



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Joseph Ellis Byrd

Sunrise

November 15, 1941

Sunset

April 10, 2022

Service

Friday, April 22, 2022 • 11:00 a.m.

Whigham Funeral Home

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. • Newark, New Jersey

Reflection of Life

Joseph Ellis Byrd was born in Newark, New Jersey on November 15, 1941 to the late Andrew Byrd Sr. and the late Helen Watson Byrd. Joe was educated in the city of Newark and went to the Newark St. Bridges Catholic School, Central High School, and attended Essex County College.

Joe was a true Newark native. He had a passion for service and people, which was a driving force behind his career choices. He was employed at Port Newark, a member of the Newark Special Police Unit and Newark Board of Education for several years. He spent most of years and his time serving others at Newark Housing Authority. Because of his continued promotions at Newark Housing Authority he became the Chief Housing Inspector and received numerous awards, certificates, and the nickname of “Mr. Civil Service,, during his 40 years serving as inspector.

Anyone who knew Joe Byrd knew he had a passion for politics as he was heavily involved with former mayors Kenneth Gibson and Sharp James administrations. Joe was known as a smooth, suave, and “dapper dan man” because of his flair and style. He never met a stranger he couldn't engage in conversation with. Joe was very talkative, sometimes long winded and downright loquacious.

Joe Byrd had many passions and enjoyed many of things. He loved to take pictures and thought he was an amateur photographer. He loved reading and enjoyed listening to music. He also had a flair for dance as well, you could catch him on the dance floor doing a two step or salsa dancing with his wife Claudine. Joe was a man of many talents and strengths that also included athletic endeavors as well. He was a marathon runner and one of his greatest accomplishments was completing the Boston Marathon.

He was preceded in death by his parents Andrew and Helen Byrd, his son Joseph A. Byrd, his 3 sisters Marian and Helen Gillian and Evelyn Byrd, and his brother former Detective Andrew Byrd Jr.

Joe leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife Claudine Byrd, his brother Edward Simon (Basir) Byrd, his daughter Phyllis (Jeffery) Tillery and his 3 grandchildren Jeffery PJ Tillery, Autumn Tillery, and Javon Tillery. Numerous nieces and nephews and hosts of relatives and dear friends.

Order of Service

Prelude Ave Maria

Inspirational Hymn “Blessed Assurance” - Congregation

Prayer of Comfort Rev. Garvey Ince

Scripture Readings Delores Johnson

Old Testament - Psalm 23

New Testament - John 14:1-4

Selection..... “His Eye Is On The Sparrow” - Delvon Johnson

Acknowledgements/ Resolutions

Obituary (Read Silently)

Selection..... “I Won't Complain” - Ms. Francine Finley

Eulogy Rev. Garvey Ince

Associate Saint James AME Pulpit

Recessional “Going Up Yonder”

Benediction

Interment
Evergreen Cemetery
1137 N Broad Street
Hillside, New Jersey

God Saw You Getting Tired

*God saw you getting tired
And a cure was not to be
So He put his arms around you
And whispered, "Come to Me."
With tearful eyes we watched you
And saw you fade away
And although we love you dearly
We could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating
Hard working hands at rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.*

Acknowledgements

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.

Due to COVID-19 a repast will not be held. Please adhere to CDC standards, social distancing, washing your hands and wearing masks.

Professional Services by:
Whigham Funeral Home

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Newark, New Jersey 07102
973-622-6872

Carolyn Whigham, Director

