

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

A portrait of an elderly Black man with glasses, wearing a white shirt and a grey suit jacket. The background is a soft, light grey gradient.

Wilfredo Toppin

December 22, 1945 - July 13, 2022

MONDAY, JULY 25, 2022 - 10:00 AM

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI-ST. BLAISE
1081 Nostrand Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Order of Service

Placing the Christian Symbol

Entrance Song “Ave Maria” by Franz Shubert

First Reading: Old Testament - Wisdom 3:1-9.....Clarine Johnson

Responsorial Psalm - 23rd Psalm

Second Reading: New Testament - Romans 8:31-39Janella Toppin

Gospel Fr. Antonius Peter Gopaul
St. Vincent Ferrar Roman Catholic Church

Homily Fr. Antonius Peter Gopaul

General Intercessions

Gifts Brought Forward

Preparation of Gifts “I Surrender All”

Communion Hymn “Lord, When You Came To the Seashore”

Obituary Loretta Lucas

Final Commendation Song “On Eagle’s Wings”

Recessional Song “For All The Saints” (Organ)



Obituary



Wilfredo Toppin (lovingly known as “Willie” to friends and “Fredo” to family) was born in Havana, Cuba on December 22, 1945 to (the late) Thelma McIntosh and Rupert Toppin.

Fredo received his early education in Havana, Cuba going to English school in the mornings and Spanish school in the afternoons. In 1958, he migrated to the United States when the Castro regime came into power. In 1964 Wilfredo graduated from East New York Vocational Technical High School. After graduating, he began his employment career with The Katz Garment Company until he was drafted into the

United States Army on February 16, 1966 where he served for two years. After his honorable discharge from the Army he attended New City Community College.

In 1971 Wilfredo met the love of his life, Elaine Arnold. They were married on June 23, 1973. Of this union two children were born, Keon in 1976 and Cherisse in 1981.

Wilfredo was employed at Ernst & Young for fourteen years followed by The New York City Teachers Retirement System until his retirement in 2008. On September 15, 2008 he and his wife moved to Palm Coast, Florida.

In April 2019, after sixty years of living in the United States, Wilfredo was able to go back to Cuba, the country of his birth to be reunited with all of his family members, even ones he was meeting for the first time.

One of Wilfredo’s favorite sports was bowling. During his retirement, he joined several leagues where he won numerous trophies. His other hobbies included watching baseball, especially his favorite team the New York Yankees. And we cannot forget his love for horse racing!

His love of music was unparalleled. He loved all genres of music especially Jazz and Latin music which originated with his Cuban roots.

On the morning of July 13, 2022 the Lord called Wilfredo home. He leaves to cherish his memories his loving wife Elaine of 49 years. His children: Keon and Cherisse; daughter-in-law Janella; three granddaughters: Keanna, Taylor and Quinn; His sisters-in-law: Joan, Loretta, Clarine and Alma; his nieces and nephews: Louis, Heather, Melanie, Nigel, Faith, Carter, Nehemiah, Paige, Sky, Tycora, Vatahny, Andrae, Robert, Lascelle Jr. and Barry; his cousins: Sylvia “Nenita” (Chuck), Jennifer, Olga “Cusa” (Stanley), Marcy, Gloria, Eloy (Lauren), Miriam (Russell), and Sonia; friend Judith and numerous other cousins, nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Wilfredo also leaves behind his childhood and lifelong friends whom he loved like brothers: Rex Anderson (Adelaida) and Ronald Roberts (Gail).

Wilfredo was a remarkable man, husband and dad. He was a father-figure to everyone in the family. He will be sorely missed and forever remembered.

Entombment

PINELAWN MEMORIAL PARK AND ARBORETUM
2030 Wellwood Avenue • Farmingdale, New York 11735

Asleep

I've closed my eyes and fallen asleep, So there's no reason for
you to weep; This is a debt we all must pay,

You will see me again someday.

I've endured pain and sometimes sorrow, Now I don't have to
worry about tomorrow. But life for you must go on, You must
not worry because I'm gone.

You stood beside me all the way,

When I was down, you knew what to say ... You always told me,
"get some rest," Let me sleep now, I've done my best.

So please let me rest in peace,

The tears you're shedding soon will cease. You'll soon realize
this was meant to be, I thank God because He came for me.

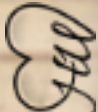
-Author unknown



Acknowledgments

The family of **Wilfredo Toppin** acknowledges with great appreciation all acts of
kindness, sympathy and love extended to us during this time of bereavement.

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