

In Loving Memory of
Joseph James Woods



Sunrise: July 29, 1929 - Sunset: April 10, 2022

Sunday, April 24, 2022 - 3pm

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

Obituary

Honoring Joseph James Woods' Life

For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the Earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God... [Job 19:25-26]

Joseph James Woods, of Harlem, New York, passed away on April 10th, 2022.

Joseph J. Woods, affectionately called, "Papa Joe", was born on July 29, 1929, to Elizabeth (Knowles) Woods in Miami, Florida. After attending Miami Dorsey High School, he joined the Army and honorably served as a radar technician foreman. He was a part of one of the last all-black regiments. The Army provided him with lifelong friendships and he was the last remaining person from his "Band of Brothers".

After proudly serving our country in the U.S. Army, he relocated to Harlem, NY with his brothers and they shared an apartment on West 126th Street. After a brief time, he found employment with a printing company, Thermo Craft Press, and worked as a porter. While working, Joe attended the New York School of Printing-Trade Academy to expand his skillset and received numerous certifications. With determination and hard work, Joseph successfully worked his way up to the foreman of the plant and handled the day-to-day operations of the company until its dissolution.

Joseph was introduced to Elizabeth Moore through a mutual friend and they were wed in 1953. From that union came two sons, David and Steven. Their home was one filled with love and stability; a safe haven protecting all from external negative influences throughout East Harlem in the 1950s and onward. God was at the center.

He was known by many names including "Big Joe" and "Woody", but the one he loved the most was "Papa Joe". This particular nickname embodied his spirit; it was who he was to so many—the loving father and grandfather that everyone wanted to have.

Papa Joe was also known for his pastimes such as shopping and finding the best deals (then telling everyone how much money he saved!), selling anything he put his hands on (including Papa Joe's Lucky Rocks \$2) and even photography for a time (until he realized that he cut everyone's head off in just about every shot). He was the designated food taste-tester, but also a self-taught chef, making sure that his company was always well-fed (pigs feet, homemade yeast rolls, biscuits, pound cakes, and more!).

Papa Joe is survived by: his two sons, David Sr. (Cheryl) and Steven (Margaret); three grandchildren, David Jr. (Tanya), Jennifer Elizabeth, and Stefanie Grace; a great-granddaughter, (Ava Simone); and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, family, and friends!

He is preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth Woods, and grandson, Joseph Richard Woods.



Order of Service

Opening Selection

Musical Tribute

Prayer of Comfort

Poetry Reading and Commentary

“Miss Me But Let Me Go” - Jennifer E. Woods

Scripture Readings

Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - Christopher Rawls

New Testament: Revelations 21:1-7 - Tanya Woods

Remarks

Family & Friends (2 Mins Please)

Special Tribute

“And Yet He Persevered” - David G. Woods, Sr.

Obituary and Acknowledgments

Jennifer Woods and Patricia Rawls

Musical Selection

Eulogy

Steven Woods

Final Viewing

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 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.

2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300
1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY • (718) 774-1023
1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833



Clifford V. James, President & CEO
www.unityfuneralchapels.com
email: unityfc@aol.com

"Your Loved Ones Deserve The Best - Unity"



FILE