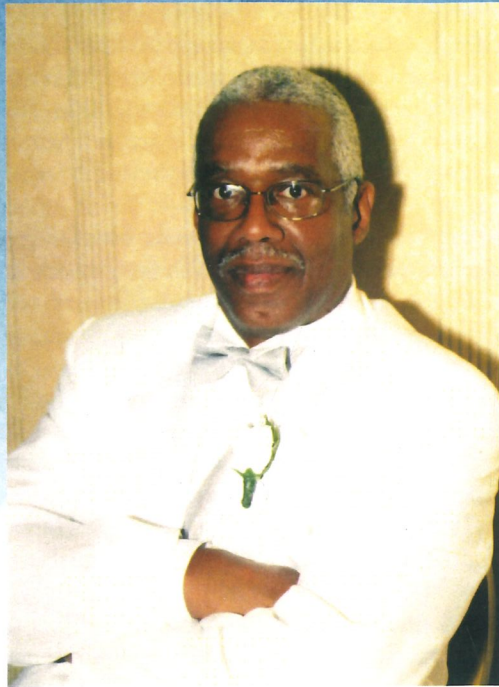


IN LOVING
MEMORY



**BERNARD TRAVIS
BOLDEN, JR.**

April 21, 1947 - September 5, 2023

Monday, September 25, 2023
Joseph H. Brown Funeral Home
2140 N. Fulton Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21217

OBITUARY

A mighty limb has fallen from our family tree. Life broke our hearts the morning that God called you home...

Bernard Travis Bolden, Jr. was born April 21, 1947, in Baltimore, Maryland, the eldest son to the late Bernard Travis Bolden, Sr. and Albertine Askew McMahan Bolden. In the early hours of Tuesday, September 5, 2023, God called him home. Just as Paul says in 2 Timothy 4:7, we can bear testimony for our beloved Bernard in saying: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith..."

Bernard was educated in Baltimore City Public Schools: Bentalou Elementary, #150; Gwynn Falls Junior High, #91, and Edmondson High School where he graduated in 1964. Following graduation, he married Mary Frances Brewer Bolden and from this union two children, whom they adored, were born: a daughter: Michelle T. Bolden, and son: Bernard Travis Bolden, III.

He went to work at an early age, 11 or 12 at a shoeshine stand his dad, Bernard, Sr. set up in the Wonders Social Club building he owned at the corner of Baltimore and Shroeder Streets, to help him learn how to earn his own way. There he learned many other life lessons from his dad and his Uncle Warren (his dad's twin brother), and other social club members whom he greatly admired and emulated.

Bernard entered the U.S. Air Force in 1967 and did his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. He was selected for training as a Weapons Systems Specialist at Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado and later was stationed with his family at Loring Air Force Base, in Limestone Maine. He was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant in 1971. Upon his return to Maryland, he went to work for Wooleyhan Transfer Company as a Checker. While both Bernard and Mary went on to remarry, they remained in touch throughout their lives.

On April 15, 2000, Bernard married Casslie Smith-Bolden, and from this union, which has continued for 23 years, another beautiful daughter, Melanie Bolden, was born. After their marriage, Bernard and Cassie were delighted to purchase their home, in Woodlawn, in April 2000.

After several contractual jobs, Bernard went to work for Sam's Club in 1996 where he worked for many years and retired in February 2020, after 24 years of dedicated service. He was greatly admired and respected by his co-workers and supervisors for his even temperament, strong work ethic, and capacity to go the extra mile to help a team member or get the job done.

Bernard was a man of few words and simple pleasures. He loved his family—his wife; three children; his grandchildren; he shared a special bond with his two youngest, Maleah, and Maya whom he saw every day for the many years that they lived with him along with his daughter Melanie. He loved good food and was a good cook, quiet time in his "man cave," hanging over the years with his brother Ed, who was his best friend and with his namesake Trey. As a man of few words, if he had a long conversation with you, it was probably because he'd had a taste or two.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his loving wife, Casslie Smith-Bolden; daughter Michelle T. Bolden; son, Bernard T. Bolden, III (Rhonda); daughter, Melanie Bolden Dixon (Marcus); 7 grandchildren, Rayniah; Rian; Rayne; Raynah; Taylor; Bernard IV; Maleah; and Maya; one Aunt, Evanus McDonald (whom he regarded as a sister); brothers, Edward R. Bolden; Harry A. Bolden; Sister, Karen L. Harvey (Wesley); Sisters-in-law, Genevieve Gregory (Lamar); Lender Boone; Brother-in-Law, Johnny Nelson; a host of nephews and nieces, including: Frank Hocker, Jr; Timothy Hocker; Adam Hocker; Erissa Ivey; Carmen Reeves; April Dubose; Joy Bolden; Edward Bolden; Warren Bolden; Tyne Gray; Terence Gray; Tavon Johnson (whom Bernard and Cassie raised since the age of 12); cousins, friends, and former colleagues.

DAD...

You held our hands when we were small
You caught us when we fell
You were our childhood hero
And our hero later years as well
And every time we think of you
Our hearts still fills with pride
Though we will miss you Dad
We know you're by our side
In laughter and in sorrow
In sunshine and in rain
We know you're watching over us
Until we meet again.

Michelle, Melanie, and Bernard

-My hero, by Anonymous (Adapted)

GRANDDAD...

Grandpa slipped away,
Quietly one day.
He simply went to sleep,
No more to wake or weep.
He was a quiet man, But his silence would speak volumes.
The warmth of his gaze, the strength of his hugs, the gentleness
of his hands, his smile or nod of approval for a job well done
said, "I respect you."

In the years to come, we may not remember many of the words
our grandfather spoke, but the

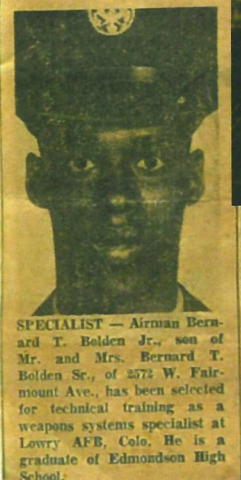
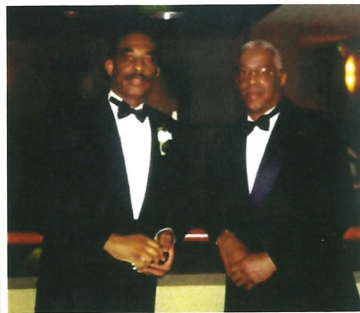
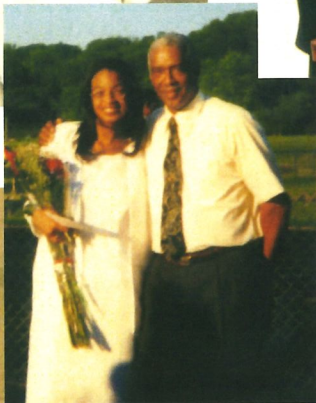
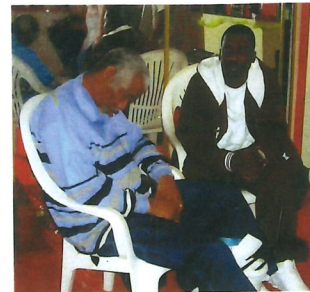
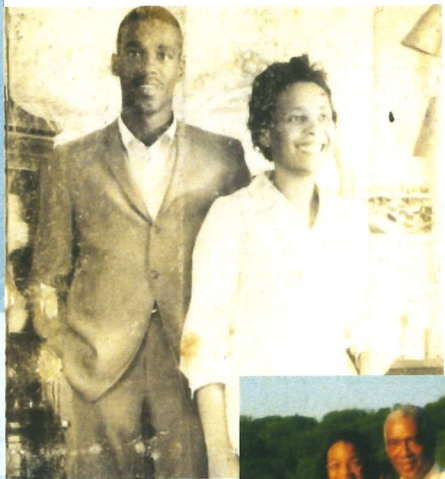
"I love yous." and the memories of what he conveyed without
speaking a word will stay in our HEARTS FOREVER.

Ranyiah, Rian, Rayne, Taylor, Bernard, Maleah, Mya, and Raynah

BROTHER...

We little knew that day,
God was going to call your name.
In life, we loved you dearly,
In death, we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you.
You did not go alone.
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.
You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide.
And although we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.

With our eternal love,
Evanus, Ed, Karen (Wesley) & Harry



SPECIALIST — Airman Bernard T. Bolden Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard T. Bolden Sr., of 2572 W. Fairmount Ave., has been selected for technical training as a weapons systems specialist at Lowry AFB, Colo. He is a graduate of Edmondson High School.



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bernard's loss is felt by us all.

We want to say thank you to everyone who sent a prayer, cards, flowers, or made a call.

Your kind words and sympathy are felt by us all in your endless empathy.

PALLBEARERS

Bernard Bolden, III
Frank Hocker, Jr.
Timothy Hocker
Adam Hocker
Marcus Dixon
Tavon Johnson

INTERMENT

Garrison Forest Veteran Cemetery*
11501 Garrison Forest Road
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

*Directly after viewing