

Obsequies of
John L. Toler Jr.

Sunrise

April 29, 1938

Sunset

June 1, 2017

Saturday, June 10, 2017 - 11:00 A.M.

Perry Funeral Home

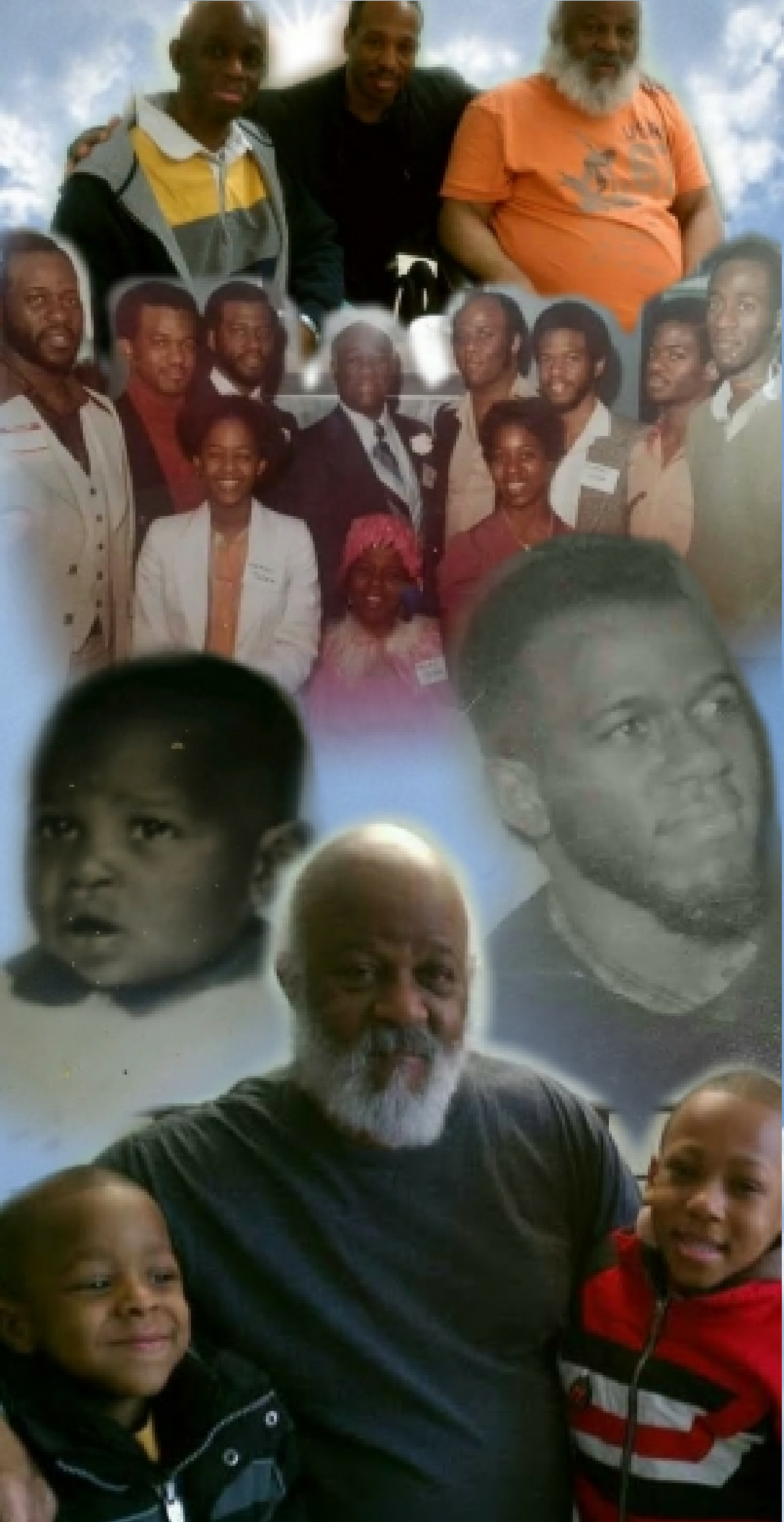
34 Mercer Street

Newark New Jersey

Reverend Martin Legree, Officiant

Little Friendship Baptist Church

571 South 10th Street • Newark, New Jersey



Obituary

The Life of John L. Toler, Jr.

John Lee Toler, Jr. was born April 29, 1938 in Newark, NJ; the first born of 9 sons and 3 daughters to the late Rev. John L. Toler, Sr. and Mary Alice Toler. He transitioned on June 1, 2017 in Newark, NJ. John was a precocious child who was an able and very hard working student graduating from Barringer High School in 1956 where he was a standout Track & Field athlete and played the violin.

John was a progressive young man who taught his brothers how to make money by simonizing and detailing cars. As a teenager, John worked for the Humpty Dumpty Diner and along with his brothers took orders for the Allen Cake Box Baker of Elizabeth, NJ, delivering items on Saturday's.

John loved Straight Ahead Jazz and often visited New York's Greenwich Village which nurtured his individualism and progressive, independent thought. Miles Davis, Art Blakely and Tito Puente were among his favorite artists. After chauffeuring the Chairman of Ronson Corporation, John enlisted in the United States Army where he was stationed in Sweden and Germany. There, he became fluent in both languages.

John had the gift of gab, superior intellect, and a tremendous vocabulary. These qualities enabled him to initiate and accomplish many projects and ventures thought by others to be impossible. Not to be deterred, John was straight ahead in his unparalleled drive and ambition. An eternal optimist, he believed he could accomplish the impossible. He was truly an independent spirit.

John was also a health enthusiast and a believer in raw foods, exercise and clean living; never smoking anything or indulging in alcohol. He was as strong as a bull and would share and encourage others to follow his example of clean living.

John attended Jersey City State College and subsequently enlisted in the United States Army earning an Honorable Discharge. He settled in Sweden where he owned and operated Toler's Bakery for 10 years; a thriving business with several trucks that delivered its products to the Stockholm area.

John would return to Newark, New Jersey in 1971 where he found a different culture climate than the one he'd left in the 1950s. Black was beautiful, the Afro was in and Muhammad Ali was "The Greatest." In a sense, it took a while for him to adjust to the changed community fervor.

John would run an innovative "Kiddie Disco" in Newark and became a freelance consultant to area businesses. Throughout his life, his family supported his endeavors; always deferring to his opinions and efforts at developing businesses, hosting events and generally being a real go-getter.

Despite his holistic practices, John developed several serious ailments that he ultimately succumbed to. John was predeceased by his brothers Kenneth and Gilbert, and his sisters Myrna and Karen. John is survived by 7 siblings: Richard, David, Norman, Anita, Calvin, Darrell & Kevin, sisters-in-law: Rose, Blanca and Judy, brother-in-law: Morris Wynn, and more than 100 nieces and nephews that will cherish his memory forever.

We Remember Our Brother & Uncle John for...

- Always having his Polaroid camera and capturing pictures of the children
- His active sweet tooth! He loved a good pound cake, ice cream, cookies.
- A sweet treat was always in order!
- Taking us to Krauszer's for snacks
- Being pleasant, soft spoken & always reciting the names of my 9 siblings and remembering me as the youngest
- Bringing us to his house to make strawberry pancakes with whipped cream
- Finishing your discarded food, nothing goes to waste!
- Always giving us healthy snacks
- Insisting on teaching me how to drive a stick shift
- Managing the "Touch of Class" club on Broad St, Newark and employing Aunt Alice and Anita
- Having a wealth of information which he freely shared
- Being a true big brother & an example of clean living; never smoking, drinking or drugging
- Teaching us about entrepreneurship
- Grilling a baby shark in the yard at "18" & encouraging us to taste it
- Being holistically conscious
- Riding with him in his brown Chrysler with The Spinners playing on the radio
- Being a violinist
- Having me hold on to his arms, saying "Hold on tight, now!" and lifting me above his head
- His generosity
- Inventing the word "McAter" (something isn't correct)
- Being a taxi driver & chauffeur in NYC and hearing about the time he picked up Nipsey Russell
- Letting me shake the Polaroid picture while it developed
- Coming to "18" with his suitcase full of vitamins
- Teaching me the trick to not spilling water in an ice tray is to not look at it while you're walking
- Living 10 years in Europe
- His dedication & commitment to caring for ill relatives
- Coming into the bank where I worked
- Being serious minded
- Being affectionately referred to as "Johnnie Boy"
- His caring, compassionate nature
- Washing dishes after Thanksgiving dinner
- His warm and welcoming smile
- Always speaking up for the underdog
- Speaking Swedish and German fluently
- Teaching me that the trick to making a perfect cake is to blend your butter and sugar well
- Hosting the very popular Kiddie Discos at the "Touch of Class" club in the late 1970s
- Accompanying me to my 1974 Apollo Theater performance
- Owning Toler's Bakery in Sweden
- His extensive vocabulary and using perfect grammar and diction
- Seeing his car pull up & knowing it meant a trip to Toys R Us or Pal's Cabin
- Making fruit & vegetable drinks in the kitchen at "18"
- Going to his office in New York City and his home on West 57th Street
- Wanting the best for his family
- Body Building and Strength Training
- Being defensive and protective of his siblings

Order of Service

Processional.....Rev. M. Legree & Family
Opening Hymn.....Mr. Timothy Rawls
Prayer of ComfortMinister William H. Toler, Sr., Nephew
Musical Selection.....Mr. Timothy Rawls
Scripture Reading.....Minister William H. Toler, Sr.
 Old Testament
 New Testament
Musical SelectionMr. Timothy Rawls
Acknowledgements.....Minister David Toler, Brother
 & Obituary
Musical SelectionMr. Timothy Rawls
Eulogy Rev. Martin Legree
Closing Prayer.....Rev. Martin Legree
Recessional.....“Soon and Very Soon”

Interment

New Jersey Veterans Cemetery
Arneytown, New Jersey



Acknowledgement

The family of **John L. Toler, Jr.** wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers, visits and acts of kindness during their time of bereavement. May God richly bless each of you. Also the family asks for God's traveling mercy for those of you who came from afar as you return to your destinations. Thank you so much for coming and may God bless you all.

Professional Services Provided By:
Perry Funeral Home, Inc.

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Newark, New Jersey
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