



I'm There Inside Your Heart

*Right now I'm in a different place
And though we seem apart
I'm closer than I ever was,
I'm there inside your heart.*

*I'm with you when you greet each day
And while the sun shines bright
I'm there to share the sunsets, too
I'm with you every night.*

*I'm with you when the times are good
To share a laugh or two,
And if a tear should start to fall
I'll still be there for you.*

*And when that day arrives
That we no longer are apart,
I'll smile and hold you close to me,
Forever in my heart.*



Pallbearers

Cornelius Harris Michael Savage Jahaurii Harris
Caru Harris-Mays Jawon Anderson Shawn Slater

Honorary Pallbearers

James Harris, Jr. Sammy Harris John Lawton

Acknowledgements

There are no words that seem adequate enough to say thank you to everyone who expressed their sympathy and reached out to us after the loss of our beloved husband/father/grandfather/brother/uncle. He was a wonderful person and through the memories he gave us, he will live on forever in our hearts.

From the family of James Otis Harris, Sr.



Davis Funeral Home
89 Walnut Avenue, Roxbury
654 Cummins Highway, Mattapan
617 427-0828 617 296-1755

A Celebration of the Life of

James Otis Harris Sr.

May 30, 1953 ~ February 26, 2024



THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

MASONIC SERVICE: 10:30 AM

FUNERAL SERVICE: 11:30 AM

PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE

24 Washington St., Dorchester, MA 02121

Rev. Dr. J. Anthony Lloyd, Officiating

Greater Framingham Community Church

Life Reflections



James Otis Harris Sr., 70, departed this life on Monday February 26, 2024. Born on May 30, 1953, in Birmingham, Alabama, he was the son of the late Sam Davit Harris Jr. and the late Lelia Mae (Moore) Harris.

At the age of 3, he and his family moved to New York and few years later would relocate to Boston, Massachusetts where they would live in Roxbury and Dorchester. James attended Dorchester High School where he played on the high school football team and was given the nickname "Big O." After graduating high school, he followed in the footsteps of his father and older brothers and enlisted in the US Army. After a short stint in the military, he attended Boston College where he pledged Iota Phi Theta and was one of the founding members of the school's Sigma Chapter. He later went on to receive his Master's degree in Education from Cambridge College.

For nearly 40 years, James was employed by the MBTA. He started out as a bus operator. Over the years, he worked through the ranks and eventually became a train line manager. He retired in June 2013. After retirement, he worked part-time at Beth Israel Hospital as a patient representative.

He was a very active and dedicated member of Prince Hall Mason's Grand Lodge in Boston. He was a Past Worshipful Master at Widow Son Lodge No. 28; Past Grand Associate Patron of the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Stars, Past Worthy Patron of the Mount Moriah Chapter 7; Past Potentate of A.E.A.O.N.M.S. Syria Temple No. 31; and previous member of several other houses within the Prince Hall family. Through his work with the fraternal orders, he was an active participant in community events and fundraisers. He mentored students at the MLK Middle School in Roxbury for several years, concentrating on educating young men. He participated in Christmas gift drives, Thanksgiving turkey giveaways and Mother's Day celebrations. Additionally, James was a longtime member of the Woodbine Associates.

James enjoyed fishing, grilling, watching movies and was an avid reader. Even more so, he loved spending time with his family and would organize family gatherings, including Kwanzaa celebrations. He was passionate about educating his relatives on familial history and Black Heritage.

He is predeceased by his parents, father Sam Davit Harris Jr., his mother Lelia Mae (Moore) Harris; his son Mariotis Harris; his sisters Katherine Skrine and Lillie Slater, and brother Anderson Harris.

He is survived by his wife Cheryl Harrison; 2 brothers Sammy Harris (Sharon) and John Lawton; his children, 3 sons Randall Harris, James Harris, Jr. and Cornelius Harris (Theresa); 2 daughters Sophia Harris and Aisha Harris; 14 grandchildren and great grandchildren; and a host of other relatives; and many, many friends to cherish his memories.

Order of Service



Musical Prelude		Paul White
Invocation		Rev. Dr. J. Anthony Lloyd
Opening Hymn	<i>"Blessed Assurance"</i>	Lori Harper
Scripture Readings	<i>Old Testament:</i> <i>Psalm 1</i>	Aisha Harris
	<i>New Testament:</i> <i>John 14: 1-6</i>	Anne Best
Musical Blessing	<i>"Soon and Very Soon"</i>	Lori Harper
Prayer of Consolation		
Obituary		Dawn Savage
Poem Reading		Sophia Harris
Remarks	<i>2 Minutes Please</i>	Family Members
Musical Blessing	<i>"Going Up Yonder"</i>	Lori Harper
Eulogy		Rev. Dr. J. Anthony Lloyd
Recessional	<i>"Going Up Yonder"</i>	Paul White

Interment

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave.
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Repast

Prince Hall Grand Lodge
24 Washington St.
Dorchester, MA 02121

