

CELEBRATING THE LIFE
OF



ROBERT HERBERT “RH” JENKINS

July 26, 1938 – January 26, 2025

Sunday, February 9, 2025 - 3PM

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

OBITUARY

Robert Herbert Jenkins, affectionately known as “RH” to those who loved him, lived a life rich with determination, style, and an unwavering commitment to reaching goals. Born at home on July 26, 1938, delivered by midwives, Robert was the firstborn child of Robert Sr. and Emma Jenkins—a blessing that set the tone for a life steeped in hard work and overcoming odds.

Growing up in Sylvester, Georgia, RH was nurtured by the strong influences of his paternal grandparents, “Grandpa” and “Grandma Bessie,” and his beloved bonus grandmother, “Grandma Chunky.” While his grandfather instilled in him a shrewd sense of business and the value of discipline—teaching him the importance of work through lessons learned on the family farm—his grandmothers provided the warmth, wisdom, and essential skills that would later guide him in building a home and raising four daughters. For over forty years, Robert and Grandma Chunky shared a cherished bond as fishing buddies, a relationship that came to symbolize the unconditional love and kindness that defined his southern upbringing.

From an early age, Robert’s faith played a pivotal role in his life. As a young boy, he gave his life to Christ and was baptized at Zion Grove Baptist Church in Worth County, Georgia, where he also attended primary school. This strong spiritual foundation accompanied him through every chapter of his life.

At nineteen, Robert answered the call of duty and was drafted into the United States Army, serving with honor as a member of Company A, Eighth Battalion at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. After his military service, he joined his family in Harlem, New York, - a new beginning that marked the start of his journey as a husband, father, and entrepreneur. Drawing from the fortitude, work ethic, and business acumen instilled in him by his grandparents, Robert built a series of successful ventures spanning the construction and garment industries. Perhaps most dear to his heart was his mobile seafood cart, where he combined his love of business, conversation, cooking, and, of course, seafood.

Renowned for his impeccable style, Robert believed that how one dressed should reflect their aspirations. Whether donning one of his many precisely tailored Italian suits and freshly shined shoes or ensuring every strand of his dark, thick, tightly coiled hair was in perfect place, he carried himself with a bold confidence and grace. Even his fishing outings were marked by a touch of elegance—opting for a dress shirt, business slacks, and a signature gold watch over more casual attire.

A man of brilliant intellect and charismatic presence, Robert was a voracious reader who kept abreast of world events, favoring talk radio and spirited debates over idle chatter. Unapologetically pro-Black, he was a passionate advocate against apartheid in South Africa and a vocal supporter of justice for Black Americans. His capacity to engage with diverse ideas and people made him a respected businessman with connections spanning racial, socioeconomic, and religious lines.

Though he thrived in the fast-paced energy of New York City and the welcoming suburban ambiance of his Mount Vernon home, at heart, Robert was always a “country boy.” He found profound joy in simple pleasures—fishing, smoking wild game, crafting muscadine wine in his kitchen, and, above all, spending time with his loved ones. In 2012, he embraced an opportunity to return to his roots in Albany, Georgia, yet life’s journey eventually brought him back to his Mount Vernon residence, where he remained until he was called home.

Robert is predeceased by his parents, Robert Sr. and Emma Jenkins, and his sister, Lucille Thomas. He leaves behind a legacy of love, resilience, and an unyielding spirit through his cherished daughters Dorothy Powell (Bronx, NY), Denise Howard (Gene) (Atlanta, GA), Stacey J. Grundy (Atlanta, GA), and Zaire Britt (Bronx, NY); his siblings Maurice Jenkins (Deloris) (Sylvester, GA), Delores Houston (Atlanta, GA), Gloria Burch (Queens, NY), Nabeeha “Cookie” Rasheed (Kamal) (Peoria, AZ), and Olivia Allen (Douglasville, GA); along with his seven adored grandchildren—Javon Gibson (Albany, GA), David Powell (Bronx, NY), Darnell Howard (Atlanta, GA), CJ Grundy (Atlanta, GA), Chaton Powell (McDonough, GA), Dekea Gibson (New York), Trinity Grundy (Atlanta, GA), and CJ Grundy (Atlanta, GA). He is also survived by a special friend, Vanessa Britt, numerous great-grandchildren, and a host of extended family members and friends who will forever cherish his memory.

Robert Herbert Jenkins’ life was a testament to the power of love and perseverance. His legacy is carried forward in the lives he touched, the values he imparted, and the indelible mark he left on history. As we celebrate his remarkable journey, we honor a man who taught us that true success is measured not only by worldly achievements, but by the mark you leave on the lives of those who love you. May his spirit continue to inspire all who knew him.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional Denise Howard/ Zaire Britt (Daughters)

Musical Selection..... God's Got a Blessing (With My Name On It)
Norman Hutchins

Scripture Readings

Old Testament(Psalm 23:1-6) - David Powell)

New Testament..... (John 14:1-3) - Darnell Howard (Grandson)

Prayer

Selection..... I Won't Complain - Paul Jones

Moments of Reflection..... Gloria Burch (Sister)
Javon Gibson (Grandson)
Stacey Jenkins Grundy (Daughter) & Friends

Reading of the Obituary (Silent Reading)

Musical Selection..... My Soul is Anchored – Douglas Miller

Eulogy Rev. James Kilgore

Committal

Viewing

Recessional Going Up Yonder- Walter Hawkins

*Refreshments and Fellowship to follow service
Concourse Village
777 Concourse Village East
Bronx, NY 10451*

Final Disposition:
Oxford Hills Crematory
Chester, New York

We little knew that morning,
God was going to call your name;
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same,
It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone;
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home,
You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide;
And though we cannot see you,
You are always by our side
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.

By Krupa

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.

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