

HIS JOURNEY'S JUST BEGUN

*Don't think of him as gone away—
His journey's just begun,
Life holds so many facets—
This earth is only one.
Just think of him as resting
From the sorrows and the tears
In a place of warmth and comfort
Where there are no days and years
think how he must be wishing
that we could know today
How nothing but our sadness
Can really pass away.
And think of him as living
In the hearts of those he touched...
For nothing loved is ever lost—
And he was loved so much.
-Ellen Brenneman*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The family of the dearly departed Marion Ronald Coleman would like to express their appreciation to his beloved Convent Avenue Baptist Church family and all of the individuals who assisted in providing care and support during his time of illness until his recent passing. The family wishes to express a special thank you to his hospice team which included his nurse-Vanessa, Social Worker-Dani, his Chaplain-Sam and all the other individuals on his care team. The family also wants to share a note of special thanks to his home based caregiving team which included his personal caregiver-Justin, his SCAMP advocate-Della and Florine Brown and Waverly Lewis.

The family also wishes to express a heartfelt thank you to many other family members, friends and caregivers who offered prayers, generosity, shoulders of support and kind words during his final months with us. We are deeply appreciative of your many acts of kindness rendered during his period of infirmity and our time of bereavement. Your visits, prayers, cards, phone calls and texts during his illness and this moment of loss have been comforting and shall forever be remembered. THANK YOU!

PALLBEARERS

The family wishes to express their gratitude to the close family members and friends who will serve as Pallbearers for Coleman's Homegoing.

ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:


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

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE



MARION RONALD COLEMAN

"COLEMAN" "NAP"

ALPHA: JANUARY 15, 1930 - OMEGA: MARCH 18, 2024

FUNERAL SERVICE

Monday, March 25, 2024

Viewing: 9:00AM-10:00 AM

Service: 10:00AM-11:30 AM

CONVENT AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

420 West 145th Street • New York, New York 10031

REVEREND DR. JESSE T. WILLIAMS, JR., *Senior Pastor*

REVEREND DR. LA-TONIA JACKSON, *Associate Minister, Presiding*

DR. GREGORY H. HOPKINS, *Minister of Music*

ENTOMBMENT

WOODBRIIDGE MEMORIAL GARDENS

Woodbridge, New Jersey

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN PRELUDEDR. GREGORY H. HOPKINS

OPEN SENTENCES

HYMN#23“THE SOLID ROCK”

PRAYER OF COMFORT REVEREND MARIE MIKE

SCRIPTURES

OLD TESTAMENT: PROVERBS 3:1-12 REVEREND DR. CHARLENE FAISON

NEW TESTAMENT: MATTHEW 5:1-12 REVEREND BRENDA PRICE

MUSICAL SELECTION “WALK AROUND HEAVEN”
- PEGGY ALLEN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONDOLENCES..... CHURCH CLERK RORY MILLS

REFLECTIONS..... REVEREND BOOKER T. MORGAN
REVEREND JAMES LOGAN

MUSICAL SELECTION “HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW”
- TERESA GATTISON

REFLECTIONS..... LAJUAN PAYTON & SANDY WELFARE
EARL K. LEWIS

OBITUARY (*Read Silently*)..... “ONLY WHAT YOU DO FOR CHRIST WILL LAST”
- DR. GREGORY H. HOPKINS

MUSICAL SELECTION “SAFE IN HIS ARMS”
- ANNETTE SOTO MIDDLETON

EULOGY..... REVEREND DR. JESSE T. WILLIAMS JR., PASTOR

MUSICAL SELECTION“LET THE CHURCH SAY AMEN”
- DR. GREGORY H. HOPKINS

RECESSIONALDR. GREGORY H. HOPKINS

OBITUARY

MARION RONALD COLEMAN was born on January 15th, 1930, in Camden, South Carolina, to Charlie Coleman and Renee Portee Coleman. He loved to tell the story of his two birthdays. And all who knew him well knew he preferred to be called Coleman and was nicknamed “Nap” while growing up as a young child.

Coleman grew up on a farm and was educated in the Camden Public School System. With five dollars in his pocket, he left South Carolina to attend college on a baseball scholarship at the illustrious North Carolina A&T University.

Coleman left college in 1954 to join the United States Air Force. During his time in the Air Force, he served as a photographer, a passion that he continued practicing throughout his life. He continued to play the sport he loved on the Air Force’s baseball team, getting to travel the world for games. He was awarded the National Defense Service Metal and was honorably discharged in 1962.

After being discharged from the Air Force, Coleman moved to New York City to live with his brother Samuel. He worked in various jobs before securing his position as Principal Juvenile Counselor for the NYC Department of Juvenile Justice (Spofford Juvenile Center). He always spoke very fondly of his time working with the kids. With each story, he exuded the kindness he always showed for everyone, no matter their circumstance or background. He stayed in this position for over 25 years, finally retiring in 1994.

Coleman met his loving wife, Catherine Lewis, in 1972, and they were married on January 23rd, 1976. The couple resided in their beloved neighborhood, Sugar Hill, Harlem, for the entirety of their union. He joined Convent Avenue Baptist Church in the late 1970s and was an active member. Within a week of retirement from the Department of Juvenile Justice, Coleman leaped back into service by stepping in to run Convent’s Food Pantry, which was in danger of closing due to a lack of leadership. Coleman ran Convent’s Food Pantry for five years, which largely served homeless men in his community. He took pride in helping those around him and was often stopped and thanked by those he helped years later. In 2013, Coleman was recognized for his faithful years of service at Convent on Senior Saint’s Day as the Senior Saint of the Year.

A master conversationalist, to know Coleman was to know his stories and appreciation for history. He loved to talk and never discriminated against who he would speak to. His banter, stories, kindness, and jokes will be sorely missed. Coleman also took pride in serving as the family chauffeur, shuttling his wife, Catherine, to and from work daily and providing frequent rides to school, summer camp, and team sports outings for his children and grandchildren. In his free time, Coleman enjoyed fishing, reading anything and everything- particularly pieces featuring African American history and characters, and he had a deep passion for music, especially jazz.

Coleman was preceded in death by his loving parents; six brothers, Charlie Jr., David, James, Richard, Joseph, and Samuel; and five sisters, Janie, Cora, Minnie, Magnolia, and Bernice. He is survived by his wife, Catherine Coleman; three children, Eric (Maryann), Erica (Bruce), and Alisa; six grandchildren, Mychal, Brice, Ayanna, Trevor, Alexandra, and Coleman; his sister, Estelle Coleman James; his sisters-in-law Berlene Perry and Helen Lewis, his brother-in-law Waverly (Rosa) Lewis and his Goddaughter, Monique Rodolphe. He also leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and close friends whom he loved dearly.

Lovingly submitted,
The Family