

A Letter From Viola



Darling, for you I live; just to be near you; just to say to my own ears that I know who is the one I love.

In my every dream, there is only you. For it is you I love.

God has been so good to me. I'm forever grateful to Him for making you just for me.

For these years have been very happy ones for me.

I can't count the bad ones, for there have been so many, so very many good ones.

I'll always love you. For me there will never be another.

You have made all my dreams a reality.

I'm happy and I'm praying to God that I'll always be happy. For I know it was God & only God that made my dreams come true.

I'll forever be grateful to Him for making you mine.

*To my dearest Hubby.
Whom I love very much – I LOVE YOU.*

*Viola
August 13, 1958*

Acknowledgements

Our family is thankful to all who have shown such care for our loved one over the years; for support and prayers during this time, and for participation in the Celebration of Life for Ulric Basil Crosby, including:

AMITA Hospice, Rainbow Hospice, Oak Park Arms & Staff, Ahmad M. Marohombsar "Buddy", Franklin Marsh, MD, Msgr. John T. Meehan, Alexis Jeanene Sims – soloist, Rush Oak Park Hospital, Veterans Administration, West Suburban Medical Center, Patrick Desamours, Edward Jones & Staff, Kevin Beasley - photo montage, Drechsler, Brown & Williams Funeral Home (Oak Park, IL), Benta's Funeral Home (New York, NY), Mt. Hope Cemetery (Hastings on the Hudson, NY)

Arrangements Entrusted to:


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

Celebration of Life



Ulric Basil Crosby

SUNRISE: JUNE 17, 1920 - SUNSET: MAY 13, 2021

Homegoing Service

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 • 11:30 A.M.

BENTA'S FUNERAL HOME

630 St. Nicholas Avenue • New York, NY 10030

MSGR. JOHN T. MEEHAN, *Officiating*

ALSON FARLEY, *Minister of Music*

Interment

MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

Hastings-on-Hudson, New York

Order of Service

ORGAN PRELUDE

INVOCATION MSGR. JOHN T. MEEHAN

MUSICAL SELECTION “PRECIOUS LORD”

SCRIPTURE READING

OLD TESTAMENT - WISDOM 3:1-9 LORETTA HEADLEY

SELECTION “ROCK OF AGES”

SCRIPTURE READING

NEW TESTAMENT - MATTHEW 5:1-12A AALIYAH L. BROWN

MUSICAL SELECTION “GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS”

PRAYER MSGR. JOHN T. MEEHAN

OBITUARY MICHELE JEAN SIMS

REFLECTIONS FAMILY & FRIENDS
(PLEASE LIMIT TO TWO MINUTES)

LETTER FROM VIOLA CRYSTAL R. BROWN

MUSICAL SELECTION “UNFORGETTABLE”
ALEXIS J. SIMS

HOMILY MSGR. JOHN T. MEEHAN

BENEDICTION MSGR. JOHN T. MEEHAN

RECESSIONAL

Obituary

ULRIC BASIL CROSBY, the son of Doris Anita Henry and Basil Lancelot Crosby (Antigua, BWI), was born on June 17, 1920 in New York City. He attended New York City public schools and prior to his high school graduation entered the United States Army and was stationed at Fort. Dix, New Jersey. In April, 1951, he married Viola C. Crosby (Beaufort County, NC), the love of his life and remained married for 52 years. Uncle Nip adored Aunt Vi who affectionately called him ‘Nicky’. Throughout her prolonged 20 year illness, Uncle Nip faithfully cared for her.

Affectionately known as Uncle Nip/Uncle Nicky, as a young man he served his country during World War II attaining the rank of Corporal in the United States Army. He was part of the Army’s overseas Pacific Theater for 42 months and served stateside for five months. His occupational title was Medical Administrative Specialist and was awarded several decorations and citations including the Asiatic Pacific Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, the Philippines Liberation Ribbon, and the World War II Victory Medal. Upon his Honorable Discharge on December 12, 1945, Uncle Nip took advantage of the G.I. Bill and studied Radio and Television. Unable to find a meaningful job in that field, in April 1954, Uncle Nip took the Civil Service Test for the Signal Maintenance Division of the New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA) and remained with the NYCTA for nearly three decades. Due to his keen intellect, problem solving ability, and communicative skills, Uncle Nip was chosen to work on the Staff of the Executive Officer of Operations and Maintenance of the NYCTA. In that capacity he designed, ran, and maintained computer programs for the Executive Officer until the head of the Stores Department requested a ‘computer-oriented’ person for his staff. In February 1984, he retired from the Stores Department after 29 years with the title of Supervisor of Signals and has the distinction of being the first Black person to become an Assistant Supervisor and Supervisor of Signals in the NYCTA.

Uncle Nip was a true New Yorker – sharp, savvy, prudent, and he loved sports - especially baseball and basketball. He was a diehard New York Knick’s fan and later in the 1970s and 80s developed an appreciation for the Golden State Warriors’ gameplay. For someone who was always so fit, Uncle Nip loved food, especially shrimp, chicken, hamburgers, chocolate, and of course, his Pepsi! Music was also something he enjoyed, his favorite musicians were Louis Armstrong, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, and Dizzy Gillespie to name a few. Anyone who came in contact with ‘Nip’ was immediately impressed by his knowledge, good nature, authenticity, kind spirit, and sense of responsibility. Uncle Nip was meticulous in every aspect of his life – record keeping, clothing, and finances. If ever you shared a concern with Uncle Nip, he provided words of wisdom backed up with hard data! Uncle Nip was always both gracious and grateful, never complaining. He loved his family and was so thankful for the care and love shown. Whenever a person asked what the secret to his great health was, the centenarian would succinctly reply, “Go to your doctor and listen to him (her)!”

Family members’ recollections of Uncle Nip’s favorite phrases are: “Everything is lovely” “I am okay, how are you?”, and in earlier years, “It is what it is!” “ Power to the People!”

Uncle Nip is predeceased by his parents; sisters: Mrs. Muriel Headley (Kenneth), Julia E. Crosby, Mrs. Ethlyn R. Crosby Jean; stepmother, Mary Elizabeth Crosby; brother, Rudy Gregory Crosby; sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary Jane Covil Mann; niece, Jeanette Diane Headley.

Survivors include: nephews: Kenneth B. Headley (Andrea) and Roger St. Clair Headley (Sylvia); nieces: Denise Jean Robinson, Michele Jean Sims (Richard), Loretta Headley, Toni (Sonya) Mann-McFarlane, and Crystal R. Brown (Damon); grand and great-grand nephews: Raheem Robinson (Kyna), Chinua Mann-McFarlane, Matthew Sims, Raheem Robinson II (Takiyah), Naseem Robinson, Alan Brown, and Aaron Brown; grand, great-grand, and great-great grand nieces: Ayana Mann-Pereira, Alexis Sims, Kimberly (Joshua) Reyes, Kyna Rahni Robinson, Aaliyah Brown, and Mireya Reyes; and a host of cousins, including special cousins: Sandra Showell, Aliyah Shabazz, and Theresa Macklin.