

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
REYNALDO PRESLEY HOWELL  
"REY BANGA"**



**Heaven Sent: October 12, 1983**

**Heaven Bound: July 22, 2017**

Service:

Saturday, July 29, 2017 - 10:30 a.m.

**SERENITY BAPTIST CHURCH**

142 N. First Street

Paterson, New Jersey

Rev. Robert L. Howell, Pastor

Pastor Adolphus Ross, Presiding

Susan McKay, Organist

**Hey Rey! Hey Rey!**

**When just a boy with blondish curls,  
You flashed a smile and warmed the girls.  
You played Ninja games with Bert your brother,  
And dissing with Danni was fun like no other.**

**Hey, Rey! Hey, Rey!**

**Your love for music set the city on fire,  
When you sang out on the great Voices choir.**

**Your choir placed first at the  
The Gospelfest  
'Cause Rosa Parks choir was deemed the best.**

**Hey, Rey! Hey, Rey!**

**Your athle**

**tic skills made your father Bob beam,  
Playing football three years on the Eastside High Team.**

**Through the years you gained musical feats,  
Built a home studio and created rap beats.**

**Hey, Rey! Hey, Rey!**

**When your mom complained and said to clean up,  
You'd cook her a big meal and she would shut up.**

**Hey, Rey! Hey, Rey!**

**You've got two beautiful kids who held you so dear,  
You cooked for them and showed them such care.**

**Taylah your daughter, Elijah your son  
To them their daddy is Number One**

**Hey, Rey! Hey, Rey!**

**Songwriter, chef, and computer wiz,  
Reynaldo, Banga or Rey-da-kiss.**

**We may have called you by a different name,  
But we all love and miss you just the same**

**Hey, Rey! Hey, Rey!**

**What can we say on this sad sad day.  
Rest in peace, we love you, our dear Rey, Rey  
You'll stay in our hearts till the very end.**

**Awaiting the day we will all meet again to say**

**Hey, Rey! Hey, Rey!**

**Created by Aunt Debbie Murphy**

# **REFLECTIONS OF LIFE**

Reynaldo Presley Howell was his birth name but many know him as Rey, Rey Banga, or Rey-da-kiss, King Rey, or Banga. On October 12, 1983, God blessed Yolanda and Robert Howell with their third child, joining his brother, Roberto Manuel and sister Danielle Elsie Sarah. Born in Ridgewood however raised in Paterson, Rey grew up on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue where he was known around the neighborhood as "Little Rey Rey." As a child he loved playing outside with the neighborhood kids, spending time with family, and watching the cooking channel.

Rey attended Brookdale Christian Elementary School in Bloomfield, NJ where he received numerous certificates for academic achievement. He was such a good student that he asked his family to refer to him as "Honor Roll Boy." Rey was also a wiz at the computer and it was because of him that the family was introduced to America Online! At the age of 10, Rey accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior and was baptized, becoming a member of Serenity Baptist Church. He was a member of "The Voices" choir for several years and served as the President from 1992-1994. This may have been the beginning of his musical interests.

Rey went on to audition and be accepted into the Rosa Parks School of Fine and Performing Arts High School where he majored in vocal music. During his time in high school, he was a member of the Alpha Teens and his choir participated and won first place in the 2000 McDonalds Gospelfest in Madison Square Garden. Rey played basketball during his freshman year and as a sophomore, junior, and senior, he played football for Eastside High School. Rey also attended Passaic County Community College where he was a liberal arts major.

A self-taught musical genius, Rey was known for creating and producing musical beats and songs and was admired for his gifted musical abilities. Even as a young child Rey became the church drummer at Serenity Baptist Church without ever having a single lesson. Because of his unique ear for rhythms and beats, he would find the most unpopular music that no one ever heard of. When the group Bone Thugs and Harmony stepped on the music scene, Rey was often found humming or singing their songs. The family joked that Rey was the groups sixth member. He loved this group so much that he grew his hair out and learned every single lyric to every song they had.

Rey was known around the city of Paterson as "Rey Banga" and produced and composed songs for many artists. He had a deep profound love for music and even converted the basement of his parents' home into a full fledge studio, with padded walls and a microphone in the bathroom, (all without permission). His friends would come by with their CD's to make songs hoping that one day this was the CD that would make it big. This he did all hours of the day and night. He was the DJ at the family dinners, always hooking the music up for the family talent show. He would make sure that there was salsa, old school, hip hop music, and gospel to satisfy the tastes of everyone there. It was not uncommon for Rey to pull his cousins to the side so he could spit a rhyme or even make them spit one... "Let me hear something" he would say.

One of Rey's favorite hobbies was cooking and he was declared the best chef in the family. His macaroni and cheese was out of this world, collard greens smothered in ham hocks, and chicken marsala were some of his favorite dishes to make. But nothing will compare to his infamous potato salad – to which he would never give the secret ingredients. Often those who came to the house would say, "Is Rey cooking today?" That's how much people enjoyed his meals --- and if you looked at his size, he enjoyed them, too! He loved spending the day with his precious children and often spoiled them by preparing elaborate meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Rey had several occupations throughout the years but most recently he was an Uber driver and transportation advisor for the Amazon Corporation. There is not enough room to say what Rey will be remembered for. He held such a special place in the hearts of many. He will be missed for his beautiful heart, rhymes, intellectual debates, sports debates, amazing culinary skills, dancing during Thanksgiving, jokes, and his love for the Nets and Giants.

He is survived by his parents, Reverend Robert and Yolanda Howell, his princess Taylah Rae and his little prince Elijah, his brother Roberto M. Howell, his sister Danielle Howell-South, his brother in law Andrew South, special niece Cheyenne and nephews Di'Andre and Dice, aunt and uncles Yvonne Gonzalez, Sandra Rosa (David), Shirley Ann Howell, David Howell(Queen), Richie Feleciano, Steven Brister, Godparents, Mary and David Davis, Godsisters - Mercedes, Brandi, Shadae, Godbrother – Michael, a special friend Erika Massop, and a host of great aunts, cousins, other relatives and friends.

We love and miss you Rey. It's so hard to say good-bye.



You will be forever loved...forever missed... forever remembered...So long.. I'll see you soon... Love, Dad

I will miss those great meals...but I know that you will forever be in my heart... Love Mom

You were the best dad... I miss you so much... Love, Taylah

The unseen bond that we had will never leave my heart, soul or memory...Big Brah

You will never know how much I loved you... Until we meet again.... Love Dannii

# **ORDER OF SERVICE**

Organist.....Susan McKay  
Processional.....Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross  
Invocation.....Reverend Adolphus P. Ross  
Scripture.....Yvonne Gonzalez (Aunt)  
Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Julia Floyd  
Song.....Aminah Brister & Choir  
Dear Daddy .....Written by Taylah Rae & Elijah  
Poem.....Steven “Stylez” Rosa & Mike Rosa  
Song.....Christine Grier & Serenity Choir  
Reading.....Di’ Andre Howell-South  
Reflections of Life.....Shirley Ann Howell  
Solo.....Danielle Howell-South  
Eulogy.....Reverend Robert L. Howell Sr.  
Final Viewing.....It’s So Hard to Say Goodbye

## **Interment**

Fairlawn Cemetery, Fair Lawn, New Jersey

## **Pallbearers**

Zuberi Brister	Marcelo Gonzalez
David Howell II	Di’ Andre Howell-South
Todd Howell	Steven Rosa
Michael Rosa	Andrew South

Dice Andrew South

*The family will receive relatives and friends at the Serenity Baptist Church Fellowship Hall following the interment for the repast.*

# **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 **Reynaldo Presley Howell** 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!*

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