

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

Celebrating the life of

SUNRISE
SEPTEMBER 18, 1958

SUNSET
SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

Bright Caesar



SATURDAY; SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
11:00 A.M.

GREGORY FUNERAL SERVICE CHAPEL
601 N. YORK STREET
GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

ELDER BRANDON FREDERICK, OFFICIATING



LIFE & LEGACY

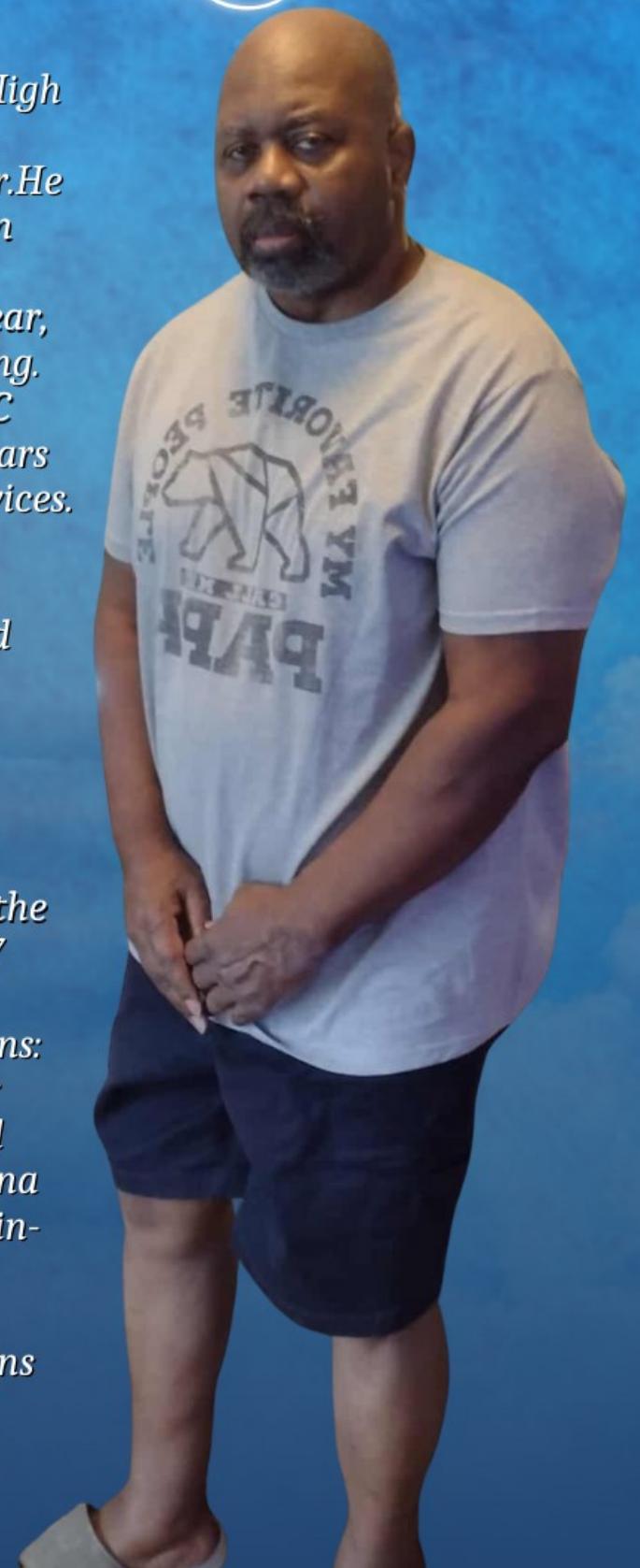
Bright "Bud" Ceasar was born in Sumter, SC on September 18th, 1958 to Mary Ceasar and James McCray. He was reared by Mary and Freddy Rhodes, along with his younger sister, Patricia Rhodes.

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.

"BUD"



F
O
R
E
V
E
R

I
N
O
U
R

H
E
A
R
T
S

ORDER
Of SERVICE
Call to Worship
Elder Brandon Frederick
Song

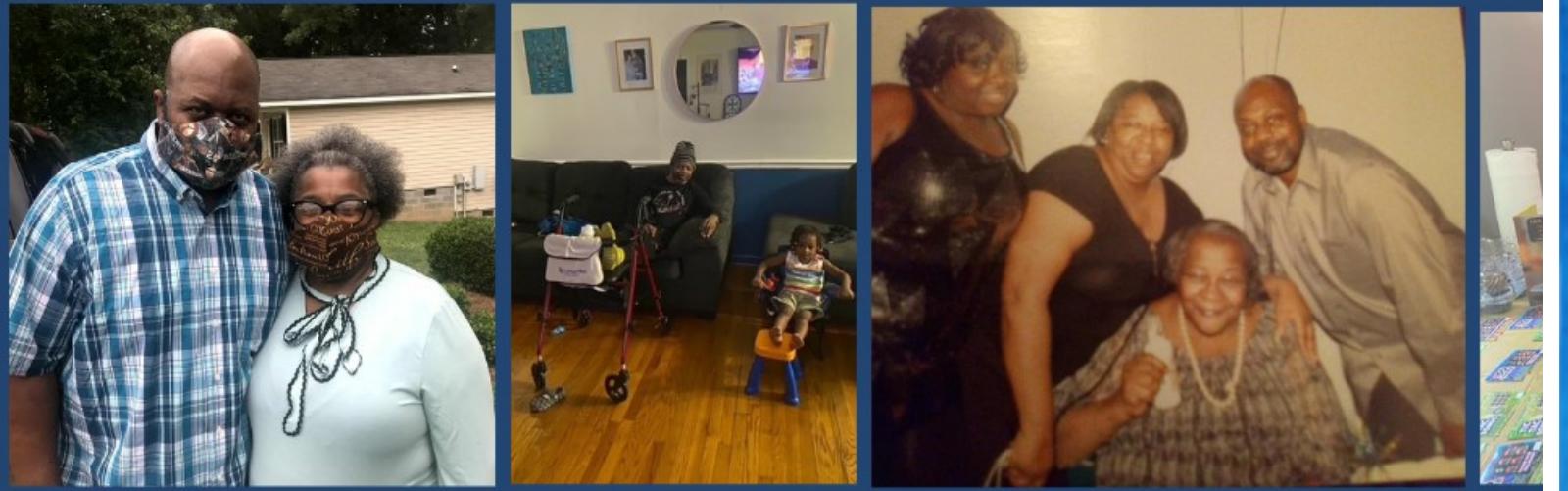
Scripture Reading
Elder Brandon Frederick
Old Testament
New Testament

Prayer of Comfort
Elder Brandon Frederick

Remarks (2 minutes, please)

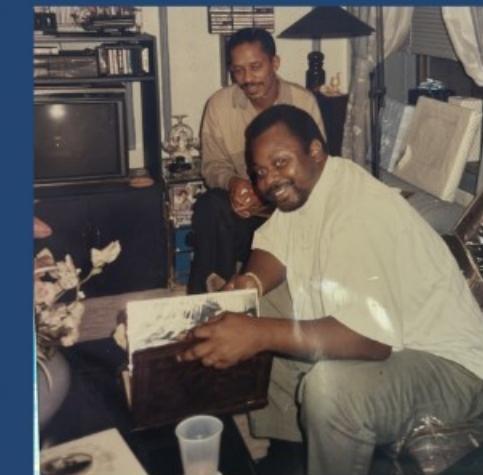
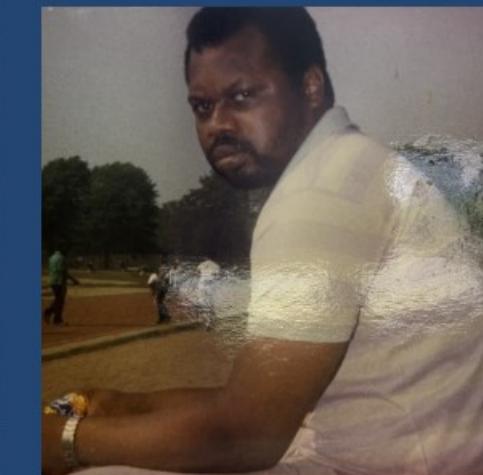
Song
Words of Comfort
Elder Brandon Frederick

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 day 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.*