

A Celebration of Life for
Herman William Billups
Sunrise: March 23, 1952 - Sunset: May 30, 2022



Saturday, June 11, 2022 - 12pm

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church
1795 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10029

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

"His Eyes is On The Sparrow"

Prayer

The Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58
Mrs. Ariana Adams

The Lesson: Revelations 21:1-7
Mr. Marvin Billups, Jr.

Selection

Mr. Evan Carnegie

Obituary

Mr. Aswad Billups

Selection

Mr. Lonny Youngblood

Selection

"Better Days"

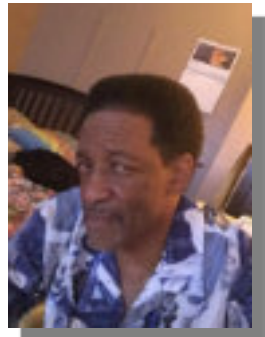
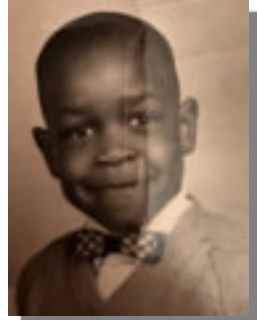
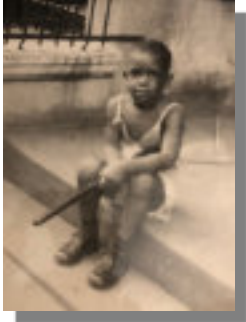
Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

FINAL DISPOSITION:
Oxford Hills Crematory
Chester, New York



Reflections Of Life

Herman William Billups, affectionately known as “Lerch”, was born to the union of Herman Billups and Mary Lou Henson Billups on March 23rd, 1952 in Harlem, New York. He was the eldest of six children and the protective big brother. Herman departed this life on May 30th, 2022. Herman had a true warrior spirit which was evidenced in his character and all that he accomplished. It was his way.

Herman was a loving and devoted father to his three children, Aswad (“Swady”), Herman, Jr. (“Darman”) and his “baby girl”, Chrisdalene (“Forfia”). They were the light of his life and he anchored them through his unwavering and unconditional love. He was an affectionate uncle to his many nieces, nephews, grand and great grand nieces and nephews and goddaughter-niece, Alexis.

Herman enjoyed a remarkable life. As a native Harlemithe he grew up on 142nd Street and Lenox Avenue. Herman developed a bond with a special network of friends who later came to be known as the widely acclaimed “LA Boys”. He earned the moniker “Lerch” because of his distinguished height that resulted in his towering appearance. This unique bond endured throughout the decades. As a youth, Herman enjoyed deep sea and surf fishing trips with his father who would include his friends, building cherished and memorable bonds. Herman quickly exhibited strong leadership qualities as a youth.

Herman attended P.S. 100, Frederick Douglass Jr. High and Brandeis High School where he forged relationships that would be life-long. He attended Audrey Cohen College, Queens Borough College and Orange County Community College. Herman held an Ulster County Community College Landscaping Management Associates Degree.

An avid basketball player in his teens and young adulthood, Herman, at 6’5”, was renowned for his powerful left-handed jump shot ability and even played in high-stakes games against Street Ball legend Herman “Helicopter” Knowings. Herman played for Queensborough College and was such a valued player that he was able to forego practice sessions. He remained a devout New York Knicks fan.

Herman was jovial and fun loving; a meticulous dresser and always dapper, sporting his carefully coordinated leisure suits and when he wasn’t wearing a hat, on special occasions, his carefully coiffured hair cut or signature style blow-out Afro. He was strikingly fashionable in anything ranging from a Bermuda shorts ensemble to tails; he wore them all. He was a deep thinker and authored very poignant and cerebral writings. Herman was the neighborhood “counselor” in his later years providing his grassroots empathy and therapy. He shared the benefit of his life experiences and freely advised, particularly the youth, to complete their education and stay on a positive track in life. Herman was a seasoned traveler and enjoyed trips with his friends and family.

Herman had a diverse employment background. He was an Assistant Supervisor to the Corsi Union Settlement for Seniors, Clerical Aide to the Church on The Hill, Easter Seals, NY, a Case Worker for the New York City Department of Social Services, an Activity Specialist for the Police Athletic League (PAL), a Residence Counselor for the Washington Heights Mental Health Council and an Assistant Director for the 1199 Recreation Center.

As an Entrepreneur, Herman, aka “Lerch”, garnered a reputation as a Special Events Promoter. He coordinated successful and highly popular dances with the “LA Boys” across four decades in Harlem and the Bronx. The event sites included the Harlem State Office Building, Minisink Town House, The Savoy, Kennedy Center, The National Black Theatre and the “Rennie” (Harlem Renaissance Ballroom). You were sure to have a good time at an “LA Boys” production.

“Lerch” was loved by so many, and he will be missed more than words can express.

Herman was preceded in death by his father, Herman G. Billups and sister, LeeAnna Billups. His legacy will continue to live on through his beloved children, Aswad Billups, Herman Billups, Jr. and Chrisdalene Billups. He is survived by the mothers of his children, Adrienne Thomas and Darlene Rivers. Herman leaves to cherish his memory, his mother, Mrs. Mary Lou Billups; siblings, Karen (Joseph) Horry, Gregory (Janet) Billups, Robert (Yvonne) Billups, Marvin (Debbie) Billups and Earl Holland; nieces and nephews, Nathania Billups-Grenaway, Ariana Adams, Tajlia Horry, Courtney Ramsey, J’Nel Billups, Jenise Billups, Gregory Billups, Robert Billups, Jr., Ryan Billups, Marvin Billups, Alexis Billups, Stewart Holland and John Holland; great nephew and nieces, Christopher Adams, Maya Adams and Avery Adams; great grand nephew, MasyN Billups; and a host of family and friends.

In his last days he was lovingly cared for by his close friend, Ekaterina Bolshakova.

“Lerch”, your time on earth touched so many and life without you is not going to be easy. We will remember your unwavering strength and your feisty spirit as your memories provide us the strength to continue to move forward.

Your suffering is over Big Fella, fly high and rest well and continue to watch us until we meet again.

“We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”
— 2 Corinthians 5:8 (NKJV).

Lovingly Submitted, The Family

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God made 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.
Task left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close 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 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.

Acknowledgement

The family of Herman William Billups wishes to express sincere thanks and deep appreciation for all of your love and condolences during this difficult time. Your love and thoughtfulness will be treasured always. May God grant unto each of you His richest blessings.

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