



## Joseph Stephen Recca

July 15, 1958 - January 21, 2018

Joseph Stephen Recca, was born July 15, 1958 in Chicago, IL and was raised in Virginia Beach, VA. His parents Gertrude and Joseph Jr. preceded him in death. Joe was married to Amy Garrett who also preceded him in death. Joe had a very happy and fulfilled childhood and came to know Christ at an early age. He began training in martial arts at the age of 14, in Judo under Master Carter Wilson. Through Master Wilson he met Grand Master Hard Hankins (Kim Studio). His 1st degree was tied on him by Grand Master Ki Whang Kim. He earned his 2nd degree black belt at Authentic Karate Club under Soke Shiyogo Kuniba. He was a great competitor, tournament winner in "forms and fighting". He graduated from Norfolk State University with a B.A. Degree in Sociology. While pursuing his degree at Norfolk State, Joe was also taking classes at Hampton University, and working full time as a Sheriff in the city of Hampton Virginia Sheriff's Department. Joe moved to Washington, DC and started working as a case worker in a halfway house and later as a probation counselor. While working, Joe would perform stand-up comedy at the Comedy Cafe. One of Joe's fellow comedians was a young Dave Chappelle. Joe moved to the New York area to pursue comedy full-time. Shortly after moving there, he was booked to do

Showtime at the Apollo. Joe recalled this experience by saying: "I was scared to death because the Apollo was a rough audience and you better entertain them. Sinbad introduced me and then it was on." After that, Joe appeared on many shows and toured the east coast. Joe worked with some of the best in comedy. What do HBO, Showtime at the Apollo, and BET Comic View all have in common? Joe appeared on all of them. Joe wrote for D.L. Hughley on "The Kings of Comedy" movie and the television show the Hughley's. He worked with comedy greats like Chris Rock, Dave Chapelle, and Tommy Davidson to name a few. Joe also went to Iraq and Afghanistan to entertain the troops. Joe was a nationally- televised comedian who was the last season winner of BET's "Coming to The Stage" (BET's number one show), and recently appeared on Comics Unleashed with Byron Allen and "The Monique Show". Joe performed at churches, corporate and private events and all comedy venues. Joe's television credits include: BET's Coming to the Stage, BET Comic View, HBO Def Comedy Jam, Showtime at the Apollo, Apollo Comedy Hour, Uptown Comedy Club and The Monique Show. He also taped television shows for: Laughalujah, Soulaughable, and God Ain't No Joke. In October 2017, Joe released his first comedy album "There's No Easy Way to Say This" that continues to be carried by SiriusXM. With all the comedy in the world, Joe's greatest love was for his daughter Chestina. She was the apple of his eye and the song in his heart.

Joe leaves loving memories to be cherished by: his daughter Chestina L. Colter; his cousins, Mary T. Harris, Albert K. Harris, Jr., Beverly A. Fleming (preceding him in death), Calvin Harris (Paulette), Darryl D. Harris, Sherri Harris-Morrow, Charles, Michael & Stephen Morrow, Victor Rollins, Eugenia Rollins (preceding him in death), Stephanie E. Phillips, Brooke Chappas, Felicia Fleming-Shell (Dana), Robert Fleming, Nicole Harris-Austin (Andrew), Dawn Harris, Christopher Harris, Sonia Hawthorn, Eric January; and many special friends, Alycia Cooper, Sylvia Morrison, Phyllis Baker, Gina and Megan Brown, Angela Colter and the Colter Family, Pierre Edwards, Eric Wade aka Christian Comedian E-Boogie, Les

McKay, Julien Patterson; and a host of friends from the comedy community.

# Previous Events

## Wake

FEB 8. 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. - Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road  
Windsor Mill, MD 21244  
(410) 655-0110  
<https://www.marchlifetributecenter.com>

## Service

FEB 8. 4:30 PM (ET)

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5616 Old Court Road  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

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**March Funeral Homes** - September 20, 2022 at 01:07 PM



“ *Joseph Stephen Recca*

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October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Joe Recca. Joe was the comedian I considered to be the Ultimate Comedian. I had the pleasure of working with him a couple of time and he also did my parents 50th anniversary in June 2014. I was always impressed with his humility even though his comedy resume is very impressive, but he didn't allow that to make him arrogant or anything. He would sit down and talk with you and give you advice on being a better comic. His conversations was just like his stage performances; you felt like you were just sitting with a friend having a normal conversation; except this friend would make the everyday things hilarious. I watch his DVD and crack up everytime like it's my first time seeing it. I was just getting to know him personally and was very shocked and saddened to hear of his passing but I know he's with THE ONE who made him funny and I believe THE LORD JESUS is well pleased with what he did with the talent he gave Joe (Matthew 25:14 - 30) . He did not bury his talent but he used it for The Glory of GOD. I thank GOD for his encouragement and example.*

*- Tim Coleman*

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**Tim Coleman** - February 07, 2018 at 09:34 PM

TF

“ *The Markush Family purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Joseph Stephen Recca.*



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**The Markush Family** - February 05, 2018 at 12:49 PM

LF

“ *Lori Smith Okon and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Joseph Stephen Recca.*



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**Lori Smith Okon and Family** - February 03, 2018 at 01:12 PM

TC

“ *We send our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Recca. You will be greatly missed but your legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of all who knew you. May you rest in peace.*

*From Jack Dark Tae Kwon Do Champions  
Norfolk VA*

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**TKD CHAMPIONS** - February 01, 2018 at 10:09 AM



“ 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.

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**March Funeral Homes** - January 31, 2018 at 12:08 PM