

Remembering the
LEGACY

PALLBEARERS

Peris Murphy
Berry Farrell
Jason Gipson
Godwin Ihentuge
Rodney Fresh
Donald Mahoney

FLOWER BEARERS
FAMILY AND FRIENDS

INTERMENT

DETROIT MEMORIAL PARK WEST
25200 Plymouth Road
Redford, MI 48239

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:
JAMES H. COLE FUNERAL HOME FOR FUNERALS

16100 Schaefer Hwy.
Detroit, MI 48235
Phone: 313.835.3997

THE REPAST

FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL
7707 W. Outer Drive
Detroit, MI 48235

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF APPRECIATION

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation, the many comforting messages, prayers, floral tributes and numerous other expressions of kindness and concern, evidenced at this time in thought and deed. A very special thank you is also extended to Fellowship Chapel, Somat Engineering, Inc. and the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO). A more personal acknowledgement will be made at a later date.

The Designer Print Shop 313.850.7705

FIRST BREATH:
November 1, 1955

Last Smile:
June 24, 2022

**SHARMYN
ELLIOTT**

**HEAVEN'S
NEWEST
STAR**
★★★

FRIDAY
JULY 8, 2022
VISITATION: 10AM
SERVICE: 11AM



FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL
7707 WEST OUTER DRIVE, DETROIT, MI 48235
REVEREND DR. WENDELL ANTHONY, PASTOR

The Order of Service

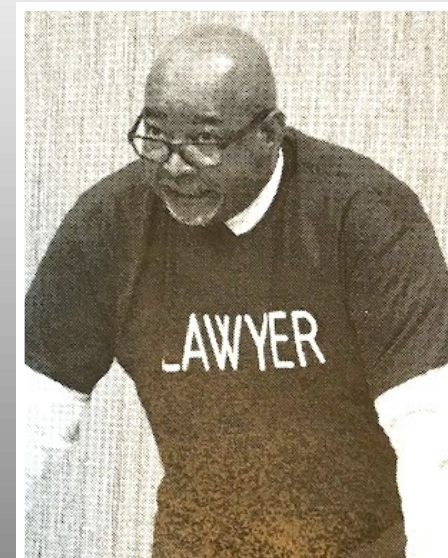
VISITATION: 10:00 A.M.

Musical Prelude Organist
 Processional Clergy, Family and Friends

HOMEGOING SERVICE: 11:00 A.M.

Musical Selection Audrey Northington
 Scripture Reading Minister
 Prayer Celestine Elliott
 Resolutions Beverlyn Hilton
 Acknowledgement of Cards, Condolences
 and Reading the "Life of Sharmyn Elliott" Gloria Killebrew
 Special Tributes G. "Ram" Ramanujam
 Brad Mims
 Tanya Adams
 Nateria Farrington
 Expressions (2 minutes, Please) Family, Friends, Colleagues
 Musical Selection Audrey Northington
 The Eulogy Reverend Dr. Wendell Anthony
 Pastor
 Musical Selection "Goin Up Yonder" Audrey Northington
 Recessional The Family
 Musical Postlude Organist

MATTHEW 6:10
*Your Kingdom Come
 Your Will Be Done
 On Earth As It Is In Heaven*



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COMTO LEADERS past and present offer their thoughts:

“COMTO was blessed to have Sharmyn as a champion and embodiment of our mission. We are grieving deeply along with his family and countless friends and colleagues. We are committed to honoring his legacy by embodying the grace, dignity and unwavering dedication to our work that was evident in Sharmyn,” said **President and CEO April Rai**.



“Today, we lost an amazing Man, Warrior, Mentor, Role Model and COMTO Champion - First Vice Chair and long-time COMTO member, Mr. Sharmyn Elliott. Personally, I've lost a friend, brother and fellow board member who inspired me to run for COMTO Chair. During our time together as Board members, he served as my trusted partner in leadership as First Vice Chair, and a highly accomplished, deeply respected member who was fully dedicated to the COMTO mission. I will honor his life and his service the best way I can-- by continuing to move forward with the COMTO mission and serve in his memory with steadfast commitment to being the voice for minorities in the transportation industry,” said **COMTO-Board Chair Tanya Adams**.

“We all have lost a giant in our lives and in the COMTO family - he was also my best friend. His love for COMTO was evident by the time, resources, and dedication he gave to this wonderful organization. He will forever be missed, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family,” said **Former President and CEO Brad Mim**.



CONFERENCE OF MINORITY TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS—COMTO

**SHARMYN ELLIOTT –
COMTO National First Vice-Chair**

As Vice President, CEO of Somat Engineering, Inc., a minority owned disadvantaged and Historically Underutilized Business (HUB), Sharmyn spent the majority of his career enduring and fighting to overcome the inequities and bias towards minorities and women in the infrastructure and multi-modal transportation space.

While serving as First Vice-Chair for 2021-2022 and Second Vice-Chair of the National Board of Directors from 2018 - 2021, it was an honor and privilege for him to serve in the following capacities as a member of the COMTO executive team:

- National Budget and Finance Committee Member (2016, 2018 - 2022)
- Chair - Bylaws Review/Update Committee (2019)
- Co-Chair - President and CEO Search Committee (2021)
- Interviewed with Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee regarding USDOT DBE Reauthorization Act (2021)

Additionally, he was an active and engaged member attending and sponsoring the following

COMTO National Events:

- National Meeting and Training Conference (2012 - 2019)
- Celebrating Women Who Move the Nation (2013 - 2019)
- COMTO/CBC Joint Leadership Meeting (2013 - 2019)

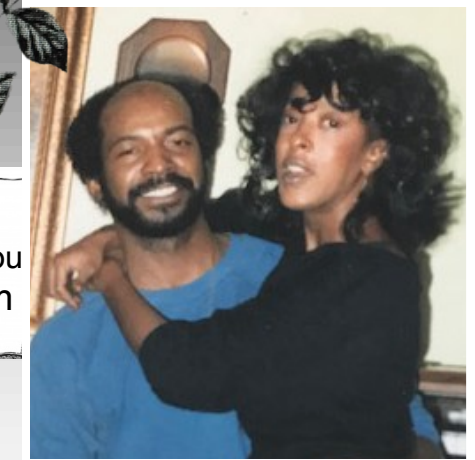
Whether attending National Fundraising events; participating in board meetings or chairing a subcommittee; or serving as Vice President of COMTO Michigan (2017-2022); working with COMTO was a true labor of love and one of the most fulfilling, professional passions of his life.



My Husband In Heaven

“Dearest Sharmyn you’re in Heaven wearing wings of Gold. I look forward to the day when your Hand again I’ll hold.

*Your Loving Wife
Ava*



I Love you Sharm

*Although you sleep in Heaven now
You’re not that far away
My heart is full of memories
And you’re with me everyday
You lived your life with meaning
And with a smile upon your face
A world that was full of happiness
Is now an empty place
People say that only time
Will heal a broken heart
But just like me and you
It has been torn apart
I know you are at peace now
And in a place where you are free
Meet me at the Pearly Gates
When Heaven calls for me.*



Sharmyn & Ava



Somat Engineering, INCORPORATED



God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be.
So He put His arms around you,
And whispered "Come to Me".
With tearful eyes we watched you,
We watched you fade away.
Although we loved you dearly,
we could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
hard working hands now rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.

Your Daughters, Traci and Torri

Your smile will always be etched in our minds.
Another Paw like you would be impossible to find.

We know your trip of life was fulfilled and long,
For that makes this easier and helps keep us strong.

Your life was a blessing to all you knew,
But we know you're up there now, making your big debut.

Your Lovable, Grands and Great-Grands

If I had to choose one word to describe **Sharmyn**, it would be "Pure". What you saw is what you got! He was all natural, all the time, with everyone. He was a "brother" to all of us and he transcended race, religion, language, nationality, position, economic status, age etc. He just connected with everyone. He was also a lot of fun to be around.

Sharmyn lived the Somat values, and always did the right thing.

Chuck Palahniuk said "We all die. The goal isn't to live forever. The goal is to create something that will."

Sharmyn created a legacy of hope, of excellence, of giving back, and of pride in his roots, and that will live forever.

G. "Ram" Ramanujam
President of Somat Engineering, Inc.

Sharmyn was my mentor, brother and friend; and he always encouraged me to be my best self. As my mentor, he freely provided his wisdom and guided me to strive for my full potential; as my brother, he had no difficulty letting me know when I was "getting in my own way" and as my friend, he always provided his unwavering support. We are all blessed for having known him.

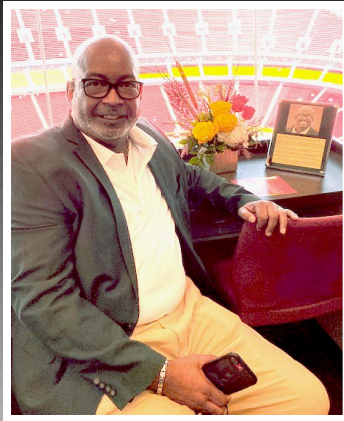
Kim LeBlanc - Director of Administration,
Somat Engineering, Inc.

Sharmyn was a prime example of great leadership. He taught so many of us at Somat how to not only lead with confidence and respect but with compassion. His presence was felt by everyone in the room and he always made a point to acknowledge everyone. He will certainly be missed here at Somat and I'm sure in so many other places. I will miss his guidance but more so his smile and laughter.

Jonathan Zaremski, PE,
Geotechnical Services Manager

Sharmyn was sooo much more than my boss. He was my mentor, my biggest advocate and most importantly my friend. When I think of Sharmyn I always thought of the "Six Million Dollar Man". "He will make you better, stronger, faster." If you were fortunate enough for him to pour into your life, that is exactly what he would do. He had the ability of pulling the best out of you. He accepted nothing less than excellence. He wanted us to be better, to be stronger, to be faster. He will be missed dearly.

Natiera Farrington
Marketing Coordinator, Somat Engineering, Inc.



IN LOVING
Memory
"BACK TOGETHER AGAIN"



Father and Son



Forever in our hearts

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF SHARMYN ELLIOTT



Accompanying the glorious sunrise of November 1, 1955, Sharmyn Elliott was born in Detroit Michigan to the late Bennie and Ann Elliott. He was educated in the Detroit Public School System, graduated from Mumford High School and attended Oakland Community College.

Sharmyn was a long-time member of Fellowship Chapel under the tutelage of Reverend Dr. Wendell Anthony, Pastor, where he confessed in Christ and was baptized. Sharmyn, a staunch and dedicated man of God, was a true believer who possessed strong resolute faith, often starting his days with prayer and meditation.

Sharmyn Elliott was united in holy matrimony with the love of his life, Ava Paylor, and to this union one son was born. Terez, his "Mini Me" preceded him in death. He was the proud father of two daughters, Traci and Torri, from a previous marriage and affectionately doted on "the girls" who they lovingly referred to as "Paw". His family was his greatest accomplishment and source of pride. Sharmyn exemplified the role of a wonderful husband and father, excellent provider and fierce protector. He was a tower of strength and the nucleus of the family.

Sharmyn, an avid golfer loved spending time with his family. His personal passions were traveling and shopping. At all times, impeccably attired, Sharmyn felt that "presentation" was everything, and one could never be overdressed. A trait, unquestionably derivative of his mom, Ann. A legend in her own right.

Professionally, Sharmyn developed strong leadership skills early in life and was passionately dedicated to mentorship. He exhibited a divine purpose and a strong, unwavering commitment to assist and advocate for the advancement and success of others. He was responsible for the furtherance of numerous individuals relative to the advancement of their careers and assisted many co-workers, colleagues, mentees, family and friends in developing expert skills and reaching their full potential. He never failed to reach back as he climbed. Compelled to teach; compelled to prime; always humble, Sharmyn was a true example of selflessness, and whenever appreciation was shown for his acts, he always intensely stated, "This Is What We're Supposed To Do."

Sharmyn was a revered giant during his lengthy professional career. He was much loved, well respected and well known for his integrity and tenacious work ethic. Loyal, tireless, and masterful, his exceptional expertise with more than 40 years of experience in the infrastructure engineering industry is eminently lauded. Without doubt or dispute, his enduring love and legacy will be cherished forever.

Sharmyn Elliott was preceded in death by his son, Terez Anton-Elliott Paylor; parents, Bennie and Ann Elliott; brother: Bennie Elliott, Jr. and sisters: Pat and Barbara of Tuscaloosa, AL.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his loving and devoted wife: Ava; daughters: Traci Farrell and Torri Elliott; grandchildren: Peris Sr. and Naja; great-grandchildren: Peris Jr. and Aryah; daughter-n-love: Ebony Reed; brothers: Michael (Mary) of Shelby, NC; Lenoris (Celeste) of Detroit, MI; David of Chicago, IL and Jerry of Pittsburgh, PA; sister: Theresa of St. Louis, MO and a host of relatives, nieces, nephews and cousins.

SHARMYN ELLIOTT BIOGRAPHY

- **June 2012 – Current:** Sharmyn Elliott is Vice President of Somat Engineering Inc., Michigan, a full-service infrastructure solution provider. Bringing more than 49 years of experience to the industry, Mr. Elliott's responsibilities include operations manager for the firm's geotechnical and construction engineering practice disciplines, client relations, and developing and implementing strategic planning initiatives. He currently serves as the Senior Project Consultant on several Infrastructure, multi-modal Transportation, Regional Transit Authority, Aviation, Water-Wastewater, and Municipal Engineering/Construction contracts including Program Management, Construction Management, Design/Bid/Build, Construction Inspection and Material Testing projects. Clients include the Michigan Department of Transportation; Ohio Department of Transportation; Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission (OTIC); Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority; Wayne County Airport Authority; Detroit Water and Sewerage Department; Great Lakes Water Authority; Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District; Wayne County Department of Public Works; and a host of National, Regional and Local A/E Design Firms.
- **July 2013 – Current:** Mr. Elliott also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Somat Engineering of Ohio, Inc. and is responsible for the firms overall engineering practice disciplines and construction engineering service operations in Cleveland and Brooklyn Heights, Ohio.
- **2012: Retired**
- **2011 – 2011: Jenkins Construction Company - General Contracting; Construction Management; Design/Build; Program Management Services**
 - Director, Business Development Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan
- **1980 - 2011: NTH Consultants, Ltd. – A Full-Service Engineering Consulting Firm, Providing A Wide Range of Geotechnical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, and Facilities Engineering Services to Energy, Solid Waste, Transportation and Water / Wastewater Communities**
 - 2003 – 2011 - Senior Vice President, Infrastructure Engineering; Member, Board of Directors
 - 1998 – 2003 - Vice President, Director of Business Development
 - 1988 – 1998 - Vice President, Practice Manager – Construction Engineering Services
 - 1980 – 1988 - Senior Engineering Technician – Construction Engineering Services
- **1976 – 1980: Spalding DeDecker and Associates, Inc. – A Consulting Engineering and Surveying Firm Specializing in Infrastructure, Land Development and Transportation**
 - Senior Engineering Technician - Madison Heights, Michigan
- **1973-1976: Michigan Testing/PSI – A Consulting Engineering and Testing Firm**
 - Construction Technician - Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan Redford, Wayne County, Michigan
- **SIGNATURE PROJECTS**
 - I-96 Fix
 - Little Caesars Arena
 - M-1 Rail Streetcar Project
 - Greektown Permanent Casino Expansion Program, Hotel, and Parking Structure,
 - Ford Field Stadium
 - Comerica Park
 - Fellowship Chapel

