

Celebration of Life  
For  
Erwin Dunbar Debnaun

*March 15, 1932 - December 23, 2017*



**“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”**

**1 Corinthians 15:55-57**

**Saturday, January 6, 2018**

**11:00 A.M.**

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
**74 Park Avenue • Glen Ridge New Jersey 07028**

*Rev. Diana Wilcox, Officiating*

# Obituary

Erwin Dunbar Debnau

Erwin Dunbar Debnau was born to the late Morressa and Edwin Debnau on March 15, 1932. He passed away on Saturday, December 23, 2017 peacefully in his home surrounded by love ones. Erwin lived most of his life in Montclair, NJ with his sister Lorraine and his brother Harold. He was raised in Trinity Episcopal Church in Montclair where he became known as the best acolyte in its history.

Upon graduating Montclair High School, Erwin attended the Academy of Advanced Traffic in New York. After completion, he enlisted in the US Air Force serving four years. When discharged, Erwin began following his passion for jazz and classical music. He was a proud owner of a rare collection of LPs. He also considered himself an artist patterning his work after his favorite painter Salvador Dali.

Trains were also a passion. So much so that he became a Freight Conductor for the Pennsylvania Railroad for over fifteen years. Erwin remained in the work force as a traffic analyst at Westinghouse/North American Philips until retirement.

Erwin was fun loving, but had a very serious side when it came to humanity. He was well read and a prolific writer. He was published in the New York Times "letters to the editor" section several times. If you wanted a debate on life, religion or politics, a better combatant you could not find and winning most of the debates at K o's Barber Shop on the "Avenue" was Erwin's joy, not to mention family dinners.

Erwin became very active in his adult life at Trinity Episcopal serving many, many years as Junior and Senior Warden. Betty remembers demanding a separate phone line in the house to handle his parish calls. He loved it and his teammates including Pansy & Leroy Swan, Betty Yarborough, Jean and Charles Steede, Velma Johnson and Pearle Anderson to name a few.

A man of valor ahead of his time states his wife. Erwin suffered a long and debilitating illness, but kept his faith and humor.

He leaves to morn, Betty, his Wife of 48 years, a sister, Lorraine and a brother, Harold. Also, his adored nieces, nephews, godsons and a host of relatives and friends.

*Be at peace old gentle soldier.  
You have fought a good fight,  
You have kept the faith,  
You have finished the course.  
Your reward is the presence of Christ.  
We love you dearly, your family and friends.*

# *Repast*

Bella Italia Ristorante  
Orange, NJ

*Blessing of the Food*

*Fellowship*

*Please Enjoy the Delectable Buffet*

*Reflections*

*Thank You*

*Dessert*



Here's To Life, Here's To Love, and Here's To My *Erwin!*

**E**arnest and Endearing  
**R**emarkable, the Real Deal  
**W**ise, Full of Wisdom  
**I**ntelligent and  
**N**ewsworthy  
**D**ebonair and Dignified  
**E**xcellent Friend  
**B**lessed by the Best  
**N**otable (Born on 'The Ides of March')  
**A**rticulate  
**U**nique  
**N**urturer to Family and Friends!



*Pallbearers*

Clifton Curtis      George Curtis III  
Mark Curtis      Edward Curtis  
Geoffrey Curtis  
Robert Scott Snead      Kerry Snead

*Acknowledgement*

*The family of Erwin D. Debnaun wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many kind acts and comforting expressions of sympathy extended during our time of bereavement. Please know that we feel truly blessed to having wonderful caring people like you in our lives. May God bless each and every one of you. A special thank you for Erwin's caregiver, Kalia Graham. Her warmth and comfort sustained the family through this journey.*

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