

THANKSGIVING SERVICE
For the Life of



KEITH A. STEPHENSON

April 18, 1958 - March 5, 2022

SERVICE INFORMATION

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022

Viewing: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Service: 10:00 AM

ETERNITY FUNERAL SERVICES, LLC

725 East Gun Hill Road • Bronx, NY 10467

Bishop Owen Z. Martin, Officiating

(Life Worship Center C.O.G.O.P., Bronx, NY)

Joshua Nelson, Organist

Interment

Kensico Cemetery
Valhalla, NY

Repast

Code Red 1320 E. Gunhill
Road, Bronx NY 10469

PALL BEARERS

From The Church

Andrew Stephenson (Son)

Shawn Stephenson (Son)

Michael Stephenson (Brother)

Horace Williams (Friend)

Kenneth Bryan (Friend)

Clayton "Muffet" Williams (Friend)

ORDER OF SERVICE

Musical Prelude

Processional

Opening Sentences Bishop Owen Z. Martin

Opening Hymn Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Opening Prayer Bishop Owen Z. Martin

Old Testament Reading:

 Psalm 90: 1 – 12.....Ms. Chassidy Stephenson (Daughter)

Gift in Song: Ms. Annmarie Forbes-Reid

New Testament Reading:

 I Corinthians 13: 4 – 13 Ms. Brittany Stephenson (Daughter)

 Tributes:

 Mrs. Sandra Bryan

 Ms. Clover Barnett

Hymn How Great Thou Art

Eulogy.....Mrs. Denise Stephenson-Hammil, (Sister)

Message.....Bishop Owen Z. Martin

Prayer for the Bereaved Family: Bishop Owen Z. Martin

Closing Prayer & Benediction Bishop Owen Z. Martin

Final Instructions Eternity Funeral Services Directors

Recessional Hymn.....*At The Graveside*

Prayer & Committal.....Bishop Owen Z. Martin

OBITUARY

Keith Anthony Stephenson, affectionately called Gussie, was born on Friday April 18, 1958. He was the second of 4 children, and the first son, born to Gloria and Alexander Stephenson. In the earlier years, our parents being entrepreneurs and owners of businesses, were constantly on the move, selling goods in different parishes. It was therefore not surprising that Gussie was born in the Chapelton hospital in the parish of Clarendon, a far way from their home base in Old Harbour, St. Catherine Jamaica.

Gussie's formative years were spent between Old Harbour St. Catherine, where our mother Gloria was from, and Kingston where the family finally settled. Gussie made deep and lasting connections in Old Harbour and again in Kingston. Gussie attended high school at Grantham College in Kingston, Jamaica and was a proud alumnus. He made many friends in high school and some became lifelong close friends. He was very athletic in his youth and excelled at cricket and football. He was a member of the "Meady Haven" football club for many years. I remember being so proud when I saw clips of his athletic exploits in the local newspapers.

In his teenage years, Gussie was seen as somewhat of a "rebel" in the family. He joined the "Twelve (12) tribes of Israel group" as a young man and was faithful to the group in every respect, but he could not wear locks in our mother's house. Being a person who was not easily swayed by other person's beliefs, his political conviction was also contrary to everyone else's in the household.

Gussie met and married Novelette Pryce. The union produced three children, Andrew, Shawn, and Brittany. Later he had Chassidy with his forever friend Natalie. Gussie was a wonderful, caring, and loving father who gave selflessly to his children and grandchildren. He was a great provider, a strong support and their rock. He allowed his children to be themselves, always appreciating the good, and bringing out the best in each child. He was always ready with a strong shoulder, caring hands, and kind words of wisdom to offer his children. He always felt that

his children were his greatest achievement and was so happy that they would continue the Stephenson bloodline and legacy. He loved them very much.

Gussie was a born entrepreneur. He was the only child who got that drive from his beloved mother. As a young adult he would assist her at the business place in Old Harbour and was left in charge of the business when our parents went on trips abroad to purchase goods for the store. This entrepreneurial spirit persisted throughout his life, even after migrating to the United States in the late 1980s, where he established a popular restaurant in the Bronx. He loved to cook and whenever he visited us in Jamaica he took over the kitchen and we were quite happy to let him.

Gussie was always an outgoing personality and had a certain magnetism that attracted people to him. I am sure many here today can recall his charming smile and soft chuckle when amused. I must admit that he was also somewhat of a "Casanova". Who would know this more than I, his little sister who had to keep so many of his secrets from I was as young as a teenager. In fact, I honed the skill of pacifying heartbroken girls and many times had to plead ignorance of his "goings on" to our parents.

Muhammad Ali said "Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It's not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything.". Gussie understood the meaning of friendship, he was a GOOD friend and he had great friends. Kindness was his hallmark, he would give away the last shirt he had on his back, and so many of his friends have testified of his kindness to them over the years. It is said that some friends stay but for a short while and others stay for a lifetime, Gussie had friends that stayed for his lifetime. Throughout his years he maintained good friendships and relationships that will be remembered.

On March 5, 2022, Gussie died suddenly and unexpectedly. We weren't expecting it, but we are grateful to God for the blessing he was to us. He has closed the final chapter of his life but sweet memories of him will always be remembered by his children Andrew, Shawn, Brittany and Chassidy, his grandchildren Se ana and Jeremiah, his father Alexander, siblings Denise and Michael and other relatives.

To our family, Gussie was a wonderful, caring, kind and loving father, son, brother, nephew, and friend. He was an awesome human being with a beautiful mind and spirit, and we will surely miss him. As we celebrate with thanksgiving a life well lived, today Gussie is saying to all of us:

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 end 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 too I 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' 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.

Rest in peace my dear brother, our loved one and may light perpetual shine upon you.

PRECIOUS MEMORIES





Acknowledgement

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.


Perhaps you sent a floral piece, if so, we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any family or friend could say.

Perhaps it was your prayerful support, so thoughtfully expressed in so many ways. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you dearly. Whatever was the part, may God bless you richly.

May your days be graced with God's love and peace.

From the Family of the Late
KEITH ANTHONY STEPHENSON

Eternity 
Funeral Services

ETERNITY FUNERAL SERVICES, LLC

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