

Sonny's Treasure Chest

These little tidbits about Sonny will give you an idea of the special person that was Sonny

CHOCOLATE MILK: *Sonny used to tell kids that black cows gave chocolate milk!*

SONNY ALWAYS TOLD KIDS: *Make sure you get an education. Take those civil service exams to get a good job with benefits.*

COOL LOOKS: *You don't HAVE to let your pants sag in order to look cool. Nobody wants to see your drawers.*

SONNY'S "SPANISH": *Questedes quiskelles quista Sonny was a great guy. He loved to laugh and to see a little black boy or black girl become a success.*

Pallbearers

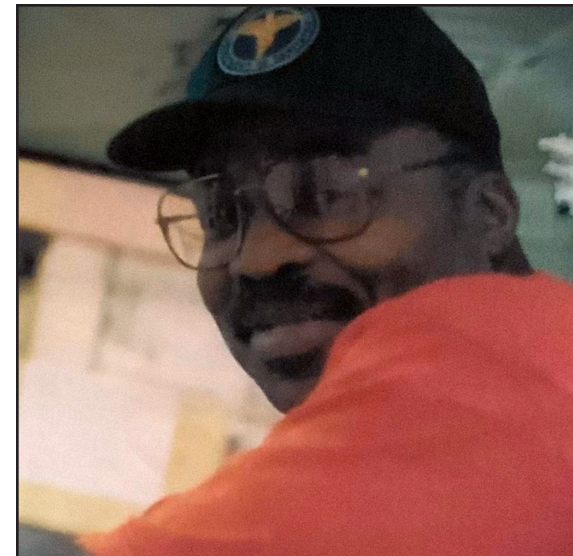
ALLEN DOWNEY
JOEY DOWNEY
TONY MARTIN
ANTHONY MCLEOD
DONALD MCLAUGHLIN
PATRICK MCLAUGHLIN
JOHN "TRE" REYNOLDS, III

Acknowledgement

The family of **SONNY MARTIN** wishes to thank everyone who has provided their loving gifts of time, encouragement, and support at this challenging time of sorrow and grief. Your calls, visits, words of comfort, and your donations are all very much appreciated and made such a difference for us. Our prayers are that you and your family are blessed.

ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:


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



"Well done, good and faithful servant".

HOMEGOING SERVICES FOR

James Wilbert Martin
"SONNY"

APRIL 11, 1943 ~ NOVEMBER 16, 2022

FUNERAL SERVICE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2022 AT 12:00 P.M.

BENTA'S FUNERAL HOME

630 ST. NICHOLAS AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10030

REVEREND ANGELA M. REDMAN, *Officiating*
FABIAN RALPH, *Minister of Music*

FUNERAL SERVICE & INTERMENT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2022

NEW ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
3324 TRUENOVE STREET
SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

REVEREND DOUGLAS WATERSON, *Officiating*

"You have left a long lasting impression on so many. We will always love you."

Order of Service

New York

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF COMFORT Reverend Angela M. Redman

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament

New Testament

MUSICAL SELECTION Mekhi Bratton & Clarissa McLeod

REFLECTIONS Family & Friends (Two Minutes Please)

MUSICAL SELECTION Mekhi Bratton

OBITUARY Charlotte Grant

EULOGY Reverend Angela M. Redman

COMMITTAL

FINAL VIEWING

RECESSIONAL

North Carolina

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF COMFORT Bishop Charles Mellette

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament

New Testament

MUSICAL SELECTION New Zion Mass Choir

REFLECTIONS Family & Friends (Two Minutes Please)

MUSICAL SELECTION New Zion Mass Choir

OBITUARY Lakisha McLaughlin

EULOGY Rev. Douglas Waterson & Rev. Gerome Williams

COMMITTAL

FINAL VIEWING

RECESSIONAL

Interment

NEW ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY
SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

James Wilbert *Obituary*

SONNY MARTIN was born in Carthage, North Carolina, to Bonnie and Willie Mae Martin on April 11, 1943, the fifth of seven children. Sonny and his siblings were raised and schooled in Sanford, North Carolina.

Until his last days, Sonny lovingly recalled his upbringing in Sanford; however, he moved to New York City to live with his older brother, Juke, when he was sixteen years old. He was a hard and diligent worker, and with his great personality he made friends wherever he went. He worked for a few trucking companies, and for Deer Park Water Company, but after 20 years he retired from New York City's Sanitation Department in 2005.

Sonny met and was married to his Harlem-born wife for over 51 years. They had an enjoyable life with their daughter, Larisa, but there were also so many other children in their life. Sonny never met a child who didn't love him and Sonny loved children. In addition to his own, Sonny entertained nieces, nephews, a goddaughter, and children of friends. He took them to parks, lakes for toe-dipping and fishing, and sometimes just for car rides, as long as the children could laugh and have fun. Adults had more than their share of fun with Sonny and he was indisputably recognized as a reliable standup guy.

Whether with mournful tears, or a smile or even a laugh, Sonny leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Franz; his daughter Larisa Reynolds, two granddaughters, Janay and Brianna; one grandson, John "Tre", four great grandsons, Za'Myr, Zy'Ahn, Eric, and Kalif; one great granddaughter, Zuri. Sonny also leaves two brothers, Ernest "Juke" and Peter; three sisters, Dorothea MacLaughlin, Rosa Downey, and Jean McLean; a goddaughter, Shalonda' and a host of relatives and friends. Sonny was preceded in eternal rest by his sister Ella Mae MacLaughlin.