

Dear Gregory (My Baby Boy)

My life is over now that you have left me. You took care of me as if you were the parent, you carried me on a cruise, to all of my social functions, to church and always respected me. We even had a special song that we sang together ("I Will Trust In The Lord"). We joked with each other constantly.

Love, Mama



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family of Mr. Gregory Edward McKinney appreciates the many acts of kindness extended to us during the homegoing of our loved one. Each expression of kindness will always be cherished. A special thanks to Ms. Josephine Smith, a wonderful neighbor and friend.

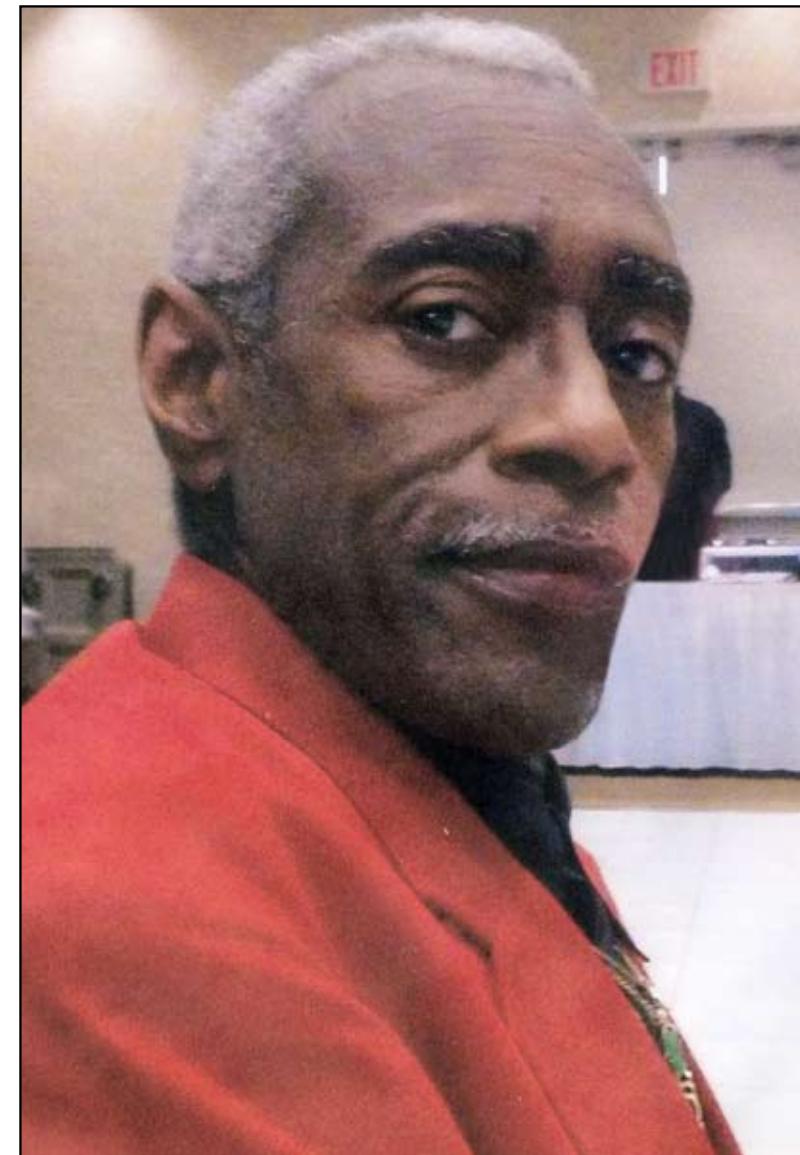
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FUNERAL SERVICE FOR MR. GREGORY EDWARD MCKINNEY



Tuesday, April 23, 2019

~ 1:00 P.M. ~

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

80 Walnut Street, Southwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30314

Dr. Richard W. Wills, Sr., *Pastor*
Reverend Caroline Terry, *Officiating*
Dr. Charles Albert Harper, III, *Eulogist*

OBITUARY

GREGORY EDWARD MCKINNEY

1952 - 2019

On Valentine's Day, February 14, 1952 at McLendon Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, Gregory Edward McKinney made his debut into this life. The second son of Billy McKinney and Melba Moore Carter he entered a proud and educated family. This alert, inquisitive little boy with bright eyes and generous warm smiles would grow into an intelligent, vibrant and socially adept young man who commanded attention. Growing up in a close-knit neighborhood, Gregory thrived. Friends and neighbors admired his exuberance and curiosity. Following his formative years at English Avenue Elementary School, Gregory entered the iconic Booker T. Washington High School where he made life-long friends. In his senior year, Gregory was voted Senior Superlative, "Most Talkative", a fitting tribute to his oratorical skills.

After graduating from Booker T. Washington High School, class of 1970, Gregory entered Morehouse College. There he would major in Business Administration and develop the gift of his singing voice as a member of the Morehouse College Glee Club. He would be a life-long singer and lover of all genres of music. Following his junior year at Morehouse, Gregory won a competitive internship and spent a summer at Proctor and Gamble in Cincinnati, Ohio. While there is also studied at the University of Cincinnati. Gregory was the quintessential Morehouse Man; well-spoken, well-traveled, well-dressed, well-informed and he deeply loved his Alma Mater. He graduated from Morehouse College in 1974 with honors. Gregory became the first African American to complete the Master of Public Health Administration Program at Georgia State University.

Following a noteworthy career in Health Administration as an Assistant Administrator at Southwest Community Hospital, faculty member at Meharry Medical College, Chief Epidemiologist at the Georgia Department of Human Resources and Program Director at Georgia Medicaid Agency, Gregory retired early and settled into a well-earned and comfortable life as a youthful retiree. He spent his time with his beloved mother, family and friends often contributing his voice to the choir at his home church, the historic Friendship Baptist Church. He also became an avid social-media devotee and developed a wide group of friends and colleagues with whom he discussed politics, health care, history and the state of Black America.

Gregory was a fiercely proud and unapologetic Atlanta native who knew his city and loved it unconditionally. Although he had favorite cities, New York, Chicago, Detroit, Miami, Budapest, Atlanta was his home and it was in Atlanta that he lived and flourished.

Gregory was a gentleman and moved with grace and style that announced he was a man of substance. Although this grace came naturally, he always gave Morehouse College credit for developing his grace. Gregory lived his life passionately and joyously. A world traveler, a lover of furs and diamonds, he cared deeply for his family and was a loyal friend. He had strong opinions and was not afraid to correct you if you were uninformed or out of order and he loathed ignorance.

The world is dimmer because Gregory's light is no longer in it. Those who loved him are left to marvel at the gift of having him in our lives. The significance of a life is measured by those who are left to mourn a passing. Gregory leaves his mother, Melba Moore Carter; his brother, James McKinney; his half-sister, Cynthia McKinney; his step-mother, Leola McKinney; his half-sister, Kim L. Bradley, his nieces, Morgan McKinney, Kierra L. Bradley, Kamarin N. Bradley, Kayla L. Romeo, and Lauren McKinney; his nephew, Gabriel Bradley; his sister-in-law, Janice McKinney; the Hardin Family; a host of life-long and loving sister friends and brother friends.

Heaven, prepare to be enthralled. Brother Gregory Edward McKinney is in your midst.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The Reverend Caroline B. Terry, *Officiating*

Organ Prelude.....	<i>Hark, A Voice Saith All Are Mortal, BWV 643.....</i>	Johann S. Bach
Dr. James Abbington, Director of Music Ministries and Church Organist		
Processional.....	<i>Largo (from Xerxes).....</i>	George F. Handel
Invocation.....		Reverend Caroline B. Terry
Hymnal Choir.....	<i>How Great Thou Art.....</i>	AAHH # 148
Scripture:		
The Old Testament, <i>Psalm 23</i>		Rev. Kevin Calhoun
The New Testament, <i>Philippians 3:7-21</i>		Rev. Angela Sutton
Solo	<i>Oh, What a Beautiful City.....</i>	arr. Edward Boatner
	Mr. Keith Chaplin	
Reflections:		
Family Friend	Dr. Elfred Anthony Pinkard, President, Wilberforce University	
Family (Brother).....		Mr. James McKinney
Piano Solo.....	<i>The Lord's Prayer.....</i>	Albert Malotte
	Ms. Alta Tena Sutton	
Congregational Hymn	<i>I Will Trust in the Lord.....</i>	AAHH # 391
Eulogy	Reverend Dr. Charles Albert Harper III	
	<i>Pastor, Paradise Missionary Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia</i>	
Solo.....	<i>My Way</i> Paul Anka/Jacques Revaux/"Comme d'habitude"	
	Elder Melvin Allen Tukes / Andre Mays, Accompanist	
Organ Hymn Medley.....	Dr. Abbington	
	<i>Flee as a Bird and Dear Old Morehouse</i> (Morehouse alumni are invited to stand and sing)	
Recessional.....	<i>For All the Saints.....</i>	AAHH 339

INTERMENT

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South-View Cemetery
1990 Jonesboro Road, Southeast
Atlanta, Georgia