

*The Homegoing
Celebration
for
Marlon Dionne Gresham Sr.*

November 6, 1957 ~ June 22, 2024



Friday, July 5, 2024
10:00 AM

Bethel A.M.E. Church
38 Walk Hill Street | Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
Rev. Drs. Ray & Gloria Hammond, Co-Pastors

*Rev. Lorraine A. Thornhill, Pastor, Officiant
Kingdom Empowerment Center*

*Rev. Kenneth I. Lewis, Pastor, Eulogist
Green Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church*

Obituary

Marlon Dionne Gresham was born on November 6, 1957 in San Diego, California to Rezella Johnson {Williams} and James Henry Gresham. At a young age, Marlon and his brothers relocated to Boston, Massachusetts with their mother; she later met and married Raymond Johnson in Boston. Marlon was the oldest of five children.

Marlon's life was marked by a journey of love, service, and cherished moments. Marlon attended Jamaica Plain High School, where fate introduced him to his lifelong partner, Patricia. Despite graduating from different schools - Marlon from English High and Patricia from Jamaica Plain High - their high school romance flourished into a lifelong love story, blessed with three wonderful sons: Marlon Jr., Stephen, and Alexander.

Following graduation, Marlon enlisted in the military, serving his country with honor and courage in both the United States and overseas, where he was a narcotic and bomb dog handler. He earned the respect of his peers and superiors, culminating in an honorable discharge from the military in 1984. He took his knowledge of security to Bromley Heath Security, Boston Medical Center Security, and Northeast Security, where he worked tirelessly until his final days.

Marlon and Patricia's marriage was a beacon of strength and happiness. As the years passed, they found solace and joy in their frequent visits to Aruba, a place to which Marlon referred as his "home away from home."

His mornings there were ritualistic, claiming spots poolside at 4:00 AM with unrivaled determination - ten chairs secured so that his family could be sure to enjoy every moment of their vacation together, a testament to his steadfast spirit.

A dedicated father, Marlon immersed himself in sports, coaching in both the Reagan Youth Baseball League and at Bromley Heath, where he shared his passion for basketball, imparting invaluable lessons of sportsmanship and teamwork to countless young athletes. Throughout his life, he would often be found on the sidelines of the games and events of his children and grandchildren, proudly supporting them in their many varied endeavors. His commitment extended beyond the court as a proud member of the Masons of Prince Hall Grand Lodge, where he found camaraderie and friendship among its members.

Marlon leaves behind countless individuals who hold his memory dearly: the love of his life and wife of 46 years, Patricia Gresham; his parents, Rezella and Raymond Johnson; his sons, Marlon Dionne Gresham Jr. {Sandra}, Dr. Stephen Lamar Gresham {Andrew} and Alexander Jared Gresham {Nicole}; his grandchildren, fondly known as "*His Babies*," Yazmina Christine Gresham, Marcel Dionne Gresham, Olivia Grace Gresham, Sophia Gwendolyn Gresham, Danté Dionne Gresham, and Carleigh Ann Gresham; his brothers, Travis Gresham and Christopher Johnson {Jessica}, and his sister Edythe "Renee" Johnson. Marlon also leaves to mourn a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and an abundance of friends. Marlon is preceded in death by his beloved brother James "Darryl" Gresham.

"I'm There Inside Your Heart"

By: Unknown

Right now I'm in a different place
And though we seem apart
I'm closer than I ever was,
I'm there inside your heart.

I'm with you when you greet each day
And while the sun shines bright
I'm there to share the sunsets, too
I'm with you every night.

I'm with you when the times are good
To share a laugh or two,
And if a tear should start to fall
I'll still be there for you.

And when that day arrives
That we no longer are apart,
I'll smile and hold you close to me,
Forever in my heart.



Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

Perfect submission, perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

Prelude

Prayer of Comfort

Rev. Lorraine A. Thornhill

Scripture Readings

Joshua 1:9

Ashley Tippet, Niece

Matthew 11:28-30

Jennah Young, Niece

John 14:27

Dr. Stefani Harvey, Niece

Congregational Hymn

Blessed Assurance

Reflections

Rodney Williams, Best Friend

Robert Marchman, Brother - in - law

Anthony Tippet Sr., Brother - in - law

Musical Selection

Arielle Spivey

Obituary

Christopher Johnson, Brother

Tribute to Dad

Marlon Gresham Jr.

Dr. Stephen Gresham

Alexander Gresham

Musical Selection

Ida Denard-Jones

Eulogy

Rev. Kenneth I. Lewis, Pastor

Benediction

Recessional



Pallbearers

Marlon Gresham Jr. ~ Dr. Stephen Gresham
Alexander Gresham ~ Anthony Tippet Jr.
Khiry Marchman ~ Donnell Harvey

Acknowledgements

We thank God for the life of Marlon Dionne Gresham Sr. Marlon's legacy of love, service, and dedication will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him. The family wishes to express their heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for the support and prayers they have received during this time of bereavement.

Internment

immediately following at

Milton Cemetery

211 Centre Street | Milton, MA 02186

Repast

Prince Hall

Celestial Lodge #2

24 Washington Street | Boston, MA 02121

Funeral arrangement entrusted to

Davis Funeral Homes, Inc.

89 Walnut Ave | Roxbury, MA 02119

