

*In Loving Memory of*  
*John Norman Martin Bell*

Sunrise: January 27, 1945 – Sunset: January 5, 2022



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022 - 3:00 P.M.**

**Cotton Funeral Service**

130 Main Street • Orange, New Jersey

# OBITUARY

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Our big brother and friend to all, John Norman Martin Bell, affectionately known as Johnny New York, Johnny New Jersey, left us for heaven Wednesday January 5th 2022. Johnny battled with serious health issues recently but faced them with courage and determination. Despite the pain, Johnny never lost his great sense of humor. Johnny came out a hero and stayed strong until the very end. We know for sure he is in heaven dancing with the love of his life, his wife Renee Hawkins Bell.

John was born in Harlem NY in 1945 to Marion Bell. John was a man of many talents and worked in many occupations to support himself and his family. He was also a tremendous athlete who was invited to try out with his favorite football team the NY Jets in 1971. About a decade later he met his future wife at a party and that changed his life forever. He loved to tell the story of how Renee invited him to visit her in Orange, NJ and he never went back home. Johnny always said that meeting Renee was the best thing that ever happened to him. He truly found love, and the happiest times of his life began. They married March 27th 1993 but were together for over 31 years. A more perfect couple you would never find. When Johnny moved to New Jersey he worked at the popular local deli Sandwiches Unlimited for over 40 years. There he became an Icon of the community that extended throughout Essex County. He held many positions from slicer to Store Manager. People would come from miles around for the food and Johnny's quick wit and humor. He never met a customer he couldn't remember either by name or sandwich order. And on occasion, he gave valuable advice on life and its many twists and turns. Johnny was a man's man, who played hard and loved hard. Sometimes it may have been tough love, but love for his people just the same.

Johnny leaves to mourn his passing by his son John Bell Jr and his daughter Ayesha Miller. Nephews David Jeffrey, and Steven Bell. Nieces Monique and Ashante Bell. 5 Grandchildren Kaiyiid, Kelis, John III, Gabriel, and Terrance. God-children Darrell and Danielle Stewart, Nasir Preyor and Tajea Epps (who preceded him in death). A sister from another mister Valerie Stewart (Wiggins), along with a host of cousins, friends, and coworkers.

We the family would like to thank all who loved him and have shown various acts of kindness and support at this time.

It is said if a single grain of wheat lived for ever it would still be just one grain. But in its passing it spreads its knowledge, its love, its passion a thousand times. So we as part of Johnny's thousands, will keep him in our hearts and minds so that he will live Forever.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional

Selection

Scripture Reading

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Remarks

(Two minutes each please)

Acknowledgements

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Recessional

**INTERMENT**

Rosedale Cemetery  
Orange, New Jersey

# 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 Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day.

To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it up with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh, 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 savored 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!  
-author unknown

## 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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### Professional Services Provided By

**COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE**  
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