

Celebration of life



NAPOLEON "MITCH" MITCHELL, JR

SUNRISE: FEBRUARY 21, 1937

SUNSET: NOVEMBER 20, 2024

SATURDAY, NOV. 30TH, 2024

VISITATION: 11AM- 12PM

SERVICE: 12PM-1PM

LEE'S FUNERAL HOME

160 FISHER AVE

WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK

Order Of Service

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| OPENING WORDS: | Reverend Paul Martin |
| MUSICAL SELECTION (<i>Zoom To Start AFTER Selection</i>) | <i>Amazing Grace</i> |
| SCRIPTURE and POEM | <i>Isaiah: 43:2</i> <i>Poem of Life</i> |
| OBITUARY | Lisa Sneed |
| REMARKS + REFLECTIONS | Family and Friends |
| EULOGY/WORDS OF PRAYER | Reverend Paul Martin |
| RECESSIONAL | |

Obituary

Napoleon Mitchell Jr's life journey began on February 21, 1937. He was the second child to bless the marriage of Napoleon and Ritchie Mitchell. He was born and raised in Harlem, New York. To friends and family, he was known as Mitch, Brother, Dad and Grandpa. He had 2 siblings, sisters Carrie aka Shirley and Joan. The family resided at 237 West 148th Street. One day, Mitch's younger sister Joan, had a High School friend, who had a car, came to pick her up to go shopping. Her name was Gloria Gant. When Mitch saw her, he was smitten immediately by the sophisticated beauty. They were married in 1963, and in 1966 the union produced a child, Guy Hamilton Mitchell...Mitch's mini me.

Mitch was drafted by the United States Army in 1960, stationed at Fort Campbell Kentucky. There he received a badge for sharpshooter (rifle), as well as a certificate for Military Justice. He was discharged in 1962 and returned to college. Mitch was always studious and confident. As a young adult he would recite the Constitution every single day and taped it on a green tape recorder, to perfect his pronunciation of words and delivery. He was different. He was the first person in the family to earn college degrees, and 2 master's degrees. He's a graduate of Dewitt Clinton High School and City College where he received a Baccalaureate Degree with a major in Sociology. In 1975 he received Master of Arts Degrees in Criminal Justice and Public Administration from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Mitch was a Black Man who felt he was The Man. He sought jobs where he would be in charge. He wouldn't be happy in a job where he'd have to take orders from someone. At work he expected to be referred to as Mr. Mitchell...period. Mitch began his career as a Social Caseworker for the New York City Department of Social Services. He was subsequently employed as a Parole Officer for the New York State Division of Parole.

In 1977, Mitch and his family left Harlem and moved to White Plains, NY, so he could have a shorter commute to work and Guy could have a better life and education. Mitch continued to excel; he held various leadership positions when employed with the NYS Department of Corrections. Over the years he served as Program Coordinator, Assistant Director, Supervisor of Guidance/Counseling, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent (commonly referred to as Warden) at Medium and Maximum-Security Prisons in Upstate New York. These prisons include Oakside, Bedford Hills, Sullivan, Fulton, and Fishkill. He concluded his career with the Correctional Service Department, a half-way house for offenders at 10 Mt. Morris Park in Harlem. He retired after 32 years of New York State Service.

In Harlem and White Plains, Mitch was always involved in civil rights groups and organizations that benefitted the community. He was a two – year member of the New York City Planning Board No. 2, where he served on the Housing Committee, and was the Co-Chairman of the Public Safety Committee. He was the founder and President of the Amsterdam Broadway Riverside Community Democrats. He was a Chairman of the Juniper Hill Civic Association, and he was elected district leader of the 64th Assembly District in Greenburgh, N.Y. Mitch was a member of the Counseliers, where he served as Vice President, and as Parliamentarian. He was a member of the American Association of Public Administrators, the Association of Black Social Workers, and the Alumni Association of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. When he worked for Fair Housing Court, he would pose as a potential buyer of a home to expose discriminatory realtors.

Although Mitch had an accomplished career, he never bragged about it with family and friends. With them he expressed his other side, which was down to earth, a jokester, witty, life of the party, and did magic tricks for kids. Occasionally he would boast of what he was most proud of, his son Guy who currently is Acting Justice for The Supreme Court-Criminal Term in Bronx County. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

His hobbies were photography, weightlifting, running, biking, reading various books, and he was a movie buff. At Thanksgiving dinners he'd take group photos, and portraits. Mitch and Guy formed a videography company, in which they taped weddings and receptions.

Mitch was married to his wife Gloria for 49 years, until her passing on 7/21/2012 at the age of 73. In Post Retirement he was Chairman of the Police Advisory Board in Greenburgh, assisted in campaigning for local elected officials and was a member of the African American Men of Westchester. He enjoyed spending time in his backyard, either reading, watching DVD's, listening to CD's or chillin in his hot tub. Mitch was proud of the man his grandson Giles is evolving into, and the path he is following. Giles is currently a senior at Cornell University. Mitch loved his family, and loved being around immediate and extended family.

Since April of this year Mitch has resided at Epic Rehabilitation and Nursing in White Plains New York. His life journey ended on November 20, 2024. He will be remembered for his compassion, setting the bar high for family members to follow, and fighting for fairness and respect for others. Mitch leaves behind to cherish his memory: Guy Hamilton Mitchell -son, Sandra- daughter in law, Giles- grandson, Joan Godette-sister (Erwin), nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife Gloria, and sister Carrie. The family extends its gratitude to his close friend and neighbor Mary Levine who assisted Mitch before and after suffering 2 strokes.

We salute you King, Rest in Heaven.

As a lasting tribute in lieu of flowers the family kindly suggest making donation to The African American Men of Westchester.

Acknowledgements

Guy, Sandra, Giles and family are most grateful and appreciative for your many kind expressions of love and sympathy during this difficult time. May God bless each of you.

