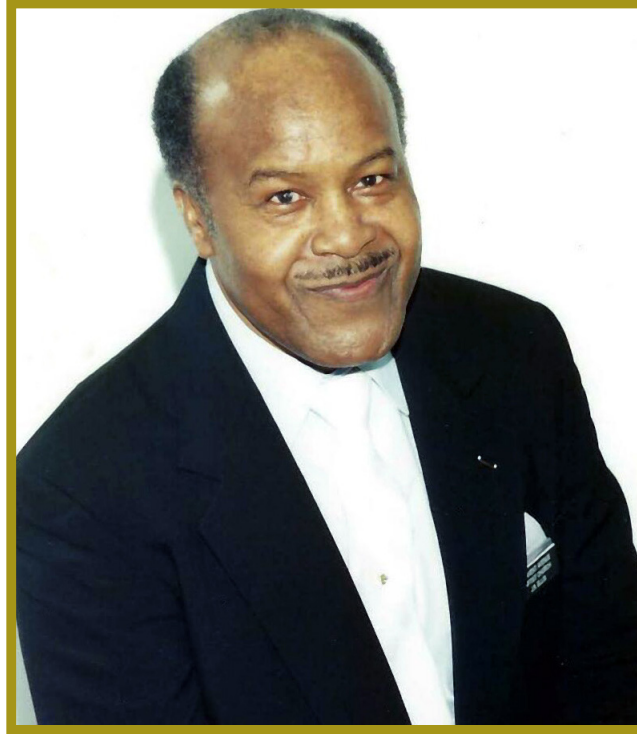


Celebrating the Life of



Johnnie Richard Ellis

SUNRISE: DECEMBER 20, 1938 ~ SUNSET: DECEMBER 27, 2023

Funeral Service

Friday, January 5, 2024 • 10:00 AM

CONVENT AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

420 West 145th Street • New York, NY 10031

REV. DR. CHARLENE FAISON, *Officiating*

REV. DR. JAMES B. LOGAN, *Organist*

PROFESSOR GREGORY H. HOPKINS, *Musician*

Interment

CALVERTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Calverton, New York

Order of Service

ORGAN PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCES

HYMN “WE’VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH”

INVOCATION

SCRIPTURE

OLD TESTAMENT..... PSALM 23

NEW TESTAMENT JOHN 14: 1-6

SELECTION “HOLD TO GOD’S UNCHANGING HAND”

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS /REFLECTIONS FAMILY & FRIENDS

(Please Two Minutes)

OBITUARY READ SILENTLY

SELECTION “IF I CAN HELP SOMEBODY”

EULOGY..... REV. DR. JAMES B. LOGAN

SELECTION “WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN”

CLOSING PRAYER

RECESSIONAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE





Johnnie Richard Ellis

SUNRISE: DECEMBER 20, 1938 ~ SUNSET: DECEMBER 27, 2023

Obituary

JOHNNIE RICHARD ELLIS was born to the late Annie and James Oscar Ellis on December 20, 1938 in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. Johnnie was the second of eleven children; four of whom preceded him in death. He transitioned to a better place on Wednesday, December 27, 2023.

Johnnie graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Rocky Mount in 1956. After graduating, he took up employment at the local supermarket along with other jobs within Rocky Mount. His interests were drawing and he had an enthusiasm for putting together jigsaw puzzles that would later be framed.

On June 15, 1962, he was drafted into the Army Branch of the United States military. While in the Army, he was stationed in Tennessee and Germany for training and special operations. He trained to be a sharpshooter and had a specialty in Armor Intel (Infantry). For his latter part in the military, he was deployed to Vietnam as part of the Armored Cavalry better known as Blackhorse Regiment.

On May 13, 1968 in Vietnam, he suffered major injuries when his tank was hit by an RPG rocket while his company was ambushed by North Vietnam troops. After recovering from his injuries, Johnnie received an honorable discharge as Sergeant E-5 and received the National Defense Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze service stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Citation Badge, and the prestigious Purple Heart.

During his military career, Johnnie's sister, Jeanette, was the matchmaker who sparked the relationship between her brother and her college roommate, Daisy N. Hodge, who attended North Carolina A&T University. The two continued the courtship and by the grace of God, he made it back from Vietnam. They were married by the late Rev. Mannie L. Wilson on November 30, 1968. Their union produced one son, Jeffrey, on June 3, 1971.

Johnnie continued his career under the federal government as a Postal Worker at Post Office Branch #36 in Riverdale, NY. After 20+ years of service, he retired from the Post Office on January 28, 1994. He received the USPS NALC Retirement Award in 1983 for his excellent performance, dedicated service and loyal friendship. After retirement, he traveled with his wife Daisy wherever her career took her and everywhere in between (Caribbean, Europe, North & Central America). They resided in Basel, Switzerland for 18 months and in Toronto, Canada for 4 years. After 25 years of marriage, they renewed their marriage vows at Convent Avenue Baptist Church where Rev. Dr. M. Frances Manning-Fontaine officiated the ceremony.

Johnnie committed his life to Christ and was baptized at Convent Avenue Baptist Church (CABC) in January 1982. Johnnie's favorite chapter of the Bible is Psalm 23. In parallel to working as a NALC at the post office, Johnnie planted the seeds of discipline, perseverance and wisdom during his tenure as leader and member of several ministries at Convent Avenue Baptist Church. These included Assistant Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 711, Assistant Vice President, Treasurer & Secretary of the Male Usher Board, a loyal member of the Men's Fellowship & Sunday School Class, and the Folding Committee. He was recognized by the Men's Fellowship for Christian Leadership, Boy Scouts of America for dedication, Male Usher Board for dedication and service. In October 2022, Johnnie was recognized as the Senior Saint of the year for his faithful years of service unto the Lord at the Convent Avenue Baptist Church.

Johnnie leaves behind his loving wife of 55 years to celebrate his life, along with son Jeffrey, daughter in-love Denise, two awesome grandchildren - grandson Brandon, and granddaughter Taylor; sisters Jeanette Sanders (Adrian), Joyce Ellis, Matilda Suitt, Brenda Dancy (Vincent); brothers David Lee and James Oscar, Jr, and a host of devoted relatives (in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins) and friends. Appreciation to Deacons Calvin Martin, Lawrence Hudson and all those who supported the family during Johnnie's illness. Johnnie's smile, his humble spirit, and pleasant demeanor will forever be remembered and loved.

Tributes to Johnnie R. Ellis

"Mr. E. was one of a kind and always looked forward to seeing him when he was ushering" - Henry

"He was a role model to a lot of us, especially in the Boy Scout world. One of the adults that never flew off the handle on us. He stayed stern but extremely chill" - Charles

"Mr. Ellis was a Great man. Always greeted me with a hug and handshake" - David

"Mr. E was a Great man with an awesome spirit" - Eddie.

"He is the definition of Resilience" - Steven

"Your father was a great Man. A class act to the fullest and one of my favorites from Day 1" - Nic (Keith)

"Please continue to make him PROUD" - Jamal

"I've remembered your kindhearted sweetness. You will always have my favorite laugh in the family." Crystal

"He had the warmest "Hey Dame!!!" welcome, grip your hand, and shake it like a man. Strong Welcoming, Affirming." - Damon

"He was a very nice man and he made you, so I know he was a great father because you are" - Christine

"He's resting in GOD'S arms and in no more pain" - Felicia

"That's my smiling Uncle" - LaTherese

"I will always remember his smile and quiet presence. His calming spirit was a gift" - Deitra

"Johnnie was always a kind, loving, and generous person. I will always enjoy the memories." - Matilda

"Uncle Johnnie was an important part of my life - his smile, words of wisdom and hospitality will be forever remembered. Thank You for making me part of the Ellis family" - Sarah

"He was such a warm, kind, sweet, giving and gentle person, who had a smile and a laugh that lit up a room. We will always remember Johnnie's kindness toward our family and his love and his faithful service to God, his family and others. He fought the good fight. May he rest in peace." - The Samuels-Williams Family

"He always said that he trained Jeff on the skills of Ushering" - Tony

"There are so MANY memories of my Brother-in-law. It was all our pleasure." Judy, Melvin, and the kids.

"A cool guy who was easy to talk to and never complained" - VA Support Team

THE PALLIATIVE CARE TEAM

"Your kindness and smiles will always be remembered" - Kelsey

"I will never forget his beautiful smile" - Michaella

"It was an honor and great pleasure caring for Mr. Ellis" - Fern

"He was an amazing, angelic Soul. Keeping him and your whole family in our hearts and prayers - Gitika

Precious Memories, how they Linger How they ever Flood my Soul

Ellis (as I affectionately called you), it is with much sadness that I express this simple tribute to you. I will miss you dearly, but all the memories stored in my heart will never allow me to forget you. You were the dearest, trusting and supportive husband a girl could ever wish for. Your smile has captivated everyone who knew you, but it was first noticed and adored by me. I will always remember you for allowing me to be me, allowing me to spread my wings and being the wind beneath my wings. You loved to travel, but I never knew that you didn't like to fly. Your humble, loving and supportive character made life worth living for all of us. When I was ready for a "good verbal interaction", you just looked at me with that smile and shook your head. You were an amazing Dad to your son Jeffrey. From childhood to manhood, you did whatever was necessary to ensure that he knew you loved and supported him. And your daughter-in-love Denise, she could do no wrong. Your amazing grandchildren loved their Grandpa; they will miss you also, and will always remember the good times with Grandpa. So, to my dearest husband, Father, Father-in-love, and Grandpa, you have fought a good fight, you have finished your course, you have kept the faith. Rest in eternal peace until we see each other again.

Lovingly,
Dee (Daisy N. Hodge Ellis)

"He was that guy - Dependable, Resilient, Smooth, and The Scout Law" - Jeffrey

"Best Father-in-Law ever. Always willing to take a selfie with me.

I will miss his smile, chats, and his caring and loving spirit" - Denise

"Whenever I was with my Grandfather, he always had a smile on his face. I will never forget that" - Brandon

"Grandpa was always smiling and his presence always brought me joy. I hope he is still smiling now" - Taylor



Acknowledgements

The family of **JOHNNIE R. ELLIS**, wishes to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during this difficult time.

Arrangements Entrusted to:



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