

# Order of Service

Officiant: Elder Lisa Rivers

## Opening Selection

"Amazing Grace"

Leedea Harrison

& Evangelist Caliph McCoy

## Prayer of Comfort

Elder Lisa Rivers

Infinite Wonders Ministries

## Scripture Readings

Brianna Mondesire

Old Testament

Lamentations 3:22-23 NKJV

& Psalm 23 NKJV

New Testament

John 14:1-3 NKJV

## Remarks/Words of Reflection

As a Father - Shawn Smalley

As a Grandfather - Breia Smalley

As a Friend - Grafton Hunley

## Reading of Obituary

Joseph Mondesire

## Selection

"Going Up Yonder"

Leedea Harrison

& Evangelist Caliph McCoy

## Message of Hope

Pastor Derric Wright

Infinite Wonders Ministries

## Recessional

# Interment

Whitemarsh Memorial Park  
1169 Limekiln Pike  
Ambler, PA 19002

# Big Bruce

Man are we going to miss you Daddy  
It's hard to believe that you are gone  
The absence of your laugh and you singing your song  
Or sitting up telling stories all night long  
You loved to make music and sing your favorite song  
"I got black magic woman" on your guitar  
It's a loss we all feel, no one can fill your shoes,  
You were a legend Big Bruce, one that's very hard to lose  
You taught the men to be men and doted on your girls for sure  
No one is perfect yeah I know but your heart was certainly pure  
Our pop was a true man and intentions always good  
He led with strength and a stern hand but we all understood  
Because you weren't just our father you were The Dad in the hood  
That laugh, we will miss that laugh, the cute snarky remarks  
and your charming wit  
We all just wish we could have you longer  
At least just for a little bit  
We love you Big Bruce,

Your kids

# Pop Pop

To our Pop Pop in heaven, we have so much to say, but not many words to say it. The truth is, we are just not ready to say goodbye. If only we had one more laugh, one more a cappella, one more pop-pop shuffle on the dance floor. Our memories of yesterday will last a lifetime. Thank you for always putting family first, thank you for always being present, and thank you for always loving us.

Until we meet again Pop Pop,

Love,  
The Smalley Grandchildren

# Mr. Smiley

Your voice, a compass when I strayed,  
Guiding me, through light and shade.  
In life's vast sea, your wisdom was my mast,  
With you, my sail was always vast.  
Though now, you've journeyed far away,  
Your light remains, guiding my way.  
In memories and tales, you're never far,  
Forever, my guiding northern star.  
Your love was silent, yet profound,  
A bond unspoken, yet all around.  
Even in absence, your warmth does last,  
A beacon from the memories past.

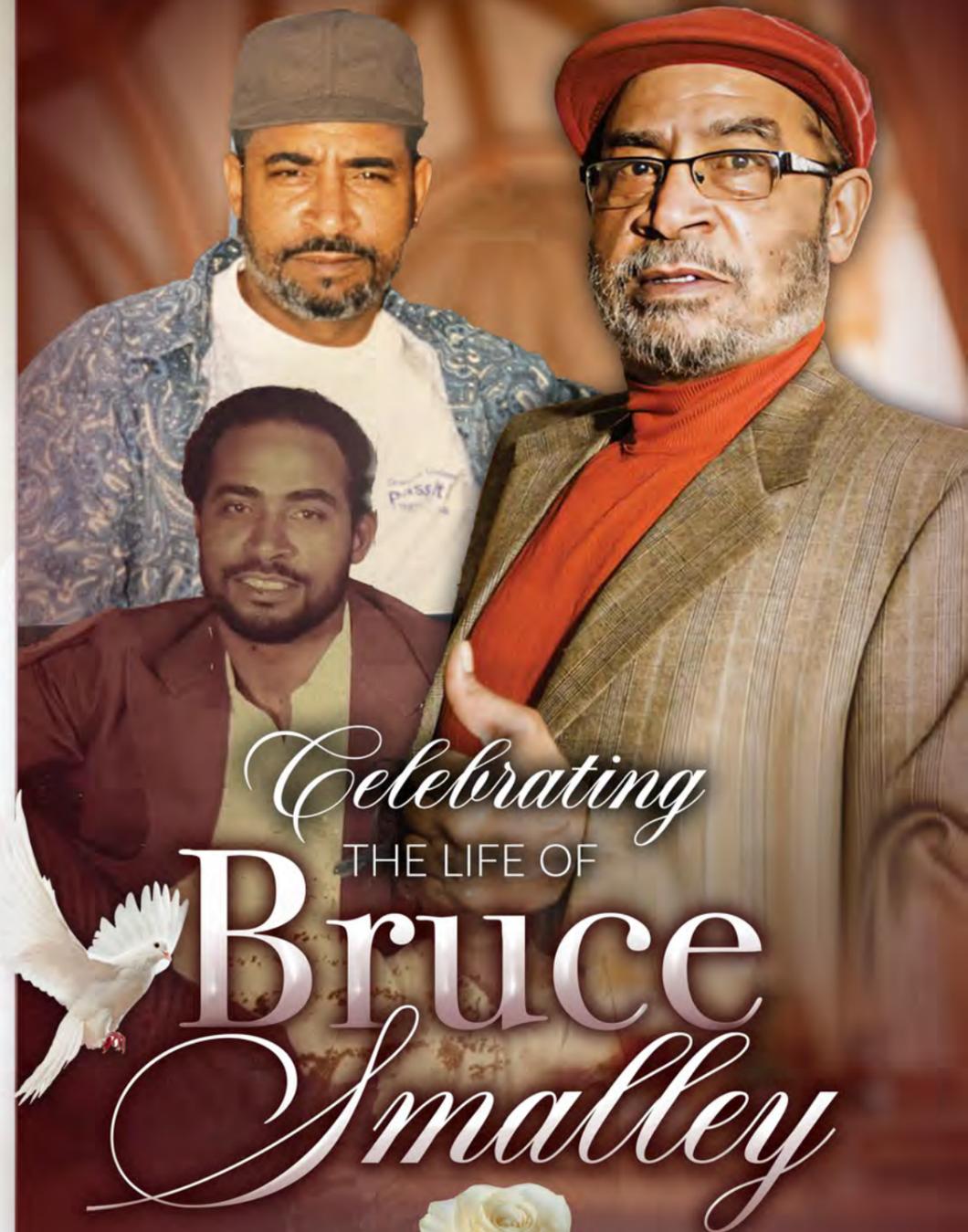
Love Jeelon & Ernest

# In Appreciation

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for the sympathy, love and support you have extended to our family during this time of loss. May God bless and keep you.



Professional Services Entrusted To:  
**G. CHOICE FUNERAL CHAPEL INC.**  
2530 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19132  
215-227-0100 Office | 215-225-1256 Fax  
www.gchoicefc.com | Britni' Choice - Cartwright, Supervisor



APRIL 26, 1944

MAY 2, 2024

# Service of Love

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024 AT 11:00AM

# Wayside Chapel

1156 HORSHAM ROAD, AMBLER, PA 19002

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

# His Story

Bruce Smalley, known affectionately as Big Bruce or Smiley, was born on April 26, 1944, in Uniontown, PA, to the late Kathryn Smalley (Merriweather) and the late Samuel Smalley. Bruce departed this life at his home in Philadelphia on May 2, 2024. He was the third of his parents' four children, Barbara Ann Bateman, Jean Smalley, and Edward Smalley, all of whom preceded him in death.

Bruce spent his childhood in Augusta, GA, with his paternal relatives, and when he didn't have to be at school, he and his mule tended to the farm. He attended the segregated John Pierce Blanchard High School, which only educated Black students during his time there. Bruce flourished as an athlete, starring on his school's track team, as well as on the football field, where he was the lead running back.

After several years, Bruce grew tired of working the farm, as he was tasked with the most laborious responsibilities. Tensions mounted with neighboring farmers, so he returned to Pennsylvania, ultimately settling in Philadelphia, where he met and married Wilhelmina Smalley (Kelly). This union produced six of his twelve children: Bruce Anthony, Paul, Shawn, Kurt, Dawn, and Keith.

Bruce worked for years at a lumber yard on Ridge Pike where he learned skilled carpentry before he began his over thirty-year career as a Maintenance Engineer for Drexel University, from which he retired in 2015.

While living in Philadelphia, Bruce's love of sports continued to be a big part of his life. He boxed at Joe Frazier's Gym in North Philadelphia and served as player-coach for the softball team "Knee Deep." He also coached youth softball and basketball teams around the city. Earlier in his life, two of Bruce's favorite hobbies were street racing with his orange Mustang Cobra. Bruce enjoyed going to Phillies games, especially when the Pittsburgh Pirates came to town because his childhood friend Perry Dunn played for the Pirates and would always leave tickets for Bruce. He also had many hobbies, including, biking, guitar, and singing in a quartet named "Phil-dels". Everyone who knew "Smiley" also knew of his love of cooking, especially barbecuing. He loved to cook for people, often making his favorite Southern meals for family and friends.

Bruce was undoubtedly a man's man and had a big heart. He was widely known for his courage, wisdom, and resourcefulness. He was always keen to leverage skills he acquired throughout his life, from agriculture, carpentry, and mechanics, and prided himself on self-sufficiency. Using sports as a vehicle, he instilled discipline and the value of working hard in his children. Bruce often welcomed their friends as if they were his own. He also had a great sense of humor and loved to laugh and reminisce about old times with his friends and family.

Bruce was a very private, but loving and caring person. He truly loved his family and would do any and everything for them. He requested to be laid to rest near his mother, whom he loved with all his heart. He will be dearly missed by his children Sharinell Lauderdale, Kathryn Bruton, Pamela Elim, Bruce Anthony (Bernadette), Andre Kidd (Tiffany), Paul (Aretha), Shawn, Kurt (Tia), Dawn (William Person), Keith, Marie Antoinette, and Brianna Mondesire (Joseph), forty-five grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews, his long-time companion and friend Adriene Smith, her daughter Jeelon Crawley (Khalil), and her son Ernest Smith, both of whom he raised as his own.

Lovingly Submitted,

# The Family

