

Celebrating The Life of Headley White



Sunrise
June 25, 1936

Sunset
August 26, 2017

Saturday, September 2, 2017 - 11:00 a.m.

CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH

535 E 22nd Street

Paterson, New Jersey

Rev. Barry L. Graham, Officiating

Monroe Gilbert, Organist

Mr. Headley “Granddad” White’s Eulogy

6.25.1936- 8.26.2017

My name is Tamar Lawson-McPherson, one of Headley White’s Eleven Grandchildren who loved and admired him. Not only was he my granddad, but really, he was like my father. He walked me down the aisle in 2005 and with God’s help, he helped my mother emigrated to the United States in 1987.

My grandfather was truly one-of-a-kind. Always groomed – sharp, actually! He loved to dress nicely and received compliments. Whatever the occasion, he was dressed for it. Whenever he is not watching wrestling or traveling, one of his favorite activities includes going to his barber to get his hair done. In fact, these last couple of months, not being able to get his head regularly shaved or be home to eat one of my inventions showed us how sick he really was. As I watched the sickness took hold of my Granddad, I tried my best to keep him groomed and neat but I could not match his techniques. Beneath the mortification, he would smile and tell me you did good.

Granddad grew up in Kingston, Jamaica before traveling to London, England. Where in 1962 he married Junior, Leslie and Orchid’s mother (deceased). He often reflected that his life wasn’t always an easy life. No one’s is, of course, but Granddad maintained a wonderful attitude despite the challenges and apparent regrets. No parents, brothers or sisters to shelter him from the weathers of life, he grew up to do what he thought was best. Granddad often admits that life is what you make it. Sometimes, it is filled with hurdles but, it can be better if you find small ways to make each day better. Granddad had that sense about him. Confident and poised! He loved to laugh, make jokes and relish in knowing that life must be lived. I always like this best about Granddad, no matter the circumstance, he is able to look ahead.

When granddad was twelve, he left the place he once called home, Sparlings to live with a family in Frankfield, Clarendon because his parents could not afford to care for him. There he met my Grandmother, Katurah (deceased) and they both had their first child, my mother, Myra at age 17. Immediately thereafter he moved to find work in Kingston, where he lived with his aunt, Melva who cared for him as her own son. In 1960 Granda and Melva took the three weeks journey at sea to England. For 26 years he lived freely before seeking ut new opportunities in the USA.

Granddad drove forklift for 50 years to make a living and pay the bills, but the passion of his life were his kids – Myra, Junior, Leslie, Orchid, and Anthony. He longed to make up for lost time.... However, HE wanted each of you to know that he will Never forget the depths of love he had for you. Together you gave him 11 grandchildren 9 and great-grandchildren. ALL of whom were very special especially his great grandbaby - Rebecca who he dubbed “the boss”!

7 years ago Granddad moved in with my husband and I and our two girls; I knew he needed me and also I learned that we also needed him. We cared for each other. Good times and in not so good times. When he was ill, I was there. We went through all of it together. When I was working, he was my source for keeping my girls safe until we get home. He did so with care and diligence! These past few years Granddad and I, Marlon, Lil Tamar, and Rebecca lived happily. We loved each other and celebrated each moment for what it was and spoke freely because we understood each other. As granddad’s health declined over these past few months, we often reflect upon shared memories especially those with his great grandchildren beckoning for “Tea” from granddad. He had a way of making tea that everyone enjoyed.

I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to care for Granddad and witness to him about God. We are not perfect but through God’s mercy we will see his glory. Granddad did not belong to a church, he often accompany me to Canaan Baptist in Paterson on most holiday services. However, he knew God. A few days before taking his last breathe, he confessed with his mouth the sinner’s prayer. He accepted the Lord Jesus as his savior. Family, I appeal to you, let’s pray together, reflect together and live the PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE that the dear Lord Jesus has given us.

Granddad, you will surely be missed. God’s speed ahead! Love you !
Tamar

Order of Service

Prelude
Monroe Gilbert

Processional

Selection

Scripture Reading
Old Testament
New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Acknowledgements & Remarks

Reflections of Life

Selection

Words of Comfort
Rev. Barry L. Graham

Recessional

Final Disposition

Cedar Lawn Crematory
Paterson, New Jersey

Psalm 23

The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Acknowledgement

The family of the late **Headley White** 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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