

To Those Whom I Love And Those Who Love Me

When I am gone, release me, let me go.
I have so many things to see and do,
You mustn't tie yourself to me with too many tears,
But be thankful we had so many good years.
I gave you my love, and you can only guess
How much you've given me in happiness.
I thank you for the love that you have shown,
But now it is time I traveled on alone.
So grieve for me a while, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It is only for a while that we must part,
So treasure the memories within your heart.
I won't be far away for life goes on.
And if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I will be near.
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear,
All my love around you soft and clear.
And then, when you come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and a 'Welcome Home'.

Final Resting Place

FOREST HILLS CEMETERY

95 Forest Hills Avenue, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

Following the burial, you are invited to fellowship with the family at:
GRANT A.M.E. CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL

Pallbearers

Derek Gaines

Alfonso Wint

Brian Halliday

Lino Grau

Roy Green

James Moore

In Gratitude

The Gaines family extends our heartfelt gratitude to St. Joseph's Manor and Grant A.M.E. Church for their hospitality and support during this difficult time. We are deeply appreciative for the organizations that have stood by our family, and the countless family members and friends who have shared their love, support, and comfort. Your kindness and generosity has given us strength and solace. We are profoundly grateful for each of you.

Thank you for honoring Richard's life and legacy with us.



A Celebration of Life

Richard A. Gaines

June 7, 1945 ~ December 7, 2024



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024

VISITING 10:00 AM † SERVICE 11:00 AM

Grant A.M.E. Church

1906 Washington Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts

Reverend Dr. Pedro A. Castro, Jr., Pastor

Obituary

Richard Andrew Gaines blessed this world on June 7, 1945 in Boston, MA. His parents Andrew and Mary Gaines raised him on Parker Hill in the family home. Affectionately known to family as Ricky and to his friends as Ric, he was the second oldest of seven children and the only brother. Richard enjoyed being the brother, taking care of his sisters, cousins, family and friends.

Richard was an avid track runner for Boston Trade and Boston Technical High Schools. At age 17, he joined the United States Marine Corps where he served 20 years and two tours in Vietnam. Upon returning home to his family, he earned his bachelors and master's degrees from Cambridge College and dabbled in entrepreneurship. He worked as a bartender at Biff's, a carpenter, a police officer for the Wareham Police Department, an Affirmative Action Officer for the MBTA, and Disaster Field Supervisor for FEMA until he retired.

From a young age, Richard was an active member of Grant A.M.E Church. There he met his lovely wife Mozelle of 58 years. From this union Richard and Mozelle had three children Morgan, Corwin, and his "baby girl" Katonya.

Richard was proud of his children and their accomplishments and always encouraged them to do their best. He never missed an opportunity to support his grandchildren, whether attending an 8-hour dance recital for Joliana or a basketball game for Derek. However, the apple of his eye was his great-granddaughter Azaria with whom he spent time with daily. He was a proud dad, an awesome grandfather, and a magnificent great grandfather. Simply, Richard was the neighborhood dad who had all neighborhood kids in "boot camp."

Furthermore, Richard never backed down from a good fight. He would advocate for others and encourage his children to do the same. It was a common practice for him to take the family for walks in Franklin Park at night to teach his children about nature and "to develop your eyes, so you can see at night." One always felt safe being in his presence.

Richard served as a Past Worshipful Master in Mt. Moriah Lodge #9 Prince Hall Masons. He was a Noble of Syria Temple #31. He was a long serving member of the Castle Williams #4 Order of the Eastern Star holding the title of Past Worthy Patron.

Richard was a gentle giant. Anyone who knew him knew that he was intense, yet with an odd sense of humor. This made him a great storyteller. He could tell a story that made you just say "really?! Huh! Okay!?"

Let's not forget the plaid! Red plaid, blue plaid, brown plaid, green plaid, regular plaid, flannel plaid, plaid with shearling lining, plaid shirts, plaid jackets, plaid robes-plaid! Richard loved plaid. His plaid collection was extensive. He may have single-handedly kept LLBeans' flannel plaid line in operational for years. No one could rock plaid with 2-inch suspenders like Ricky.

OBITUARY CONTINUED: Richard departed this world on December 4, 2024. He was preceded in death by his son, Morgan, his sisters Donna Sudano, and Andrea Tesfayohannes. He leaves behind his wife Mozelle, his son Corwin, his daughter Katonya, his grandchildren Derek, and Joliana, as well as, great granddaughter Azaria. Four sisters Jeanette Yancey, Linda Gaines, Mary Bernard, and Dara Bernard and a host of loving nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Richard's legacy is one of love, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to the well-being of those who crossed his path. Indeed, his life was a blessing. His memory will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew him.

Order of Service

ORGAN PRELUDE Paul White

PROCESSION Clergy

INVOCATION Merlin Southwick

OPENING HYMN Mattie Finch

SCRIPTURE READING OLD TESTAMENT : PSALM 121
NEW TESTAMENT: JOHN 14:1-6

MUSICAL SELECTION Mary Bernard

REFLECTIONS AND REMARKS (2-3 MINUTES)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CHURCH RESOLUTION Sheila Grant

OBITUARY READING Kalya Hamlett Murray

MUSICAL SELECTION Dara Bernard

EULOGY Pastor Pedro Castro

BENEDICTION Pastor Pedro Castro

RECESSION

ORGAN POSTLUDE Paul White