

In Loving Memory of



Edward T. Cotton, Jr.

Sunrise
June 29, 1947

Sunset
April 17, 2020

Service

Saturday, May 9, 2020 • 1:00 p.m.

CARNIE P. BRAGG FUNERAL HOME
256 Rosa Parks Blvd., Paterson, New Jersey

Final Disposition

Cedar Lawn Crematory
Paterson, New Jersey

Reflections of Life

Edward L. Cotton Jr. 72, of Paterson was born on June 29, 1947 in Los Angeles, California to the late Edward L. Cotton Sr. and Corine Mana Cotton. He then moved to Paterson, NJ at the age of 3 with his father and paternal grandmother, Ann Mabel Holmes Cotton. He graduated from Public School #6 in 1960, and Eastside High School in 1964. He attended St. Paul's College Lawrenceville, VA. Ed was drafted into the United States Army in 1967 during the Vietnam Era and received his honorable discharge in 1971. He then obtained his real estate license from Professional School of Business and became a life insurance agent with New York Life Insurance Company. He also sold clothing with his business called, "Cotton Comes to Paterson." He then started an insurance company named, "Scriven, Cockfield, Cotton, and McCaskil Insurance."

Mr. Cotton's first involvement in politics was by joining the Paterson Jaycees in 1972 and was elected its first African-American President. He was elected as county committee in the 4th Ward in 1976. Ed was elected to the 4th ward Council in 1980 and then elected City Council President in 1982, becoming the First African-American in the new form of government. He was reelected in 1984. He became the Public Works Director for the City of Paterson, becoming the First African-American to be appointed to that position. In the year 1990 Mr. Cotton became Chief of Staff for Mayor William "Bill Pascrell, Jr. being considered the main Deputy Mayor." From the years 1995 to 2006, he was the Director of Operations and Management for the Paterson Housing Authority. Edward was currently a part time confidential aide to the Mayor Andre Sayegh. He was also appointed to the Passaic Valley Water Commission on January 1, 2020 by Mayor Andre Sayegh. While working in this capacity this is where Ed built many of his community relationships with the citizens of Paterson. Everyone knew his infectious smile and the laughter that he would bring whenever he would enter a room or come in anyone's presence. Ed was known for his big personality and the way he would make everyone feel special. Eddie was a well versed man in any aspect of life. For anyone who has met him, spoke with him, or just sat near him he would always leave a stamp of love and a positive feeling.

Ed enjoyed fishing, golfing, boxing, and traveling the world. Eddie would go on various trips for fishing and golfing with his friends/buddies. Becoming a part of the boxing community for Mr. Cotton various trips around the world. He really enjoyed visiting various continents and countries within those places. Big Ed was known to be somewhere different in another country almost every other week if possible. While traveling and loving the new scenery he was able to enjoy his hobby of golf.

Mr. Cotton was also a referee for the Amateur Boxing from 1980-1992, becoming a professional boxing referee in 1992. He is licensed in numerous states and major international boxing organizations. He then served on the referee's panel for both the IBF and WBC, as well as instructing both the New Jersey and Connecticut Referee Associations. He had the honor of serving on the ABC, which is the boxing community's lead governing body. He was currently a Board Member of the IBF (International Boxing Federation).

Edward was a life member of: NAACP, New A.M.E. Zion Church, American Lodge #333 I.B.P.O.E of World of Paterson, Integrity Masonic Lodge #51 A.F. & M., and the American Legion. He was inducted into the New Jersey Boxing Hall of Fame, Paterson Public School #6 Hall of Fame, Paterson Eastside High School Hall of Fame, and he was a nominee for the International Boxing Hall of Fame. Ed was named one of the top ten referees in the world by Ring Magazine, 33 of the finest referees from the Best of the Best, and top 6 Boxing's Best by Howard Schatz. He served as a volunteer for Big Brother and Career Days for various schools in Paterson, collaborated with Project 2000 at PS #6, and was a mentor for youths throughout the City of Paterson. Mr. Cotton then refereed/judged over 200 title bouts throughout the world and has been the recipient of over 100 awards, citations, and certifications for services extended to the community of Paterson.

Edward departed this life at St. Joseph's Wayne Hospital Wayne, NJ on April 17, 2020.

Edward L. Cotton Jr. was a loving husband to Ruby N. Cotton, a devoted father to Candice Cotton, Edward L. Cotton III, and Danielle Swinney, a proud grandfather to Amier Mouzon, Emajee Montgomery, Amis Montgomery, and Juni Montgomery. Ed is survived by his sister Edwina Cotton-Street, brother-in-law David Coleman (Lillie Coleman), sister-in-law Barbara Coleman, predeceased sister Angela Cotton, brother-in-laws Roosevelt Coleman Sr. and James Coleman and four nieces Terry Nashville, Ashanti Natasha Cotton, Carrie Ann Coleman, and Tatiana Coleman, and two nephews Roosevelt Coleman Jr. and David Coleman III. Also two great nieces Slyvia and Shatia. He is also survived by "Special Cousins Benji Wimberly and Crystal Wimberly, many beloved cousins and friends.

Ed will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Thank you to all our family and friends who assisted with his Home Going Celebration.

Professional Services Provided By

CARNE P. BRAGG FUNERAL HOMES, INC.

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