

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Tolbert
A. Furr



Sunrise

Sunset

SEPTEMBER 27, 1960 - APRIL 3, 2020

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020 | 12NOON

THE FERGUSON-RAYAM FUNERAL HOME
80 MIDLAND AVENUE | WALLINGTON, NJ 07057
BISHOP ANTHONY W. GILYARD | PRESIDING



Order OF SERVICE

Honoring THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF TOLBERT A. FURR

Prayer

Scripture:

Old Testament:

Proverbs 3: 5-6

New Testament:

2 Corinthians 5: 1 – 11

Selection

“Why We Sing”

by Kirk Franklin

Obituary Reading

Words of Expression

Poem Reading

Selection

“Total Praise”

by Richard Smallwood

Eulogy

Bishop Anthony W. Gilyard

Recessional

Tolbert Austin Furr was born to the late Samuel H. and Leatrice J. Furr at Beth Israel Hospital in Newark, NJ on September 27, 1960. Tolbert was the only son of Samuel and Leatrice; he was one amongst seven siblings. On the 3rd day of April at 3:30am, Tolbert, who trusted God to the end of his earthly life, was called to his heavenly eternal home and transitioned to the presence of the Lord.

Tolbert grew up in the city of Newark. He was a strong, intelligent, black man who loved Brick City. Affectionately known as “Pablo” to some and “Furr” to others, he was admired, respected, and loved by many. He was truly a people person and one of a kind.

Tolbert attended Hawthorne Avenue Elementary School for his formative education years. He enjoyed his years at Weequahic High School in Newark, NJ where he loved and bonded with many people and he skillfully played football.

After graduating high school in 1978, he ventured to attend Doane College in Nebraska, where he earned a football scholarship. He loved the game and enjoyed the experience, but he missed home. He returned home and attended Upsala College in East Orange, NJ.

At age 17, in 1977, Tolbert met the love of his life, Gwendolyn Hutson, who he affectionately called “Sunshine.” And their connection was true love. On July 26, 1986, he and Gwen were married, their love was deep and they were binded by the heart. Through this union three children, Tiffany, Travis, and Tiajahlyn were born. He is also the father of Eboni, Tahjhir, and TreJohn. He was a good man who generously gave to his wife and all of his children; they wanted for nothing.

In addition to the deep love he had for his family; he had an even deeper love for Christ. He rolled out of bed each morning and knelt on his knees to pray giving thanks to God. Tolbert attended New Hope Baptist Church (Newark) under the leadership of Pastor Joe Carter. He also served as a member for many years at Greater Mount Moriah Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Bennett Johnson, Jr. He frequently paid his tithes.

Tolbert began his career as an insurance agent with Progressive Life Insurance Company in the early 80's. He then started a three - decade career with New Jersey Transit, recently retiring in June 2019. During his time with NJ Transit, he was elected for two three- year terms as a union representative with ATU. His journey started as a bus-driver in the Big Tree Garage where he was loved by his co-workers. He later transitioned to a light rail operator, where each passenger knew him by name. He also founded the Black Caucus with NJ Transit 819.

With a desire to serve his beloved Brick City, he graduated from the police academy and became a Newark Special Police officer in 1995. Over the past 25 years, he protected and served at Newark Housing Authority (Special Crime Prevention), Newark Municipal Hall, and several churches and businesses throughout the city. Building relationships with Newarkers from all over the city, he was known for always having a smile and a loud yet wise word.

In 2015, he received the Newark Humanitarian award from Newark Special Police for his community service.

In addition to his commitment to his career, he along with great friends Lindsey and Wes, operated the 40 – 42 Social Club for their fellow officers, families, and friends. He would often be seen there for Sunday night football always representing his beloved NY Giants. The Social Club was also an extension of his need to serve, providing Turkeys for families on Thanksgiving and toys on Christmas for community members. Many years, he also anonymously left 8-10 turkeys on the steps of his church so that the church could give them out to people for Thanksgiving.

Tolbert loved his family deeply and was also the one to lean on. He would give it to you straight- no chaser, but you always knew it was coming from a place of love and care. There was nothing that he wouldn't do for those he loved - he always made the time to share his wisdom or words of encouragement. He was a gentle giant (he was strong, giving, and would even shed a tear) and gave a special nickname to all of his children and many of his nieces and nephews. He affectionately loved shouting out with loving passion "Boo Da Boo" to his baby girl, Tia.

He loved his people and his cigars, house music and a two-step.

We will miss him immensely and remember him fondly!!!

Tolbert leaves to cherish his memories: a loving wife, Gwendolyn Furr; Children: Tiffany (Jimmy) Barreau, Travis Furr, Tiajahlyn Furr, Eboni Furr, Tahjhir Furr, TreJohn Furr; Siblings: Deadra (Reginald) Phillips, Donna (Arthur) Hall, Keith Jackson, Dionne Winstead, Barbara (Michael) Furr-Washington, Samuel Furr III; Grandchildren: Jaden Furr, Isaiah Barreau; In laws: Willie (Cynthia) Hutson, Margie Hutson; Sister in Law: Theresa Huston & family; Uncles: Carl Watkins and Carl Gaynor and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Lovingly Submitted,
The Family

*To everyone who was connected to Tolbert Furr in anyway, we leave unto you the words of Apostle Paul, as Tolbert would want to express: Ephesians 1: 1-7



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE FAMILY WISHES TO EXPRESS THEIR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO EVERYONE FOR THE MANY KIND DEEDS AND EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY IN OUR TIME OF SORROW. WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER AND CHERISH YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS. THE FURR FAMILY

INTERMENT
 GLENDALE CEMETERY
 BLOOMFIELD, NJ



THE FERGUSON-RAYAM FUNERAL HOME

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