

## *The Day God Took You Home*

You never said, "I'm leaving"  
You never said good-bye  
You were gone before I knew it,  
And only God knew why  
A million times I needed you,  
A million times I cried  
If love alone could have saved you,  
You never would have died  
In life, I loved you dearly  
In death, I love you still  
In my heart, you hold a place,  
That no one could fill  
It broke my heart to lose you,  
But you didn't go alone  
For part of me went with you,  
The day God took you home.

## *Note of Thanks*

With deep appreciation and gratitude, we wish to express our sincere thanks for all expressions of kindness shown during the loss of our loved one. It is through your love, prayers, and the Grace of God that we find strength and comfort.  
May God bless each and every one of you.

## *Arrangements Were Entrusted to:*

Gregory Funeral Service, Inc.  
601 North York Street  
Gastonia, North Carolina 28052  
704-867-4364

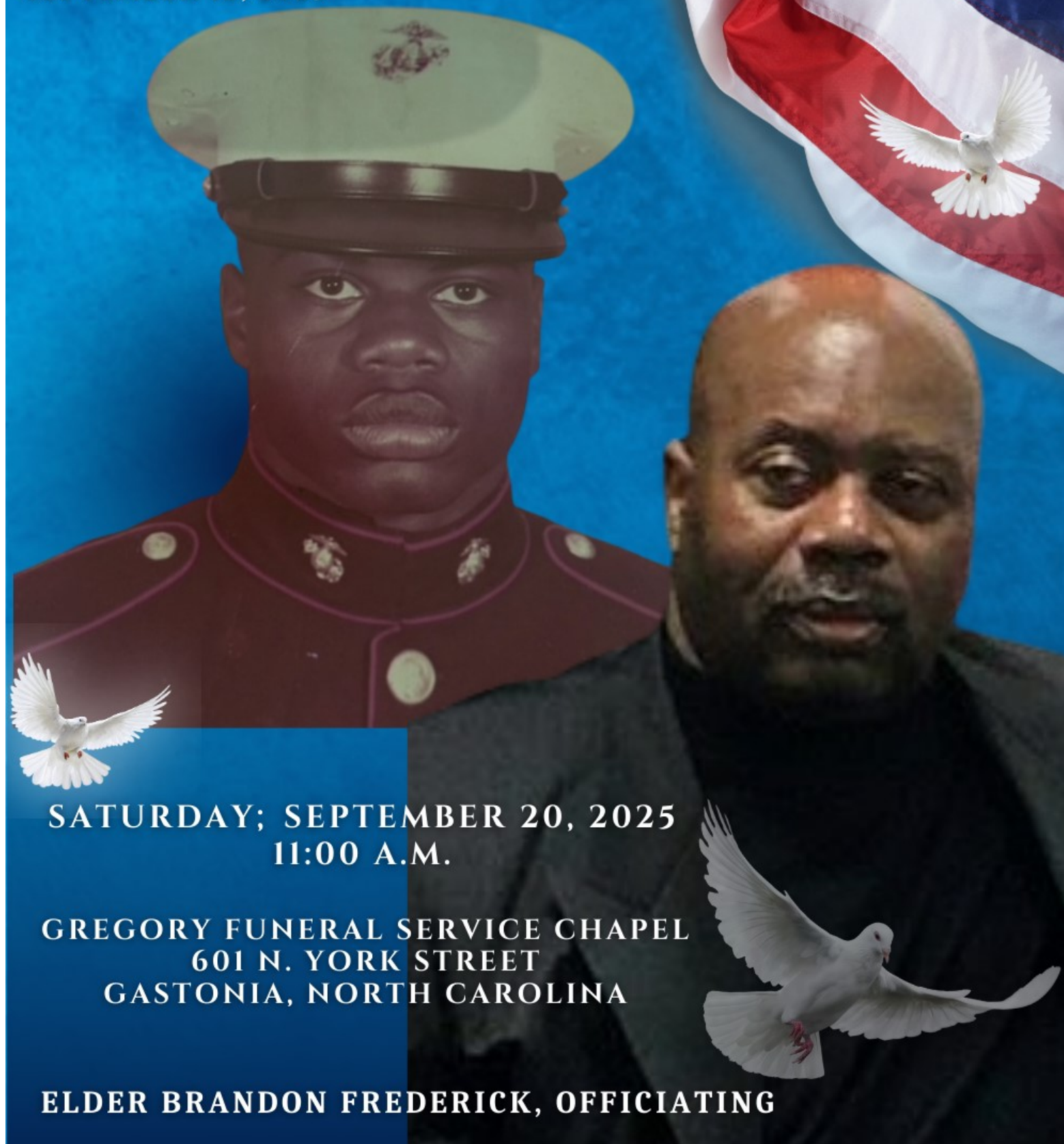
[www.gregoryfuneralservice.com](http://www.gregoryfuneralservice.com)

**Celebrating the life of**

SUNRISE  
SEPTEMBER 18, 1958

SUNSET  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

# *Bright Caesar*





# LIFE & LEGACY

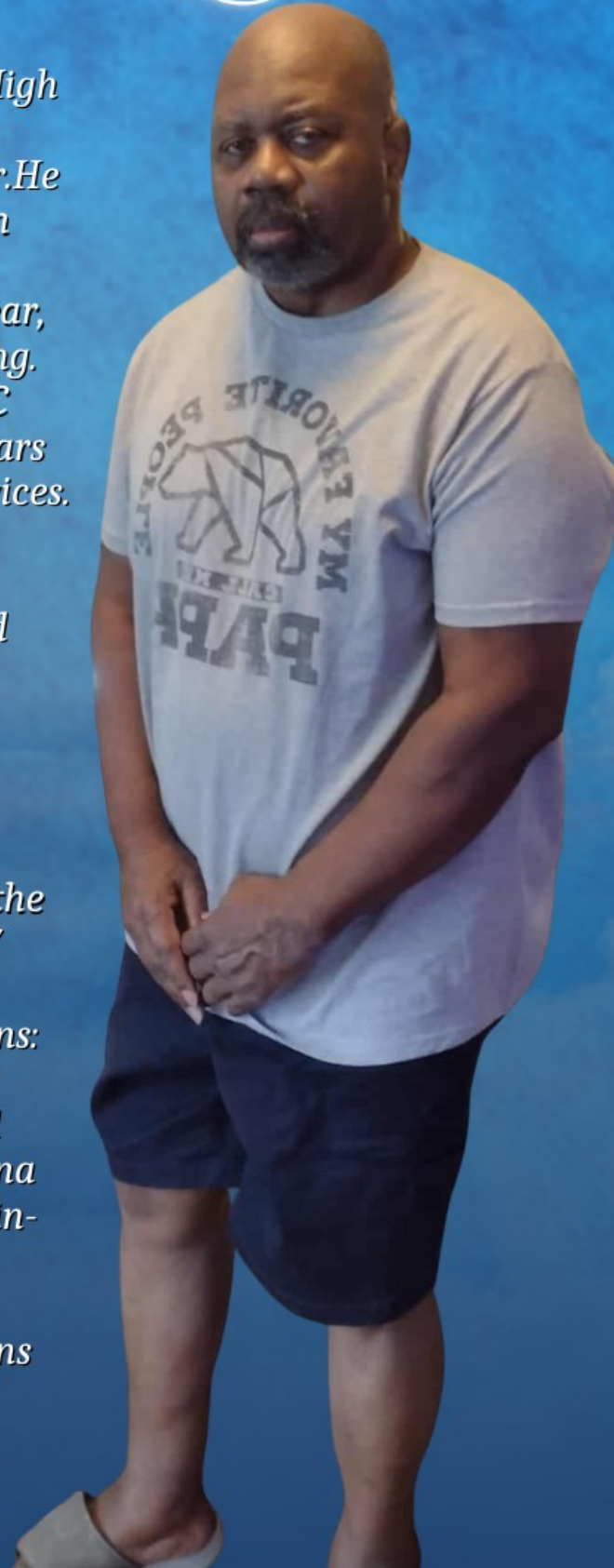
## "BUD"

Bright "Bud" Ceasar was born in Sumter, SC on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1958 to Mary Ceasar and James McCray. He was reared by Mary and Freddy Rhodes, along with his younger sister, Patricia Rhodes.

Bright graduated in 1977 from Maywood High School in Sumter, SC. Bright enlisted in the United States Marine Corps that same year. He served eight years as a Marine Rifleman. In 1984, he moved to the Bronx, NY with his cousins, Christine and Calvin Lewis. That year, he met the love of his life, Betty Ann Topping. Later that year, he began his career at NYC Health and Hospital Corp. He retired 29 years later as a supervisor in environmental services.

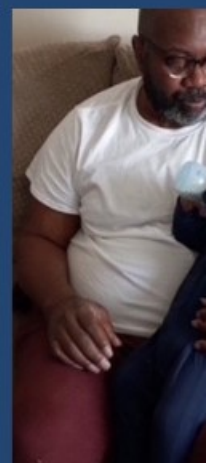
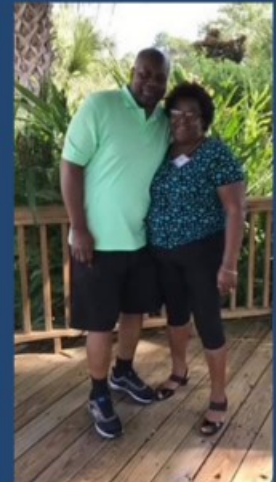
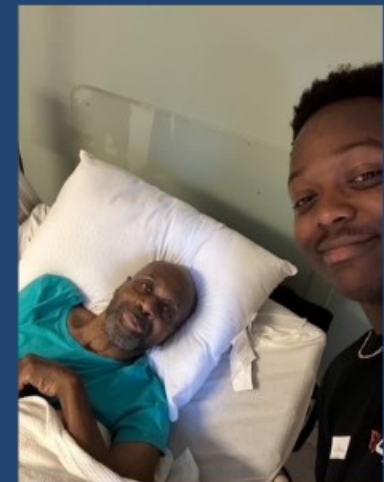
Bright is preceded in death by his mother: Mary Rhodes; uncles: Bradley, Sanders, and Hudson; sister: Henretta; mother-in-law: Emma Topping; brothers-in-law: Dallas, Ronnie, and Big West and a host of other family members.

In 1990, Bright and Betty were married in the Bronx, New York. They were married for 37 years. Bright has three children: Tiffany, Kimberly, and Ikinya. He has four grandsons: Rashard, Charkem, Jaheim and Tyree; four granddaughters: Jade, Aniya, Kennedy and Kali; one niece: Destiny, one nephew: Breiona and one great niece: Niemerah; six sisters-in-law: Oli, Cecelia, Cola, Martha, June and Celena; two brothers-in-law: Kenny and Leslie. He also leaves behind a host of cousins and family members and friends.



FOR  
EVER  
IN  
OUR  
HEARTS





# ORDER OF SERVICE

**Call to Worship**  
Elder Brandon Frederick

**Song**

**Scripture Reading**  
Elder Brandon Frederick  
Old Testament  
New Testament

**Prayer of Comfort**  
Elder Brandon Frederick

**Remarks (2 minutes, please)**

**Song**

**Words of Comfort**  
Elder Brandon Frederick

**Recessional**

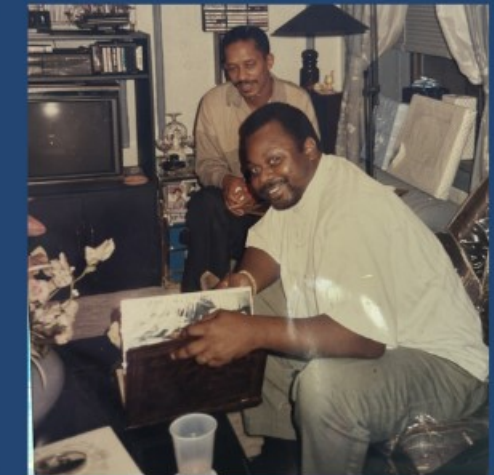
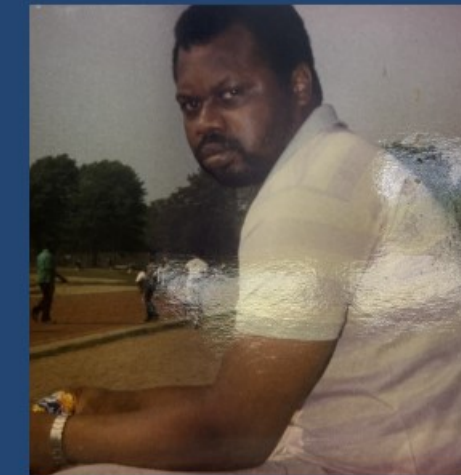
**Interment with Military Honors**  
Rose Hill Cemetery  
Gastonia, North Carolina





# I KNOW

*I know I have to let you go.  
How I will, I do not know.  
I know that it's your time to die.  
What I don't know is how to say good-bye.  
I'll miss you so much  
I don't know what to do.  
I guess I'll just end this poem  
With a good-bye and an I love you.*



# A SHIP SAILS

*A ship sails, and I stand watching till she fades on the horizon,  
and someone at my side says, "She is gone."  
Gone where? Gone from my sight, that is all.  
She is just as large now as when I last saw her.  
Her diminished size and total loss from my sight is in me, not in her.  
And just at that moment, when someone at my side says she is gone,  
there are others who are watching her coming over the horizon,  
and other voices take up a glad shout-- "There she comes!"  
That is what dying is--  
A horizon and just the limit of our sight.*

