

*In Loving Memory
of*



Wahid Bayyan

Sunrise: November 29, 1959 - Sunset: April 27, 2022

*Janazah Prayer and Burial
Thursday, May 5, 2022
12pm*

*Rosehill Cemetery
792 E. Edgar Rd
Linden, NJ 07036*

Obituary



On Wednesday, April 27, 2022, **Rory Wahid Bayyan Bell**, loving brother, father, uncle and friend, transitioned at the age of 62.

Rory Bell also known as Wahid Bayyan was born on November 29, 1959 in Youngstown, Ohio to Mabel Aminah Bayyan Butler and Robert Earl Bell. He was the fifth child and the youngest son of the Bell/Bayyan family.

He attended The Kennedy School No.9 and Ferris High School. His favorite subjects in school were Math and Science, where he excelled. He had great admiration for his older brothers, Robert “Kool” Bell and Ronald “Khalis” Bell, who are the co-founders of the Grammy Award winning group, Kool & The Gang. He also had great admiration for his brothers, Michael Bell-Bayyan, Entrepreneurial Strategist, and Amir Bayyan, Grammy winning music producer and member of Kool & the Gang. At the age of 12 during his first visit ever to a recording session with his brothers, he got the opportunity of a lifetime! He recorded the now famous conversation about life with his eldest brother, Kool, on the song ‘Heaven At Once’ from the first Gold selling Kool & The Gang album, Wild and Peaceful, released in 1973. This “platinum” experience, as he referred to it, opened up a whole new world for him and set the tone for a career path on the technical side of the music business.

The world of technology always grabbed Wahid’s interest. During one of Kool & the Gang’s performances, he was asked to help out at the lighting board when one of the crew members didn’t show up. Within minutes, Wahid was fascinated with all the buttons on the board and how they worked. And in a short time, the self taught, fast learning talent began to learn the art of lighting for stage performances. At the age of 20, he began touring with Kool & the Gang as their lighting director from 1979 to 1986.

He honed in on his unique way of lighting by combining his natural ear for musical arrangements and timing with the technical aspects of lighting systems and visual design. He would create sketches of lighting designs and explain the concept behind them, all inspired by the music. His lighting technique flowed with the music in addition to the performers. And it was at this time “Rocky Bell”, his stage name, was born and cemented his career as a sought after concert lighting director. He traveled all over the world touring with hit musical acts such as Gladys Knight, Stephanie Mills, “Maze” featuring Frankie Beverly, Anita Baker, Patti Labelle, Bobby Brown, Regina Bell, Boys II Men, Color Me Badd, Bell, Biv, Devoe, Keith Sweat, Johnny Gill, and many more.

If there is one thing everyone knows about Wahid, it is that he was hysterical. The comical way he told a story always made your stomach hurt from laughter! Becoming a comedian would have been so easy for him. He truly loved his entire family, admired all of his brothers, Robert, Ronald, Michael and Amir, adored his mother, Aminah Bayyan, and his sister, Sharifah Bayyan, who was his best friend. His proudest moment in life was the birth of his son, Brannon Kanja. He raised and adored his niece Tahira Bell and great niece and nephew, Layla and Isma’il Henderson. Wahid is predeceased in death by parents, Aminah Bayyan and Robert Earl Bell, his brothers, Ronald Khalis Bell and Michael Bell-Bayyan, and sister-in-law, Sakinah Bell.

He is survived by his only son, Brannon Kanja, his brothers, Robert Kool Bell, Amir Bayyan, his sister Sharifah Bayyan, his sister-in-laws Tia Sinclair Bell, Laura Dawson Bell, Pamela Nasim Bell, Christina Bayyan, his nieces and nephews, Kahdijah Bell Taylor, Muhammad Bell, Rasheed Bell, Kyia Bell, Hakim Bell, Nadirah Bell, Mikal Bell, Tahira Bell, Amir Bayyan Jr., Maryam Bell, Aminah Bell-Colquhoun, Jennah Bell, Khalis Bayyan-Bell, Jr., Liza Milagro, his great nieces and nephews Layla Henderson, Isma’il Henderson, Jurnie Bell, Xavier Bell, Kayana Callens, Alexis Bell, Shakeia James, Paris Bell, Kaiya Iman Taylor, Mikal Bell Jr., cousins Adil Bayyan and Royal Bayyan, and the entire Bell and Wilson families from Ohio and Florida as well as all of his friends.

Janaazah Prayer

(Funeral Program)

The deceased Muslim is placed horizontally in front of the Imaam who stands, according to the Sunnah, at the shoulder of the deceased. The believers stand behind the Imaam. There is no Ruke (bowing) or Sujuud (prostration) in the prayer. The prayer is conducted in an upright standing position, Qiyam and contains four takbirs.

FIRST TAKBIR: The Imam says “Allahu Akbar’ (God is Greatest), raising his hands to his ears and placing them between the chest and the navel. The followers do the same. The Imam recites the Al-Fatihah, The Opening, *In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Most Merciful, Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds; The all Merciful, the ever Merciful, The Possessor of the Day of Judgement. You only we Worship and only Your help we Seek. Guide us to the straight Path; the path of those whom you Bestowed your grace and mercy And not of those who encourage Your wrath.*

SECOND TAKBIR: The Imam says “*Allahu Akbar*” without raising his hands. The followers repeat. They then invoke Allah’s blessings upon the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) by reciting Salaatu ‘Alan Nabiyy. “*O Allah, shower Your Mercy upon Muhammad and the followers of Muhammad, as You showered Your Mercy upon Ibrahim and the followers of Ibrahim. Behold You are Praiseworthy. Glorious, Oh Allah, shower Your Blessings upon Muhammad and the followers of Muhammad as You showered Your Blessings upon Ibrahim and the followers of Ibrahim. Behold, You are Praiseworthy, Glorious.*”

THIRD TAKBIR: After the third takbir, the Imam and believers pray for the deceased by saying the following:

“Oh Allah, forgive those of us that are alive and those of us that are dead, those of us that are present and those of us who are absent; our minors and our elders; Oh Allah, whomever of us you keep alive, let him live as a follower of Islam and whomsoever of us you cause to die, let him die as a believer.”

FOURTH TAKBIR: The Imam says “Allahu Akbar and the believer repeat. They proceed with:

“Oh Allah, do not deny the reward which is due him, do not expose us to temptation after his death. Forgive us and him.”

The Imam concludes the prayer with:

“As Salaamu ‘Aiaikum wa Rahmatullahi”* and the believers repeat.

***Peace and Mercy of Allah be upon you.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Interment</u> Rosehill Cemetery Linden, New Jersey</p>



Ad-Dhuha

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent the Merciful
By the morning hours
And by the night when it is stillest
Thy Lord hath not forsaken thee nor doth he hate thee
And verily the latter portion will be better for thee than the former
And verily thy Lord will give unto thee so that thou wilt be content
Did He not find thee an orphan and protect (thee)
Did He not find thee wandering and direct (thee)
Did He not find thee destitute and enrich (thee)?'
Therefore the orphan oppress not
Therefore the beggar drive not away
Therefore of the bounty of thy Lord be thy discourse

Acknowledgements

The family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.

Professional Service Entrusted To:



579 Grove Street, Irvington, New Jersey 07111

Khadija Samad, Manager

Telephone: (973) 399-8400

Fax: (973) 399-8405

