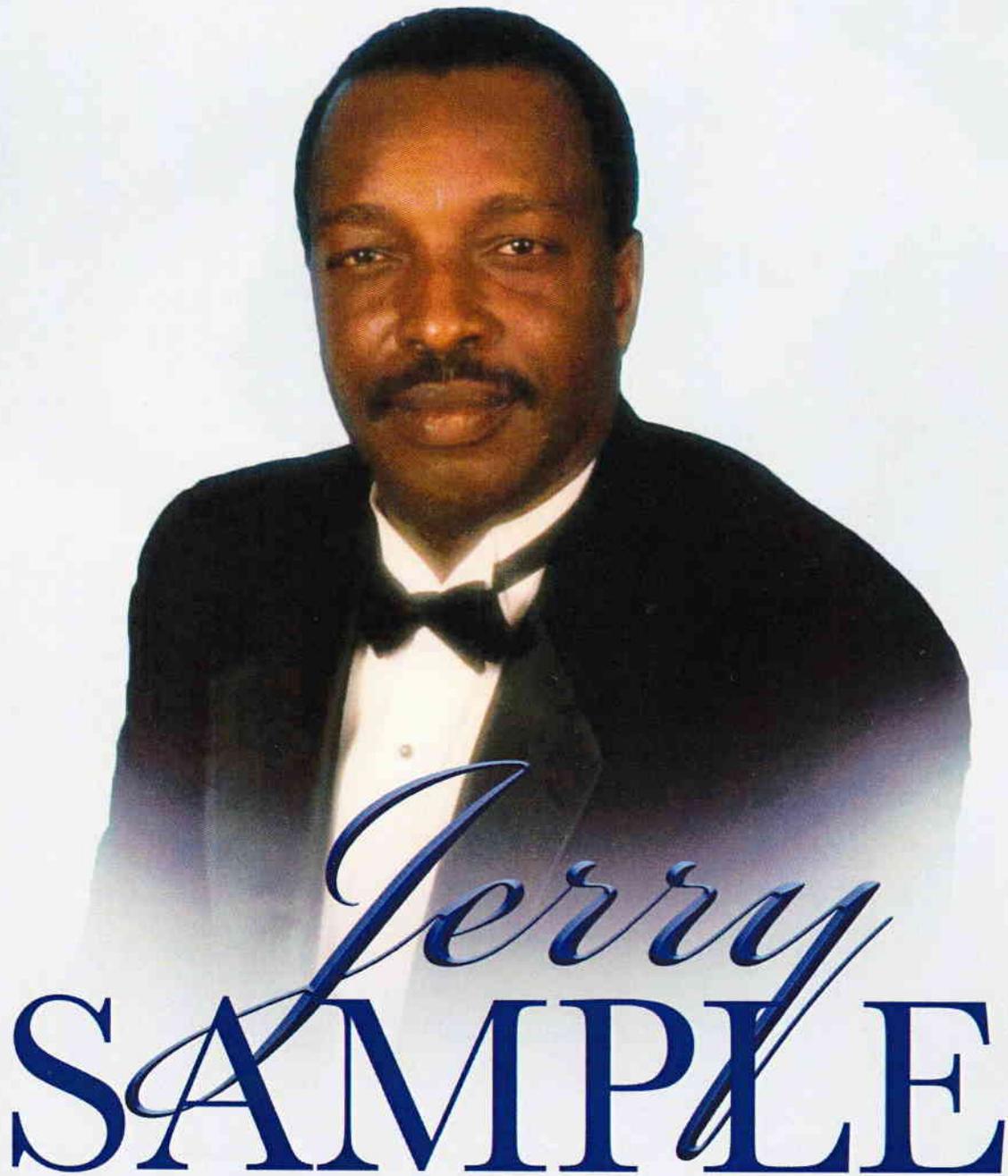


Celebration of Life for



SUNRISE FEBRUARY 3, 1945 - SUNSET OCTOBER 7, 2020

Thursday, October 29, 2020

Family Hour: 10:30 AM – Service: 11:00 AM

Woodlawn Cemetery
19975 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI 48203

William Lee, Officiating



Jerry Sample

Johnnie Mae Sample gave birth to her only son, Jerry Sample in Bessemer, Alabama on Saturday, February 3, 1945. He became the brother to his only sister, Doris J. Barnes, on March 3, 1950.

On October 7, 2020, Jerry peacefully made his transition at Detroit Receiving Hospital, after suffering from a major medical emergency on September 30, 2020.

Jerry gave all the praise and glory to his grandparents, William & Nellie Sample for their unconditional love, guidance, and support. In addition, his aunts and uncles were extremely instrumental in his upbringing, Mr. Rufus (Mozelle) Scott and Mr. J.C.(Katherine) Williams, Sr.

As a child growing up, summer was a great time for Jerry. He would travel by train and bus, to visit his aunts Henrietta Sample, Bronx, New York and Mozelle "Día-Dea" Scott in Cleveland, Ohio. He also traveled to Detroit, Michigan to visit his beloved mother and sister.

Jerry attended George W. Carver public school in Bessemer, Alabama from elementary to high school. He was an exceptional student and a member of the National Honor Society. In addition, to excelling academically, Jerry was musically gifted. He could play by ear, as well as, read music.

During his elementary school years, he learned to play the trumpet. It wasn't long before he became the lead trumpeter (first chair) of his school's band. This sparked a love of all musical instruments, but he was especially fond of the horns. Jerry's ambition would later lead to him teaching himself, how to play a variety of instruments.

His outstanding academic achievements were recognized, earning him a full scholarship to Miles College, Birmingham (Fairfield), Alabama where he continued his educational journey of achieving excellence.

In his freshman year at Miles College, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other dignitaries held an event. During the event, the lights went out and the stage broke. Jerry saw this as an opportunity, he crawled to the stage area, with the intent to meet Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and he did just that! He used his event's program to obtain Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Joe Louis' autographs. The event's program is a treasured keepsake to this day.

He was a scholar and lifelong learner. Some of his other educational endeavors included studies at the University of Maryland, where he obtained two certifications: (1) Small Engine Repair and (2) Project Transition in Bowling Alley Management. He loved to learn and prided himself on his knowledge of world affairs and newsworthy events.

Jerry was a veteran of the United States Army, he entered the armed forces on August 20, 1965 and served for six years. During his service, he was a member of the 62nd Army Band where he played the saxophone, among other horn instruments, travelling the world and sharing his love of music. The United States Army bestowed Jerry with numerous awards, letters of excellence and recognition. In 1971, he received an honorable discharge.

After his tenure in the military, Jerry relocated to Detroit, Michigan from Bessemer, Alabama. He joined the Detroit Fire Department on January 22, 1973. He was promoted to the rank of Fire Engine Operator on February 23, 1988. Jerry believed in giving to others and would mentor several fire fighters where he left lasting impressions and established personal bonds.

His tutelage went beyond the firehouse to the golf course where he assisted his mentees, his friends, to sharpen their golf skills. As luck would have it, he reconnected with his hometown friend from Alabama, Rollin Marion at the Detroit Fire Department. Over the years, Jerry nurtured new and old relationships which resulted in lifelong friendships. On July 30, 1998, Jerry was the first person of his fire academy class, to retire with a full-service retirement for his 25 years of dedication.

In 1982, Jerry met the love of his life, Margaret. Their first encounter was during league bowling at Chandler Bowling Lanes (Detroit, MI). They dated for a year, then entered holy matrimony on June 25, 1983. It was their first and only marriage. The years after they united were spent with an abundance of love and laughter building treasured memories filled with travel, family gatherings, bowling events, golf outings, and get-togethers with friends.

Jerry was an exceptional cook and did most of the cooking. He enjoyed switching in the kitchen whipping up delicious meals for the two of them. He took care of his bride and she in turn took care of her groom. They complimented each other as husband and wife, withstanding the test of time. Jerry and Margaret were blessed to celebrate 37 years of marriage.

In his past time, Jerry enjoyed all sports, an avid college football and basketball enthusiast, with football being his favorite. He was a University of Alabama "Roll Tide" fan. He was also a lover of the game of golf. The late Eddie Leonard was his mentor and Jerry would go on to mentor many others.

Prior to relocating to Arizona in 2000, Jerry was a regular golfer with his Chandler Golf buddies. He would also get in a round of golf as often as he could with his other buddies throughout the Detroit metropolitan area.

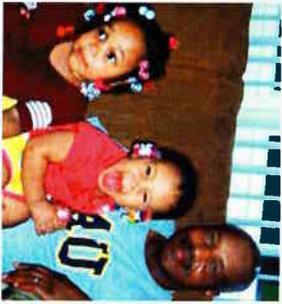
It is no surprise, Jerry excelled in the sports he endeavored, always challenging himself to be the best! He achieved four "Hole-In-Ones" recorded in four different states: Michigan, Arizona, South Carolina, and Florida. His last recorded "Hole-In-One" was with the Derrick Royal group at Harmony Golf Preserve on Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

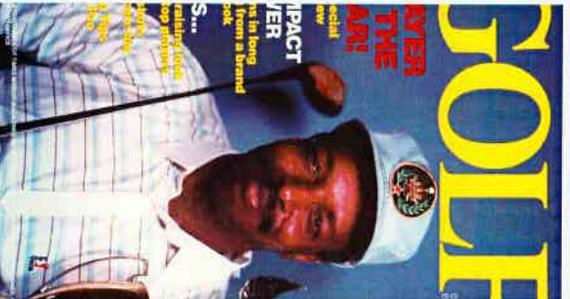
He was an avid tennis player and bowler. He adored tennis and played at the Chandler Park Tennis courts in Detroit MI. In bowling, his highest right-handed league average was 201. Over the years of bowling, he toyed with practicing left-handed. He made a commitment to league bowl left-handed, although his established left-handed average was not quite as high as his established right-handed average. It was all about challenging himself.

Jerry was preceded in death by his Mother: Johnnie Mae Holmes; Grandparents: William & Nellie Sample; Aunts: Henrietta Sample, Katherine Williams, and Mozelle Scott. Uncles: JC Williams Sr. and Rufus Scott 2nd cousins: Donay R. Jackson and Rhonda Jackson, Father-In-Law: Samuel Turner, Jr. Mother-In-Law: Mattie Turner and Sister-In-Law: Sandra Benion.

Jerry will be deeply missed by his loving wife, Margaret; beloved sister Doris; cherished cousins J.C. Williams, Jr. (Bessemer, Alabama) and Delores Lacy (Cleveland, Ohio and Surprise, Arizona); nephew Charles Benion, Jr.; niece Sandra Benion; great-nieces Zaryah West, A'Niyah West, and Makiya Benion; great nephew Charles Benion III; God daughter LaMonica Parker; adopted play-brother Acie Walton, who he lovingly called "Lil'Bro or Baby-Bro"; and a host of other family and friends.

Jerry was a loving, kind man, who never met a stranger and was always willing to lend a helping hand. All whom loved him dearly will never forget his tenacity, charm, grace, undying love and nurturing he displayed. To know him, was to love and adore him.





Order of Service

Processional..... Family

Scripture.....Ecclesiastes 3:1-4.....Alma Jean Hughes

Prayer..... William Lee

Acknowledgements Cards & Condolences.....Claudia Barden-Jackson

Remarks.....(Limit 3 people, 2 Minutes Each).....

Obituary.....Arrielle Mock

Musical Selection.....“Really Gonna Miss You”.....Courtlen Hale

Eulogy..... William Lee

Detroit Fire Department James Davis, Deputy Chief

Military Salute.....Military

Recessional.....

Balloon Release.....

I'M FREE

Please do not grieve for me, for now I'm free. I'm following the path God laid out for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call. I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day, to laugh, to love, to work and play,
Tasks left undone, must stay that way. I've found my peace at the close of the day.

If my partying has left a void, then fill it with remembered joys;
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss; Oh yes, these things I too will miss.

Be burdened not with time of sorrow, I wish you sunshine for each tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much; good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief, don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift your hearts and peace to thee; God wanted me now,

He set me free!

Brother, I will miss you dearly. I appreciate the kind, loving person you were. Your care and thoughtfulness for me will always be remembered. I love you so much! – **Your sister, Doris Barnes**

My dear friend, you are going to be missed. We have traveled, worked, played golf and laughed together. I thank God for letting our paths cross. I moved to Arizona because you insisted if I just visit, I would love it. For this, I thank you. Take your rest, my friend, in the loving arms of our Lord Jesus Christ. – **Your best friend, Rollin Marion**

Jerry always saw the good in people first and he was always ready to help you. – **Lawrence Snowden**

Live simply, expect little, give much, fill your life with love, forget self, think of others and do as you would have others do unto you.
– **Larry Miles**

Jerry, from the first time we met we were like kindred spirits. You immediately deemed me your little brother (Lil' Bro). Our time together was not long enough but I am grateful for our connection, as family. We did not get in our last round of horseshoes, I guess that will have to wait until we meet again. I love you big brother. – **Acie Walton**

The loss of a friend is like that of a limb, time may heal the anguish of the wound, but the loss cannot be repaired. I have known Jerry for 40+ years. I was honored to be one of the groomsmen in Jerry and Margaret's wedding. We shared many fond memories, played and enjoyed many rounds of golf together during those years. While we are mourning the loss of our dear friend Jerry, others are rejoicing to welcome him home. Jerry will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Rest in peace my dear brother, until we meet again. – **Ras Sartor**

My favorite memories of visiting Detroit as a child were with my cousin Jerry and he would spoil me rotten. Later in life, he was always there for my family's milestone events. I will never forget how much he loved all his baby cousins. He will truly be missed.
– **Dr. Pia Washington**

Just two months ago, I received a video recording of Jerry playing happy birthday to me on the saxophone. It was a beautiful moment, one that is priceless to me and a memory that I will cherish forever. Love you cousin, Rest in peace. – **Delores Lacy aka Lady**

Margaret, I know your heart is heavy, full of memories and love for Jerry. I feel your loss and I know the love and commitment each of you shared for over 38 years. I was so proud to be in your wedding, a true marriage that lasted 37 years. I have so many fond memories of you both, always together, always "WE" never "I". I cherish so many special times I've shared with you and Jerry, especially from the day I arrived in Arizona! On October 30, 2002 was the day Taylor (only 11) and I arrived in Arizona, of course Jerry picked us up at the airport. He saw that she was sad, not having any friends, the first thing Jerry said to her, "Taylor, we'll go Trick or Treating tomorrow" that small gesture she has never forgotten. Yes, they BOTH had pillowcases filled with candy! Living only 1/2 mile away, I depended on Jerry for so much. Jerry taught me how to operate the sprinkler system, I had a pool and jacuzzi with no idea how to even turn it on. A call to "The Samples," Margaret would always say "I'll send Jerry" without even asking him, and like the kind person he was he would ALWAYS come and teach me, help me or do it himself. After a week in Gilbert, I got lost, and of course I called..... (who else)- Jerry. Not wanting to make me feel bad or look really stupid he said, don't worry we all make that mistake, the street just changed names, just keep going straight" you'll be ok. Those events happened the first 2 weeks in Arizona, you can imagine being here for 18 years how many "I'll send Jerry" times there were. And he responded too, without hesitation and without ever accepting any type of payment. I'm sure you've heard the analogy of people being in your life, they can be a leaf, a branch or a root, well Jerry Sample was my root, my solid foundation and he stood strong. Jerry Sample, I love you and you'll always be in my heart - I'm really lost now! – **Teri Mingus**

THE DAY GOD TOOK YOU HOME

A million times I've needed you, a million times I've 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, no one else can ever fill.

It broke my heart to lose you, but you didn't go alone,
Part of me went with you, the day God took you home.

Final Arrangements Entrusted to

James H. Cole Funeral Home
16100 Schaefer Hwy., Detroit, MI 48235

Interment

Woodlawn Cemetery
19975 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48203
(313) 368-0010

Acknowledgment of Appreciation

The Family of Jerry Sample would like to humbly express their sincere thank you for your prayers, flowers, cards or just showing your kindness of love and sympathy during their time of bereavement. May God bless the hands of those who served others in their time of need. A more personal acknowledgment will be sent at a later date.

What a glorious morn will the resurrection be! No words of man can describe the joy of that hour. In response to the voice of King Jesus that echoes and re-echoes to every part of earth and sea, they come forth-clad in immortal youth. "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed...then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:52) Truly, "God's tomorrow is a day of gladness and its joys shall never fade." Though "weeping may endure for a night...joy cometh in the morning" (Psalm 30:5) Just to know that the morning of the resurrection is hastening on apace is enough to dry the falling tears, revive the perishing hopes. It is only "a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry." (Hebrews 10:37)