



When I Must Leave You

*When I must leave you,
 For a little while –
 Please do not grieve
 And shed wild tears
 And hug your sorrow to you
 Through the years,
 But start out bravely
 With a gallant smile;
 And for my sake
 And for my name
 Live on and do
 All things the same,
 Feed not your loneliness
 On empty days,
 But fill each waking hour
 In useful ways,
 Reach out your hand
 In comfort and in cheer
 And I in turn will comfort you
 And hold you near
 And, never, never be afraid to die,
 For I am waiting for you in the sky.*

By Helen Steiner Rice



Pall Bearers

Corey Phillips
 Omari Phillips
 Omar Wilson
 Malachi Wells
 Brian Wells
 Dominic Courtney

Acknowledgements

We sincerely thank our many friends and family for the prayers and expressions of sympathy extended to us in the loss of Norman, our cherished loved one. It is our fervent hope that God will continue to bless all of you in a very special way.

~The Phillips Family~

Interment

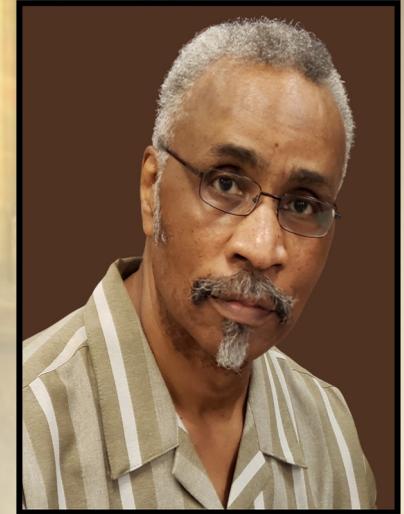
Crestview Memorial Park
 6850 University Parkway
 Rural Hall, NC 27045
 336-969-6793



727 North Patterson Avenue
 Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101
 336.722.8117
www.clarksbrownandsons.com

Homegoing

CELEBRATION



Mr. Norman "Bo" Phillips

Sunrise
 August 17, 1947

Sunset
 May 19, 2022

Friday, May 27, 2022

11:00 AM

Rural Hall Church of God

270 College Street

Rural Hall, North Carolina 27045

Pastor Greg Carswell, Officiating

The Order of Service

Prelude	“Walk Around Heaven” “I Believe” <i>Mr. Norman Phillips (Pre-recorded)</i>
Processional	Pastor Greg Carswell, Family and Friends “When All Is Said and Done” <i>Natasha Perez</i>
Hymn of Praise	“Goodness of God” RHC of God Praise Team
Invocation	Heather Hampton
Scripture Reading:	
Old Testament Scripture:	
Psalm 23:1-6	Christopher Ratchford, Sr.
Psalm 90: 1-10	JoAnn Phillips Rohan
New Testament Scripture:	
Romans 10:10-13	Abraham Grant
St. John 14: 1-7	Michael Meyers
Solo	“Amazing Grace” Jennifer Walker
Remarks / Prayer of Consolation	Pastor Rick Hudson Pastor James E. Bailey
Solo	“You Know My Name” Kelsey Locklear
Reflections and Remembrances (2 minutes per person)	Pastor’s Council, Family, Friends
The Obituary Reading	Corey J. Phillips Janay A. Phillips-Wilson
Hymn of Preparation	“Precious Lord” RHC of God Praise Team
Eulogy	Pastor Greg Carswell
Recessional	“When We All Get to Heaven” Family/Friends

The Obituary

Mr. Norman “Bo” Phillips was born in Harlem, NY at Sydenham Hospital on August 17, 1947 to the late Nancy V. Sowell Phillips and Matthew “Bud” Joseph Phillips. Norman was the oldest of four, followed by JoAnn, Gloria and Denise. Norman and his family moved to the Bronx in the early 1950’s in the newly developed Bronx River Projects where he met and married his wife of over 52 years, Gail Theresa. Norman and Gail raised their family in Bronx, NY before retiring to Winston-Salem, NC.

Norman’s formal education was earned through the NYC Public School System. He was a graduate of Samuel Gompers High School in the Bronx. Growing up in Bronx River Projects, Norman made many friends with memories to cherish and also started courting his girlfriend Gail, who lived in the building next door. Rumor has it they met through his beloved mother’s home hair care service, where Gail’s mother was one of her frequent clients. In 1966, he was drafted into the United States Army and served overseas, with a tour in Germany. In 1969, Norman married Gail and had their first child, Corey Joseph. As a young teenager and young adult, Norman was known for his melodious and unique singing voice which he used as a member of his first singing group “The Butlers.” Competition was fierce back in the day and singing battles with the likes of local groups such as the Butlers and Quotations, to name a few, were a regular past time. During one of these ‘friendly’ singing competitions, Norman, became a founding member of the singing group, “Battery Park.”

After being honorably discharged from the Army, Norman began working for the NYC Transit Police in 1974 and also welcomed their daughter, Janay Arnetra. Norman spent the next 30 plus years raising his children and building a home filled with love, music, and laughter. After retiring from the NYC Transit Police, Norman worked as a Safety Police Officer at the Department of Veteran Affairs and then at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. Throughout Norman’s younger years, you could find him hanging out with family at the basketball courts or visiting friends back home in Bronx River Projects, especially in the “Alley.”

In 2005, Norman and Gail left New York for a new life in Winston-Salem, NC, and soon became members of the Rural Hall Church of God, where they gave their lives to God. He used his voice singing for the Lord in his last years of his life participating in several singing contests and earning first place in the Senior Adult Gathering competition in 2014, and earning second place in 2020. Norman cared a great deal about his church where he served as a member of the Trustee’s Board and Pastor’s Council for many years. At church gatherings, he never disappointed his church family with his delicious and humongous-sized banana pudding.

The Obituary Cont.

Norman tried to live his life by his favorite scripture, quoted and encouraged by his father Matthew Joseph, “For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” *Romans 10:10*. Norman, as his father before him, would ask that his children turn their hearts toward God who does all things well, and who will be a source of comfort to them.

During the last 6 months of his life, Norman’s illness and the care that he required from his wife, Gail, made it impossible for them to return to the church in the same capacity. Up until his life ended here on this earth, Norman often reminisced about being able to return to his church. He was truly a family man, faithful to his home and to his loving wife, Gail. With over 50 years of marriage, children and everything in between, Norman and Gail loved each other tenderly, fiercely, unapologetically, always and forever.

He was a friend, as well as father to his children, whom he raised instilling honor, discipline, respect and the same family values learned from his mother and father. His son, Corey, lived within shouting distance and he often enjoyed coming over to watch and discuss basketball games at length, often asking ‘...who do you think will take it this year, CJ?’ His daughter remained in the Bronx but her visits were always met at the door with ‘Okay Nay-Nay, what do you want for breakfast?’ Norman was a great cook and his breakfast meals of shrimp and grits, eggs whether scrambled, sunny-side up and two- or three-egg omelets, along with bacon, sausage, pancakes blueberry or banana, toast, orange juice, apple juice and coffee were legendary.

Norman’s warm laughter, smile, and hugs will be profoundly missed as he will forever be remembered as an exceptional, respected and devoted husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, nephew, uncle, cousin and friend.

Preceding him in death was his beloved mother and father and his youngest sister, Denise Phillips of Hartsville, SC. He leaves to cherish his memory, his beloved wife, Gail; two children, Corey (Omayra) Phillips of Winston-Salem, NC and Janay Phillips-Wilson (Omar) of Bronx, NY; two sisters, JoAnn Phillips Rohan of Washington, DC and Gloria Phillips Carswell of Ocean, NJ; five grandchildren: Silasia (Kevin) Diamond of Pennsylvania, Idarmy Angela of Pennsylvania, Ahmad Syril (Katelyn) of Indiana, Omari Sekou (Iscis) Phillips of NC, and Sarais Star Phillips of NC; two aunts, Anna Lee Frazier of Queens, NY; and Sarah Madison of Brooklyn, NY; three great grandchildren, Kalibe Immanuel, Kazin Lee and Stormy Snow; a sister in-law; five brothers in-law; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and church family.