



Celebration of Life

Matthew Van Parrish

Sunrise: February 2, 1949

Sunset: August 16, 2017

Viewing: Thursday, August 24, 2017 - 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Funeral Service: Thursday, August 24, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

GREATER ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

2365 Frederick Douglass Boulevard

[Corner of West 127th Street]

New York, New York 10027

Rev. Dr. Frank J. Blackshear, Pastor

Order of Service

Processional

The Family



Presider

Minister Thelma Washington

Hymn of Comfort

"I Come To The Garden", Page 116

Prayer of Comfort

Minister Darren Carr



Scripture Readings

Old Testament

Deacon Alice Lipe

New Testament

Missionary Lorie Williamston



Selection

Greater Zion Hill Sanctuary & Men's Choir

Reflections (Two Minutes Please)

Deacon Stephen Robinson, President
NY State Baptist Deacon Convention

Deacon Bobbie Lipe, Chairman
Greater Zion Hill

Barry Jerome Nelson, Nephew

Acknowledgements & Obituary

Sis. Renee Venable



Selection

Greater Zion Hill Sanctuary & Men's Choir

Eulogy

Rev. Earl Jones, Pastor
Calvary Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY



Recessional



Interment

Calverton National Cemetery • Calverton, New York

Obituary

Matthew Van Parrish was born on February 2, 1949 to the late Alvin and Mary Pinkett Parrish in Harlem, New York. Van was raised the youngest of three children. His early Christian learning was started with the Episcopalian faith.

After the passing of his father, Matthew and his mother moved to Brooklyn to live with his oldest sister, Alvina and her family. Van continued his education in the public school system of Harlem, New York. Attending the High School of Art and Design in New York City, he discovered a true passion for the arts and refused to neglect any area, so he learned and consumed everything he could. The entertaining bug bit him early and even then, Matthew grabbed ahold of every opportunity to use his gifts.

After an award-winning journey in high school, Matthew was drafted to the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War in 1968. Recognizing his talents as a drummer, singer and comedian, Matthew was stationed in an entertainment division—his assignment was to boost the morale of the troops.

In 1971, once released from the Army, Matthew did extensive travelling. Matthew returned to New York City performing in the night club circuit at such clubs as Pegasus, Mahogany and Reflections. His reputation as a musician afforded him the opportunity to play drums with artists, Natalie Cole and Teddy Pendergrass. He excelled in his art as an impressionist imitating such artist as Frank Sinatra, Louis Armstrong, Edith Bunker and others.

On October 25, 2000, Matthew married Barbara Young; joining her family of three children. They attended the LaGree Baptist Church. Matthew later joined Tiberia Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York.

In 2005, Matthew gained employment with Mulligan Security. Even in this capacity his talents did not go unnoticed. Positioned on the Security team at JPMorgan Chase Bank, he was well known and loved for his welcoming smile and encouraging words. He found the opportunity to entertain with a handshake, fist bump, a joke or infectious smile. Everyone at JPMorgan and from neighboring companies knew Matthew Parrish, if not by name then just mention the smiling security guard. While working at JPMorgan he was featured in Ink (JPM in house newsletter), and had an honorable mention in the Financial Times. After retiring from security at JPMorgan, Mulligan provided another opportunity for him at St. Patrick's Cathedral where he worked security detail, again very comfortable with his environment and bringing joy with a hug and smile to all who crossed his path.

After some time, Matthew moved his membership and joined the Greater Zion Hill Baptist Church. Matthew worked where ever he was needed or assigned in the church. He served as a Deacon, sang with the Men's Choir, served as Chairman for Men's Day 2017 and was the Deacon assigned to the Missionary Ministry. Matthew was also given the opportunity to speak at a NY State Baptist Deacon Convention session.

Even in retirement and as his health began to decline, Matthew Van Parrish continued to share his gifts of impersonations and singing songs from his beloved Frank Sinatra. He performed locally for Senior Citizen Centers, Nursing Homes and Libraries. He was a member of the American Legion as well as a huge fan, recipient and supporter of the Veteran's Administration. His last self-promoted project was his CD, "Van Parrish sings Sinatra". He lovingly gave his CDs out at no cost with the sole desire to share and bring a smile, he was tickled and smiling from ear to ear when Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan sent him a personal letter acknowledging receipt of the gift and appreciation of his sharing.

Matthew Van Parrish is predeceased in death by his parents and siblings, Alvina and Yvette. He is survived by: his wife, Barbara Parrish; stepchildren, Nadine Kiah, Norma Kiah and Melvin Adams; grandchildren (twins), Arthur Burton, Jr. and Aaron Leon Burton, Tiara Weaver, Isaiah Weaver and Anthony Lee; five nephews, Roger Jordan, Barry Jerome Nelson, Clyde Leslie Nelson, Ivan Jordan, Darren Jordan; one niece, Nicole Nelson; along with a host of great nieces and nephews.

In his time, Matthew met each day with a renewed dedication to the Lord and a smile on his face. He was an inspiration to so many. Heaven has gained a new member to join the band.

You will surely be missed.
The Family

God Saw You Getting Tired

When God saw you getting tired
And a cure was not to be
He put His arms around you
And whispered, "Come to Me".

He didn't like what you went through
And He gave you rest
His garden must be beautiful
He only takes the best
And when we saw you sleeping
So peaceful and free from pain
We wouldn't wish you back
To suffer that again.

Today we say goodbye
And as you take your final rest
That garden must be beautiful
Because you are one of the best.

- Author Unknown

Acknowledgement

We the Family of Matthew Van Parrish are truly blessed to have friends and loved ones like you. We sincerely thank everyone for their prayers, flowers, phone calls, cards, expressions of condolence, words of encouragement and all other thoughtful acts of kindness. Thank you for honoring him with your presence and for those who will support his beloved Veterans Administration by volunteering their time or donating financially. Your attendance and thoughtful smiles during this particular time means more to us than words could ever express. A grateful thank you to Rev. Dr. Frank J. Blackshear and the Greater Zion Hill Baptist Church Family. May God continue to richly bless you all.

"My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word."

Psalm 119:28

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