

Celebrating the Life of



Nelson Elmer George

Sunrise
July 2, 1932

Sunset
April 25, 2020

Monday, May 4, 2020 - 9:30am

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.
2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Obituary

Nelson Elmer George was born in Bracey, Virginia on July 2, 1932. Following the birth of four girls, he was the first boy born to his parents, Nelson Sterling George and Matdora Clary George. They all spoiled him, but he turned out to be a charming boy and a charming young man whose personality was one of his biggest assets throughout his life. There was a total of seven children in his family.

Growing up in “the country” in Bracey, Virginia, Elmer had much company to keep him busy and well entertained. There were also lots of ways for him to get into trouble with his mother who maintained the household and protected the family while his father was away working on the railroad or working in the Civilian Conservation Camps during the great depression. In addition to his younger brother and older sisters, his other friends were Margaret the cow, Tom Billy the mule, and Peetro the horse. He was particularly fond of horses.

When the family moved temporarily to Yorktown and then to Newport News, Virginia shortly after the start of WWII, a whole new world opened to him. There were buses, streetlights, and a school with more than two rooms. Like other children, he collected aluminum foil and discarded rubber for recycling in support of the war effort. Treats like chocolate were rationed, so he only saw them in magazines. During his teenage and young adult years, Elmer shined shoes in a barber shop while attending Huntington High School. He loved playing basketball and had a great lay-up but was too short to make the team. Because he loved horses so much, he convinced his parents to let him become an assistant trainer at a horse farm one summer. He fed, groomed and cared for the horses and rode them for racing exercise. He dreamed of becoming a jockey, but it was not to be. Shortly after high school he was drafted into the Army.

Elmer served in the Army from 1952 to 1954. After basic training, he was assigned to Korea where he was involved in locating and removing land mines that had been planted during the war. He often said that the Army was where he grew up. The dangerous work, the necessity of teamwork, interacting with people from different cultures, and seeing sights that he never saw before in a foreign land helped shape the Sergeant who returned home in 1954.

After working for a short time, Elmer was restless as he yearned for more adventure. He became a merchant seaman and traveled to several Asian ports as well as to Israel. His career also included post office work, parking garage management, and security guard service.

In 1956, he married Arizona Bacchus of Newport News. They settled in Brooklyn where they made their home for many years. Brooklyn is where their two children were born, attended school and grew into adulthood. Although he and Arizona had separated and later divorced, he was very proud of his children and grandchildren, and of their accomplishments. He often talked about what they were doing and was beside himself with pride when his writer son, Nelson, published his first book. He was delighted that Nelson wrote, produced, and directed a documentary film about the life of his daughter, Andrea, and made sure that family and friends knew when the film was to be shown. He was a proud father.

Elmer was adventurous, non-judgmental, even tempered, mischievous, and had a great sense of humor. His personality resonated with diverse groups. He later married Annette Frierson who preceded him in death. After a short illness, Elmer departed this world on April 25, 2020. We were informed that he died of pneumonia related to the Covid-19 virus.

He is survived by his son, Nelson Daryle George; daughter, Andrea Patrice George; granddaughters, Ebony Alleaha Jonakin (Dan), Leigh Amber Barrett, and Shalya Jade Williams; as well as his great-grandson, Jonathan Jonakin. He is also survived by two sisters, Harriet G. Stevens and Annabel George-Uffen; his brother, James T. George (Juliette); his special friend, Marilyn Thomas; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Recessional

Interment

Calverton National Cemetery
Calverton, New York

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard his call,
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My Life's been full, I savoured much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch,

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.

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