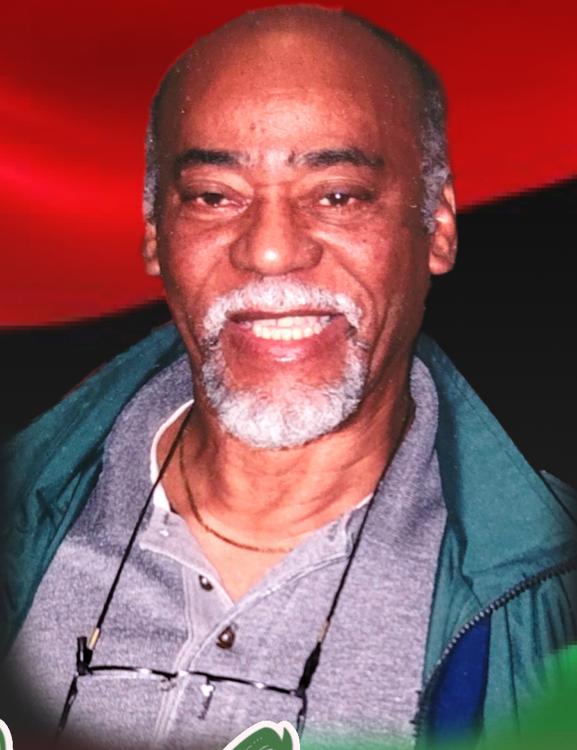


CELEBRATION OF LIFE



Remie Stephens Jr.

FEB 9, 1936 - JUNE 5, 2025

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2025
WAKE: 10:00 AM - FUNERAL: 11:00 AM

WATSON'S FUNERAL HOME
10913 SUPERIOR AVE - CLEVELAND, OH 44106

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Processional..... The Family

Family Visitation..... 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Scripture..... Minister
OLD & NEW TESTAMENT

Prayer.....

Selection.....

Remarks PLEASE LIMIT TO 2 MIN

Obituary PLEASE READ SILENTLY

Eulogy Rev. R.A. Stephens, III

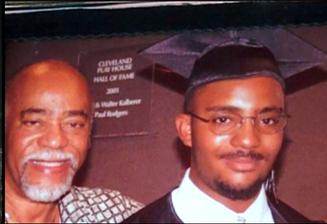
Recessional..... Family & Friends

INTERMENT

EVERGREEN MEMORIAL PARK
5505 NORTHFIELD ROAD, BEDFORD HTS, OH 44146

PALLBEARERS

FAMILY & FRIENDS



Obituary

Romie A. Stephens Jr. was born on February 9, 1936, in Mansfield, Ohio, to the late Elder Romie A. Stephens Sr. and Minnie V. Douglas (Stephens). His birth father passed away when Romie was just six months old. Soon after, Minnie moved to Cleveland, where she met and married Emerson Boykins. Together, they raised Romie in a loving Christian home grounded in faith and purpose.

Romie's life was defined by passion, integrity, and a deep love for family. He graduated from East Tech High School and proudly enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he served with honor for nearly 10 years before being honorably discharged in the early 1960s.

After his military service, Romie met Phyllis Belle, his devoted life partner, who stood by his side and cared for him lovingly until his peaceful transition. He became the proud father of five children: Gary, Sharon, Lori, Romie III, and Chad.

As a father, Romie's gentle strength and nurturing spirit laid a firm foundation for his children. He taught the values of creativity, gratitude, resilience, and the importance of leaving the world better than we found it. His greatest joy came from supporting and uplifting others, always leading with compassion and encouraging people to seize each moment with purpose.

Romie was a passionate advocate for the Black community and remained deeply involved in efforts to uplift and empower others. He served honorably in multiple community organizations, including as Board President of Murtis Taylor Human Services System and as a board member of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry. A proud Black Nationalist and dedicated Mason, he was a longtime member of William T. Boyd Masonic Lodge #79.

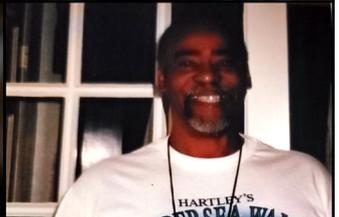
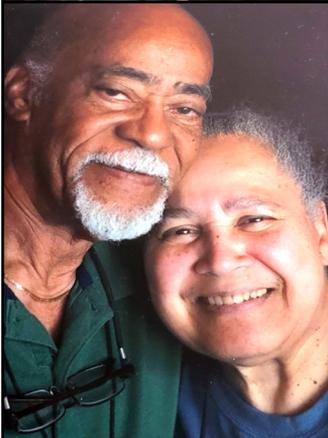
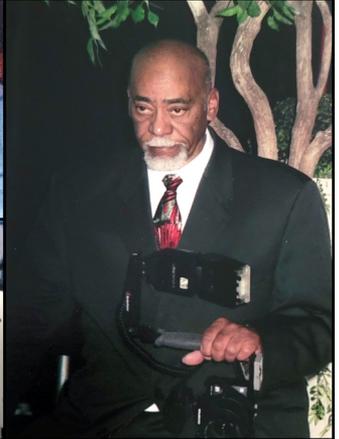
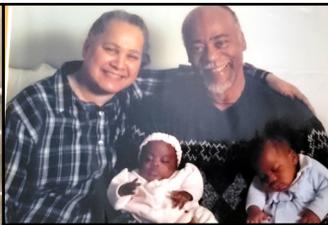
Above all, Romie was an entrepreneur with a brilliant mind and an unwavering commitment to capturing and celebrating the beauty of Cleveland's Black community. He was one of the first Black men to start a security surveillance company in Northeast Ohio and served as a mentor and business consultant to numerous Black-owned businesses throughout the region. He poured his heart into every venture, treating each setback not as a failure but as a lesson to grow from. Romie inspired others to pursue their dreams boldly and was always willing to lend an ear to those committed to community progress.

Romie will be remembered for his warm smile, infectious humor, and enduring faith in the good of humanity. Whether behind the camera lens or drafting a business plan, Romie lived each day with creativity, compassion, and purpose.

Romie was preceded in death by his parents: Elder Romie A. Stephens Sr., Minnie V. Boykins, and Emerson Boykins; his sister, Bessie Smith; his son, Gary M. Carnes; daughter-in-law, Shante Stephens; and granddaughter, Delia Stephens.

Romie is survived by his loving life partner, Phyllis Belle; two sons, Romie A. Stephens III and Chad Stephens (Natalie); two daughters, Sharon Coleman (Bart), and Lori Tazewell (Charles), daughter-in-law, Dorraine (Emery) Carnes; niece and nephew, Cynthia and Mike Golson; six grandchildren: Daniel, NyKayla Stephens, Anthony Pierson (Southern Ohio), Marilyn Ikerd (Kevin Frye - Overland Park, KS), Demetria Green (Anthony - Houston, TX), Michelle Carnes (Kansas City, KS), and Andre Burton; five great-grandchildren; and a host of extended family members and friends who will forever carry his memory in their hearts. Romie's legacy lives on in every life he touched and every photo he captured.

*Lovingly Submitted,
The Family*





The Bronze Legacy

BY EFFIE LEE NEWSOME

-TO A BROWN BOY-

*'Tis a noble gift to be brown, all brown,
Like the strongest things that make up this earth,
Like the mountains grave and grand,
Even like the very land,
Even like the trunks of trees—
Even oaks, to be like these!
God builds His strength in bronze.*

*To be brown like thrush and lark!
Like the subtle wren so dark!
Nay, the king of beasts wears brown;
Eagles are of this same hue.
I thank God, then, I am brown.
Brown has mighty things to do.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*The Family sincerely appreciates all acts of kindness shown during this time of bereavement. We thank you for your prayers, comforting words, personal visits and calls. We ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers.
May God Bless and forever comfort you.*

SERVICES OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO

Watson's Funeral Home
www.WatsonFuneralHome.com

10913 SUPERIOR AVE. – CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106

TELEPHONE (216) 721-0066

