

In Loving Memory of
Raphael Alberto Hodge



Entered into Life

April 27, 1936

Transitioned into Eternal Rest

November 22, 2017

Service

Friday, December 1, 2017 - 11:00 a.m.

HERBERT T. MCCALL FUNERAL HOME

984 Prospect Ave • Bronx, NY 10459

Rev. Idus Nunn, Jr., Officiating

Prof. Tyrone Patrick, Organist

Order of Service

Processional.....Clergy & Family

Invocation

Selection.....“Lord’s Prayer”
Derrick Hodge

Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. Idus Nunn

Scripture Reading

Old Testament - Psalm 23

New Testament - 1 John 4: 1-6

Obituary

Remarks/Tribute.....Family/Friends
(2 minutes please)

Selection.....“Amazing Grace”
Derrick Hodge & Cecil Hodge

Eulogy.....Rev. Idus Nunn

Committal

Passing Glimpse

Benediction

Recessional

Interment

Rose Hill Memorial Park
Putnam Valley, New York

Repast at St. Augustine Presbyterian Church
(across the street from the McCall Funeral Home)

Reflections of Life

Raphael A. Hodge was an extraordinary person, not only known by many for his vocation as a mechanical engineer, and Director of the NYC Dept. Of Environmental Protection (DEP), but also as a gifted and talented, musician/pianist who played and performed with many celebrities and stars such as Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, Machito, Johnny Pacheco, etc. as a Salsa, Calypso, and Jazz pianist. He wrote and arranged musical charts for many of these Latin/Jazz stars.

Raphael was born on the island of Aruba, Netherland Antilles just before the start of WWII. Because of the danger of the Germans bombing the Largo Oil Refinery Co., a subsidiary of NJ Standard Oil Co., his mother moved the entire family to St. Martin to escape. Raphael spent much of his childhood on that island. After the war ended, the family returned to Aruba where he completed his elementary and secondary education and graduated from Largo High School. He excelled in his studies and was awarded a complete scholarship from the Largo Oil Co. He applied and was accepted to many U.S. Ivy League colleges and universities but upon the advice from his guidance counselor chose to attend Howard University, in 1956 in Washington D.C. due largely because of the "Jim Crow" segregation laws. He earned a B. S. in Mechanical Engineering with honors. During that time, he also met his future wife, Lanice Kemp, during their Freshman orientation week. They were soon married on March 21, 1958. Of that union, four children were born; Cecil B. Hodge (October 3, 1959), Derrick E. Hodge (January 13, 1960), Letanya M. Hodge (January 13, 1961) and Raphaela S. Hodge (May 21, 1965). The two sons were born in Washington D.C. But however, as a condition of his scholarship, when Raphael completed his degree, he was obligated to return to Aruba to work for the Largo Oil Co. where his two daughters were born, He came to NYC in 1965 with the family and worked as an engineer for a private German owned company. While working at that company, he studied for the P.E. (Professional Engineer) Civil Engineering exam, the equivalent of earning an M.D. In medicine and received one of the highest scores on record. Soon afterwards, he took a promotion and position with the NYC DEP as the Director of the Bureau of Air Pollution and Control. He remained in this position as director until his retirement in 2012.

Left to carry on and honor his legacy are his loving wife, four children, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a host of brothers, sisters, cousins, nieces and nephews, too many to name.

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 wishes to express their deepest appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them in their time of sorrow.

Professional Services Provided By
HERBERT T. MCCALL FUNERAL HOME

984 Prospect Ave • Bronx, NY 10459
(718) 589-8428

www.honoryou.com

