised by visits from his brother Henry Lee, sister-in-law Beryol Gracia and niece Claudette Mincey. Frequent calls and visits from his daughters, son-in-law and grandchildren sustained him until he peacefully transitioned to his final rest on June 1st 2017, the fight was over and he won!

Jack is survived by: Brother, Henry Lee Jackson; Daughters, Nancy E. Jackson-Showell, Patricia J. Jackson, Roslyn L. Jackson; Son, Jack Jackson, Jr; Son-In-Law Eugene Showell; Daughter-In-Law, Lisa Reid-Jackson, Grandchildren, Anje G. Jackson, Kiana L. White, Charla A.A. Adams, Khiry J. White; Great-grandchildren, Chae’lla M. Coles, Te’chya L. Coles, Ca’mya D. Hill; Sisters-In-Law, Ceylon Faucette, Beryol Gracia; Brother-In-Law, Lawrence Stroud; Nieces, Arlene Allen-Carlisle, Claudette Mincey; a host of nieces, nephews, friends and acquaintances. Blessings and Many Thanks to Crystal Taylor-Brown, Terry Watson, A. Taylor, B. Van Brackle and those who have loved and supported us through this difficult time.

Lovingly submitted by Nancy, Patricia and Roslyn.

Order of Service

Family Procession

Opening Prayer Minister C. Taylor-Brown

Reading of Eulogy Arlene Allen-Carlisle & Claudette Mincey

Reflections on Jack Jackson Sr.Children
Grandchildren
Other Family & Friends

Musical Selection Family

Closing Prayer Minister C. Taylor-Brown



REPAST to follow
109 Lewis Avenue-3A
Brooklyn, NY 11206

Your Life was a Blessing,
Your Memory a Treasure....
You are Loved Beyond Words
And Missed Beyond Measure.

Renee Woods

Jack or Buddy we called you Dad
One of the Greatest parents we ever had.

You raised us strong to do right

Never wrong

To be mindful of others

And always stick together

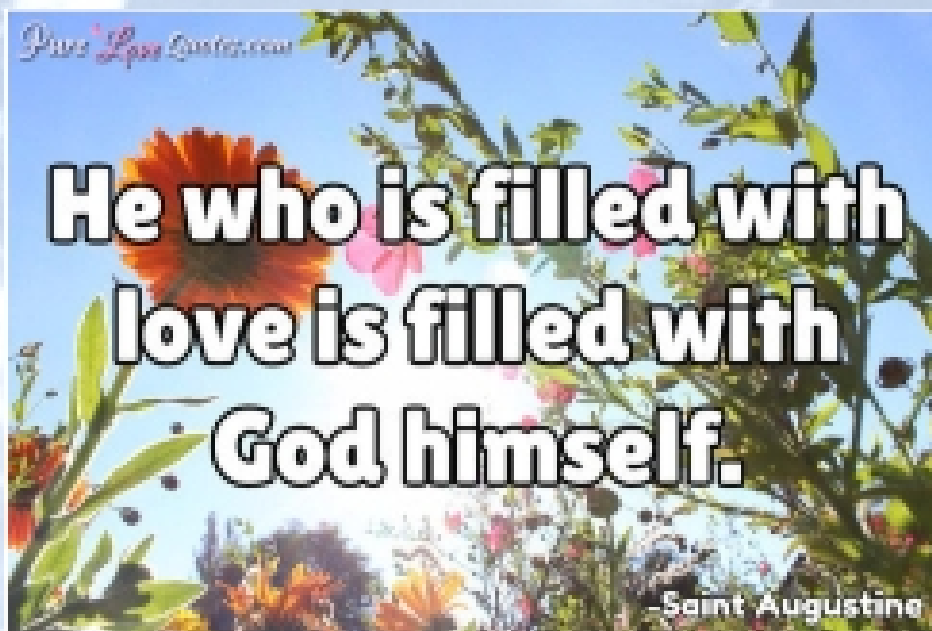
Be respectful to all

And to rise if we fall

You embodied true courage, black manhood and grace

Our love for you father will never be erased.

P. Jackson



Acknowledgements

The family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.

Services Entrusted To:

Terry Watson Funeral Director

TERRYWATSONFD@OPTIMUM.NET

Brooklyn, New York

