

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE
OF**



JOHN ALEXANDER SHAW
December 12, 1951 - June 13, 2022

Memorial Service:
Saturday, June 25, 2022 @ 5PM

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

OBITUARY

John Alexander Shaw, age 70, passed away on June 13, 2022 at his home due to natural causes. He was firstborn to the late Samuel and Lucille Shaw on December 12, 1951 in New York City. John grew up in Steven Foster aka King Towers Housing along with 6 siblings. He graduated from Holy Cross University with a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy. He later earned his Master's in Social Work at Fordham University. He worked diligently and dedicated his life to the profession of social services.

John's self-sacrificing love for people was apparent by his dedication to his work at Harlem Hospital, Kennedy Center, St. Bernard's and Sun River. Aside from his work, John had a passion for cycling, basketball, chess and reading. John had a kind, thoughtful, dynamic, approachable personality. He had the uncanny ability to reach people in a deep and positive way through spending quality time with individuals while doing activities.

Johnny is survived by his siblings: Charles, Roslyn, Cynthia and her husband Louis, Ivette, Janice, James and wife Irene. His nieces and nephews who were profoundly affected by his loving counsel: Tiyeesha, Tanya, Eugene, Eric, Tishira (Roslyn's); Louis, Marcus, LaVar, Ebony, Shari, Gina (Cynthia's); Janelle, Bernard (Ivette's); Jauhneira, Niajhira (Janice's); Jayrene and Katelina (James's). Along with several grandnieces and grandnephews that loved him dearly. His energy is carried by extended family and friends Sharlene Giles and Yvonne Brown – Heneley. Undeniably, he will be deeply missed by a host of cousins, friends, colleagues and students. His memory lives on in all of the lives he altered for the better.

EULOGY

There is more happiness in giving. I guess that's why John Shaw was such a happy person. His heart was happy with the results of investing time and imparting wisdom to us all. One example is of a young teen who Johnny often escorted to ER because of severe pain. Doctors suggested special treatment, but Johnny said no special treatment. His healing method was simply to tap into the great God-given mind we all have. Mind over matter and it worked! Johnny was a proponent of self-determination. The results were she attended regular school, moved up to manager, homeownership and even childbirth. That was more than her 15 yr. old self could have ever imagined to achieve!

Johnny, Chucky and Woody were in Morningside Park and decided to climb that 3-story high stone wall. Half way up Chucky got so frightened of heights he could not move. Soon he heard his brother's voice guiding him step by step back down. They snapped about Chucky's frightened face for days. Johnny could talk you down any ledge.

Although John earned degrees, he didn't boast about how much he knew. Degrees didn't define him. Common sense and logic is what he was after and he often commended and praised others. Remaining single (we wondered who he would marry) by choice, afforded him the privilege to serve the community wholeheartedly. The method he implored was simply brotherly love to fight addictions, domestic violence, prejudice, and poverty. He knew love conquers all and love is the cornerstone of a strong community.

Johnny loved music. You often saw him riding his bike, playing chess, basketball or just talking to someone. He used sports as a means to draw you out and help you develop people skills. Johnny acted like a mirror to help you see yourself clearer. So let's continue to be better because John A. Shaw touched our lives. PEACE

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

by Tanya Richam-Odoi

To our uncle Johnny,

May our lives embody the lessons you taught, the life you lived and love you shared. You did not give us the answers and yet the problems were always solved. You simply guided each of us to open our minds to what the solution could be and then encouraged us to do the leg work to have that which we hoped and dreamed for come to pass. Your abounding support for each of us was tailor made. You took the time, learned and understood what each of us was made of and allowed us the space to rise up to our own capabilities. While patiently listening to what was going on in our lives, you never dominated the conversation with your own affairs, although there were probably many.

Uncle Johnny you were great to all of us and had a remarkable impact in all of our lives. You played a major role to not only our family, but our friends, your colleagues and community. A father figure to some, we know you often compared life's lessons to sports, and the game of chess, and you used these things to help us gain understanding. Your legacy will live on in the current generation and for many generations to come. in your words
PEACE.

Adoringly submitted,
The next generation and beyond

JOHN SHAW DESTINY HELPER

by Janice Shaw

John Shaw was not just a life coach, giving you a skill set; He was a destiny helper, advancing your life's purpose, to utilize that skill set. John was not just a sounding board, helping you to self-actualize and realize your potential.

He helped me to imagine Jehovah Gibbor, the God of Armies, in the struggle against oppression, injustice and systemic racism.

He was God's foot soldier, called to enhance the minimum standard from surviving to persevering - advancing human dignity!

And so it is appropriate to read this excerpt on the war we fight against oppression and indignity, from a Jamaican American poet Claude McKay, "If We Must Die"

If we must die, O let us nobly die.
So that our precious blood may not be shed in vain;
Then even the monsters we defy
Shall be constrained to honor us though dead!
O kinsmen! We must meet the common foe!
Though far outnumbered let us show us brave,
And for their thousand blows deal one death blow!
What though before us lies the open grave?
Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,
Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back!

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