



Acknowledgements

Our family wishes to extend our profound and sincere gratitude for the outpouring of love, support, and prayers during this difficult time. Through our cherished memories, **BRIAN** will live on in our hearts forever. May we continue to celebrate his life by living freely and with gratitude every single day that we have the ability to take a breath.

Arrangements Entrusted to:


BENTA'S
Funeral Home, Inc.
630 St. Nicholas Avenue
New York, NY 10030
Phone: (212) 281-8850
Fax: (212) 234-3600

In Loving Memory of



Brian Dwayne Watson

SUNRISE: MARCH 16, 1977 - SUNSET: FEBRUARY 11, 2024

Funeral Service

Thursday February 29, 2024 • 3:00 PM

BENTA'S FUNERAL HOME, INC.

630 St. Nicholas Avenue • New York, New York 10030

REVEREND KEITH DENNIS, *Officiating*

ALSON FARLEY, *Minister of Music*

Interment

Friday, March 1, 2024

ROSEHILL CEMETERY

Linden, New Jersey

Order of Service

MUSICAL PRELUDE

INVOCATION REVEREND KEITH DENNIS

MUSICAL SELECTION “AMAZING GRACE”

SCRIPTURE READING

OLD TESTAMENT PSALM 11:1-10

NEW TESTAMENT 2 CORINTHIANS 4:18

PRAYER OF COMFORT REVEREND KEITH DENNIS

MUSICAL SELECTION “I SING PRAISES TO YOUR NAME”

REFLECTIONS FAMILY & FRIENDS
(TWO MINUTES PLEASE)

OBITUARY READING RENEE SIMMONS

MUSICAL SELECTION “SAFE IN HIS ARMS”

EULOGY REVEREND KEITH DENNIS

BENEDICTION REVEREND KEITH DENNIS

RECESSIONAL

Obituary

BRIAN DWAYNE WATSON was born on March 16, 1977, at Brooklyn Jewish Hospital to his loving parents Denise Johnson and George D. Watson. Brian was the cherished firstborn of three siblings, including Tabitha and Theo.

Raised in Harlem, Brian attended P.S. 123 and went on to attend middle school at I.S. 43, where he expressed interest in playing the game of chess. Brian was encouraged to explore his interest in the game by his science teacher Richard Gudonsky, who was also a chess player. The school later hired Maurice Ashley, the first black grandmaster, as a chess teacher. He coached Brian and a few of his classmates, who came to be known as the Raging Rooks. Under Mr. Ashley’s guidance, the Raging Rooks went on to win national championships, travel abroad, and even make the front page of The New York Times. Brian’s excellence and dedication to chess eventually earned him a scholarship to attend high school at The Day School in Manhattan, where he continued to excel in tournaments with the Raging Rooks.

After graduating from high school in 1995, Brian remained a steadfast ambassador for the game he loved by teaching at summer camps and chess clubs like Marshall Chess Club and New York City Chess Inc.

Beyond the chessboard, Brian played in basketball tournaments, often earning trophies for his skills on the court. He also enjoyed dancing, rapping, and connecting with people. Brian’s remarkable ability to relate to people from all walks of life was a defining trait of his character. Known for his outgoing personality and generosity, Brian had a heart of kindness and empathy. His willingness to help those in need within his community was evident to all who knew him. Brian’s impact on others was profound, leaving a lasting impression on those who were fortunate enough to know him.

However, Brian’s journey was not without its challenges. A year after beginning college at BMCC, he was diagnosed with a mental illness. Struggling to come to terms with this diagnosis, he turned to substance abuse as a means of coping with the shame and stigma that is often associated with mental health conditions.

Although it is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to Brian, we take comfort in knowing that he is finally at peace and free from the struggles that weighed him down.

Brian is survived by his loving mother Denise, sister Tabitha, and brother Theo. He also leaves behind aunts Darlene, Debbie, Renee McWhorter, and Renee Simmons, along with cousins Angela, Tyree, Tytin, Yolanda, Tyrone, Shawn, and Prianna, along with a host of extended family and friends.

During this time of mourning, the family expresses deep gratitude to Richard Gudonsky, Maurice Ashley, Gary Beck, Ben Shrony, Michael Propper, and Russell Morse for their unwavering love and support for Brian. Rest in peace, dear Brian. Your memory will forever be a blessing to us all.
