

In Loving Memory of



George J. Austin

Sunrise

March 15, 1922

Sunset

February 24, 2013

Service

Thursday, February 28, 2013 - 7:00 p.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY

Obituary

George Theophilous Austin was born on March 15, 1922, the second son of three children of Joseph W. Austin and Matilda S. Austin. He received his education in the New York City Public Schools. During his high school years he excelled in art.

He met and married Lucille Jean Yates on January 17, 1942. This union produced four children, George Arthur, Carol Jean, Keith Gilbert and Judythe Arlene. Shortly after their marriage George was inducted into the United States Army. After four years of duty in World War II, he received The European – African – Middle Eastern Service Medal and an Honorable discharge in October 1945. He then returned home to his wife and young family of two children, George (Chappy) and Carol.

In civilian life he was employed by several small private firms and then finally The Department of Public Works, Building Management Department; he worked there until he retired on February 1985 as senior custodial personnel, with certificates as Fire Safety Director and Exterminator at The Bronx County Courthouse. In the thirty-six years on the job, he was never late and took less than five days off. His neighbors could and would set their clocks and watches by his daily routine, his departures and returns from work to the minute.

On his job, at home his family and friends knew of his ability to fix anything. His family affectionately called him “The Fix It Man”. All of his tools and there were many, were kept in a neat, clean organized manner; this was his way of working on and completing any request, large or small. He believed anything could be restored for many years of future use. It was one of his hobbies and he whistled while he worked.

His other hobbies were reading about the then new frontier beyond his knowledge of the planets, it was outer space and space ships he sought magazine articles and books about. On May 10, 1984, then Bronx Borough President Stanley Simon presented the Senior Custodial Staff, Clarence Thomas, George Austin and Dorothy Matthews, the New York City flag that was carried one hundred forty-four times around the Earth in the Space Shuttle Mission in 1983. It was to be flown at Bronx County Courthouse building. He was elated about this recognition of his favorite subject matter at his place of employment.

He loved his live assorted fresh water fish displays he was ever so meticulous in caring for and sharing this knowledge with others. His vast stamp collection were worked on just as meticulously, handling each stamp with tweezers so as not to leave finger prints when placing it on its special paper and its designated page. Alignment and organization were always paramount when he worked on this book which was as large as two and a half old phone books.

A fond childhood memory of his oldest daughter, Carol was Christmas morning and Christmas week. Two things seemed magical, the completely, beautifully decorated tree and toys for each child under it, that seemed to magically appear on that morning; after all we never saw Santa because we were told if Santa didn’t have freckles, it wasn’t the real Santa yet he always visited us. The other the wonderment we kids experienced when “his” model train display appeared in the middle of the living room. It was a country town and farm scene with a railroad running around loading and delivering things from the cars to the stations. We never saw it set up for display or taken down and packed away. We loved watching it all on the big table at our eye level, with wide eyed excitement that my father created for our enjoyment during our winter holidays.

We were the first family on our block to have a complete set of brand new World Book Encyclopedias. This was a gift to his children and he made sure we used and took care of them. Purchasing this enhanced our future educational pursuits, which he later expressed that he was proud of.

After suffering a few small strokes he was unable to attend to himself as he did in the past, therefore he moved into Amsterdam Nursing Home for care and safety. This inability did not limit, he did as much as he could until with a quiet dignity and a little resistance he permitted his caregivers to render to assist him with his upkeep. He felt comfortable there and was liked by many other residents and staff as a very pleasant man. He expressed that he was happy that his daughters were overseeing his care. He never forgot to tell us God Bless You when we would call or leave after visiting with him. Those were precious moments we shared with him; until the ripe old age of ninety, just eighteen days before his 91st birthday our father peacefully passed away.

George was preceded in death by his loving wife Lucille, his sons, George Arthur and Keith Gilbert, a great grandson, Scott Austin Peoples and his older brother, Joseph and two nephews, Albert Austin and Phillip Long. Those left to mourn his passing are: his daughters, Carol and Judythe Burton; son-in-law, Kenneth Burton; granddaughter, Simone Nicole Peoples; grandson, Adam Burton and his wife Courtney Blackwell Burton; sister, Geraldine G. Long; nieces, Juanita Sheryl, Joseph, Linda, Denise and Melissa; nephews, Joseph Yates and Alexander C. Long; great nieces, Velvet, Deidre and Lisa; great nephews, Karl Kindred and Phillip Kindred; the great-grand nieces and nephews; along with a host of extended family members and those friends he celebrated his and their March birthdays with, will miss him also.

Lovingly Submitted by the Family

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Processional Clergy and family

Prayer..... Major Raphael Jackson

Hymn..... “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”
Envoy Kenneth Burton

Scripture - Psalms 91 Major Raphael Jackson

Musical Selection Arnold Burton

Obituary..... Carol Austin

Poems of Tribute The Family

Eulogy..... Major Sandra Jackson

Final Respects

Benediction Major Sandra Jackson

Interment

Calverton National Cemetery
210 Princeton Blvd., Calverton, New York

In Tears We Saw You Sinking

*In tears we saw you sinking
And watched you fade away.
Our hearts were almost breaking
We wanted you to stay.
But when we saw you sleeping
So peacefully and free from pain
How could we wish you back
To suffer that again?
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home*

-unknown author

Acknowledgement

The family of **George T. Austin** wishes to thank all those who telephoned, visited, sent cards, flowers, attended the funeral, sympathized and supported us in prayer, during this time of grief and sorrow. God Bless You All.

Special Thank You

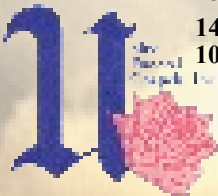
We count ourselves blessed when we do not have face the darkest hours alone. The family will be eternally grateful to the staff at Amsterdam Nursing Home particularly the 10th floor nurses, CNA's, medical staff, therapists and support personnel. Your kindness and care was much appreciated and will never be forgotten.

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