

*A Celebration of Life*  
*for*  
*Elijah Washington*  
*Aka Ray-Charles*

Sunrise: October 24, 1942 - Sunset: September 22, 2017



Thursday, September 28, 2017 - 11:00 a.m.  
Final Services: Saturday October 30, 2017  
In Beaufort South Carolina

**Cannan Baptist Church**  
535 E 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Paterson, New Jersey  
**Pastor Barry Graham, Officiating**

**Elijah Washington aka Ray-Charles** was born on October 24, 1942 in Bruford, South Carolina to the late Angus Gray and Genvia Washington Gray.

Early Friday, morning at 1:40 am September 22, 2017, God called Elijah to rest.

Elijah was raised in South Carolina upon moving to Paterson, NJ. He met Hazel Edwards the two gave birth to five children. Later on in his life he met Tonya Lattimore and the two gave birth to one son. While continuing to be a loving father figure he helped one son. While continuing to be a loving father figure, he helped to raise two other boys who see him as a father in their lives.

Elijah was a very hard working person, until it was time for him to retire. However, there was one thing that was hard for him to retire from and that was baseball. He loved pitching fastball under hand. He also loved wearing his fancy suits.

Elijah was a loud talker but he was the kind of person you would love to be around the life of the party. He was a friend to everyone. Most of the people that really know him knew that he liked hanging out at the Pepper Pot, Blue Palace and Bernard's Barbershop.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Leroy Gray and Augus Gray Washington aka Rocky.

He leaves to cherish his memory: three sisters, Lillie Wright, Maggie Gray and Rebecca Young all of South Carolina; eight children, Laverne Edwards, Diane Edwards, Marvin Edwards, Kenneth Edwards, Alatha Edwards and Stephone Washington, the two he raised were Sakeen Lattimore and James Taylor all of Paterson, NJ. He also leaves behind seventeen grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren and a host of other family members and friends who lives he has touched.

Invocation

Musical Selection

Reading of Old and New Testament Scripture

Special Tributes

Reading of Acknowledgement and Reflections

Musical Selection

Message of Comfort .....Rev. Barry Graham

Final Viewing

Recessional

**Interment**  
Dessisso Cemetery  
Yamasee, South Carolina

*Order of Service*



# *When Tomorrow Starts Without Me*

When tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not there to see if the sun should rise and find your eyes, all filled with tears for me. I wish so much you wouldn't cry, the way you did today, while thinking of the many things, we didn't get to say. I know how much you love me, as much as I love you, and each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too. But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand that an angel came and called my name, and took me by the hand and said, "my place was ready, in heaven far above and that I'd have to leave behind, all those I dearly love." But when I walked through heaven's gates, I felt so much at home. When God looked down and smiled at me, from His great golden throne. He said "This is eternity, and all I've promised you." Today for life on earth is past, but here it starts anew. I promise no tomorrow, for today will always last. And since each day's the same way, there's no longing for the past. So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart. For every time you think of me, I'm right here in your heart.

*-Author unknown*



## *Acknowledgement*

The family wishes to express sincere thanks to all who helped in anyway to ease their burden during the bereavement and acknowledges with sincere appreciation of many kind acts of care and concern.

**Services Entrusted To**

"The Ministry of Comfort "

**David Davis Jr. and Sons Funeral Home and Cremation Services**

628 Market St Paterson, New Jersey

(973)278-6000

David Davis Jr #3997 Manager



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