



Cleave Bethea, Sr.

September 21, 1941 - April 26, 2023

Legacy of Love

Cleave Edward Bethea, Sr. was born on September 21, 1941, at Harlem Hospital in Harlem, NY to the late James W. Bethea and Inez S. Baugh, the youngest of four siblings. He is preceded in death by his two sisters Thelma Lewis and Shirley Cuffee.

Cleave accepted Christ at an early age at a catholic church/school in Harlem, NY. He also attended Flushing High School in Queens where he was selected as All City Quarterback for the City of New York. He received his associate degree in criminal justice from Nassau Community College in Garden City, New York.

Cleave Bethea is married to the former Earline Turner whom he met in 1958 while attending a dance. The marriage took place on November 9, 1960, in Baltimore, MD. Their union was blessed with 3 children: Cleave Jr., Stacey, and Kelly.

On June 23, 1960, Cleave was inducted into the United States Army where he worked in Intelligence at Fort George G. Meade in MD. He served his country proudly and received his Honorable discharge on June 21, 1963. On July 1, 1963, he joined The New York City Police Department and was promoted to Detective on October 4, 1966. He retired on March 23, 1977 as a Detective with NY City Police Department due to incurable injuries incurred on the job. With diversity and challenges it did not deter him from raising his family. His

organizations included: Police Benevolent Association (PBA), Detectives Endowment Association (DEA), and The Guardians.

Cleave had several interests like fishing, hunting, making hand-crafted dream catchers (for family/friends), as well as being a jokester to make people laugh. Even with his walking disabilities his determination to survive was upfront during a hunting trip against a black bear, and lets just say, the bear rug was warm. Cleave always faced his challenges from the start and did the best he could do.

Cleave leaves to cherish his memory, a loving wife Earline; two sons, Stacey, and Cleave, Jr., (Regina); daughter, Kelly; adored grandson, Cleave III; brother, James Bethea (Rose); brother-in-law, Edward Turner (Terri); nieces, Louise, Renae, Tawana, Donna, and Tori; nephews, Tracy, Leslie, Donnie, Jerry and Stacy; a host of other great nieces, nephews and cousins; along with many other loving relatives and caring friends.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY **20**. 2:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes
2110 E. Laburnum Ave
Richmond, VA 23222

Tribute Wall



“ *March Funeral Homes created a To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Cleave Bethea, Sr. , Please Click the Link below. in memory of Cleave Bethea, Sr.*



March Funeral Homes - May 20, 2023 at 12:07 PM

BM

“ *The Battle Family extends our heart felt sympathy to Aunt Earline, Cleve, Stacey and Kelly. We were Blessed to grow up with the Bethea(children) and have many wonderful memories to look back on. Uncle Cleve and my Dad were extremely close and really looked out for each other. Uncle Cleve was a wonderful man and he will definitely be missed. May he continue to rest in eternal Peace. Many Blessings and Love.
Belinda McNealey and Sisters(Bonnie and Dawn)*

Belinda McNealey - June 10, 2023 at 12:53 AM

CN

“ *Cuz Yolanda Allison NYC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cleave Bethea, Sr..*

Cuz Yolanda Allison NYC - May 20, 2023 at 03:51 PM

YA

“ *Cousin Cleave Sr we miss you!*



Yolanda Allison - May 20, 2023 at 02:37 PM



“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

March Funeral Homes - May 17, 2023 at 09:52 AM