

Celebrating the Legacy of Service and Love



Bruce C. Webb

Earthly Sunrise
December 4, 1933

Eternal Sunrise
November 23, 2017

Germantown Church of the Brethren
6611 Germantown Avenue | Philadelphia, PA 19119

Pastor Larry L. Anderson, Eulogist

Bruce C. Webb



THE BEGINNING

Bruce Cornell Webb was born on December 4, 1933 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the late William and Lula Webb and was one of 15 children (10 of whom preceded him in death) Susie, Theodore, Ruby, Rudene, Jerome, William, Jr, Melvin Pearson, Bernard, Sonobia, and Libby. He was educated in the Philadelphia School District and in 1951 enlisted in the United States Army where he learned how to box and teach fellow soliders how to drive. After his service to his country, Bruce was honorably discharged and held various jobs around Philadelphia including working at Thurgood's Furniture Store and Webb's Thurgood Record Shop in Point Breeze.

THE ENTREPRENEUR

According to his own account from an April 2016 feature story in the Philadelphia Inquirer, Bruce said that he started his career selling records in the 1960's. He was doing sales and promotion for Progress Record Distributions. However, he opened his own store, Webb's Department Store in 1972. His store was the premium one stop shop for music, record player needles, greeting cards, incense, cassette players and more.

An endless number of celebrities, politicians, radio personalities, community leaders and regular customers stopped by Webb's Department Store and/or met Bruce personally over the decades including but not limited to Al Green, Patti LaBelle, Grover Washington, The Temptations, Warren Haskins (Dell East), Charlie Mack, Mariah Carey, Jill Scott, Bob Lott (BEMA), Sherri Darden (Scoop USA), Kenny Gamble, Leon Huff, Carl Helm, Keith from-up-the-block, Kirk Franklin, Shirley Caesar, Brockington Ensemble, Fred Blain (Gospel Highway 11) and so many more.

Bruce also wrote the Top Record charts for Billboard Magazine and Scoop USA Newspaper. He consulted many individuals in the entertainment and music industry. He would ensure that they were connected with the power players and would encourage them to network and build relationships on their own that would ultimately broaden their range of business professionals in their contacts.

In 1963, he joined his friend's (Sonny Driver, founder of Scoop USA) newspaper as the Entertainment Editor and subsequently professional photographer where he remained on staff up until his death. He and Mr. Driver were more like brothers as they both would go around the city soliciting as much support for the oldest African-American owned newspaper.

THE ACTIVIST AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATE

Bruce was an active member of the local Philadelphia chapter of the NAACP. He marched with the late and great Cecil B. Moore and State Representative David Richardson. In the late 1980s, Bruce was one of the founders of the 32nd Street Crew, a social organization with a historical context. He also fought for African Americans to attend Girard College as he engaged in the Civil Rights Movement. His great nephew, Jason Richardson benefited from those efforts by later attending that very school as did his goddaughter Te'h Fortune who graduated in 2016. Moreover, he was a member of the Black Business Association and worked closely with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center as well as the local police department. Additionally, Bruce had a great relationship with radio programmers, pastors and promoters not just locally but across the country.

THE MENTOR

Although Bruce was not a hand-shaker (he gave you a pound when greeting you) he took great pride in shaking loose the talent of young entrepreneurs, aspiring artists, authors and business professionals so that they could succeed. Often times a five-minute visit would turn into a two-hour lesson on respecting others, staying true to yourself and helping those in need. He was known for repeating himself when he was trying to get a point across because he wanted to make sure you understood the significance of his advice. He reminded his mentees the importance of looking people in the eye, keeping your word and laboring diligently in their respective fields. He saw potential in them that they themselves, at times, did not even see. He advised, corrected, guided and appreciated those he mentored because in his own way he knew a little bit of his legacy may live on through each of them.

THE FAMILY MAN

Bruce came from a big family and learned at an early age that sharing and helping others was an attribute worth maintaining. Growing up with so many siblings could cost one to lose his or her identity but that wasn't Bruce's style. He would see opportunities as a child or young adult and capitalize on it to make a greater impact on those around him that he wanted to assist. He was also a devoted husband to his former wife, Joyce (preceded in death) and dedicated father (one of whom, Brucette Webb, preceded him in death). However, he would beam with adoration when he would talk about his grandchildren and goddaughter.

THE SENIOR YEARS

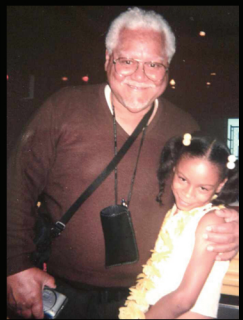
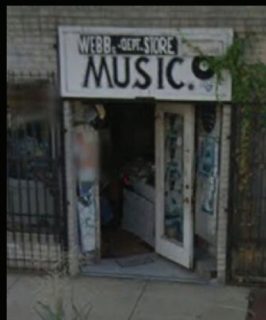
Over the last two decades Bruce maintained a close relationship with his beloved friend, Edna Brown. She assisted him with events, projects and tasks related to the store when needed. She was especially an essential part of his life during his most vulnerable stages as he took ill and his health steadily declined over the last three years. When he referenced Ms. Edna's role in his life Bruce would say "she takes good care of me."

THE TRANSITION

On the day we set aside to give thanks, God in His sovereignty saw that Bruce had labored valiantly, and contributed endlessly to society and made a decision to give him the best Thanksgiving present one could get---eternal rest in the bosom of Jesus Christ. Before Bruce passed away, he reassured three of his mentees during one of their regular visits that he knew Jesus as his personal savior and that he knew where his soul would go when he transitioned. "I know Him, yes I do!!" proclaimed Bruce.

Bruce leaves to cherish his precious memories his devoted friend and caretaker, Edna Brown; son Johnathan Webb; stepdaughter, Gay S. Brown; goddaughter, Te'h Fortune; granddaughter, Carnelita Slaughter; siblings Idoma Bass, Tyrone, Cradell and Lowell; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and other family members, friends and mentees.

Lovingly Submitted,
The Family



ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude.....Ramona Ellis
Processional.....Family
(Total Praise)

Closing of the Bier

Opening Words of Comfort.....Elder Dr. Latisha Webb
Kingdom First Ministries Int'l

Hymn of Comfort.....When We All Get to Heaven
(Family Remain Seated)

Scripture Reading

Old Testament Reading: Psalms 15.....Barbara A. Johnson

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:51-58Dawn Webb

Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. Keith Mapp

Solo.....Sadina Davis

Cards & Acknowledgements.....Shirley McDuffy

Reflections.....Family and Friends
(2 minutes please)

- Industry: Kenny Gamble, Bob Lott
- Mentees: Sadina Davis | Shelly Williams | Sherri Johnson
- Scoop USA Newspaper: Sherri Darden
- Family

Solo.....Ashley Scott

Obituary.....John Groce

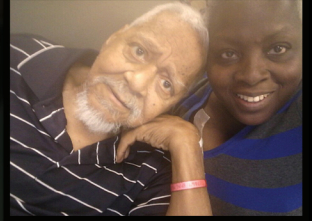
VIDEO TRIBUTE

Eulogy.....Rev. Larry L. Anderson, Jr.
Great Commission Church

Benediction.....Rev. Larry L. Anderson, Jr.

Recessional.....Family







EXPRESSION OF LOVE



We Saw You Were Weary

We saw you leaving and God saw you were weary
He knew a cure was not to be
So He wrapped His loving arms around you
And whispered "I know you're ready. Come to me!"
We did not want to see you linger and suffer
We did not want you to endure more pain
So on Thanksgiving Day God answered prayer
And took your pain away
Yes, our hearts may be grieving
Yes, our eyes may be filled with tears
But God in His infinite wisdom has proven how much he cares
Your golden heart may no longer beat
Your raspy voice is now at rest
God allowed all this to happen to show us He only takes the best
So as we journey along our way
Our hearts and minds will forever say
Thank you for a life lived so unselfishly
And allowing God to reward you in His own way!
He ushered you into His streets of gold
Where your soul shall never grow old
You have seen the Lord face to face
So that tells us all your pain and long suffering has been erased!
With Love,
Sadina Davis
Shelly Williams
Sherri Johnson

To My Beloved Bruce

Special friends are far and few
I was blessed to have one tried and true
I desperately wanted to continue holding on to you
But the time had come for us to part
So I must accept and forever keep
These precious memories locked deep within my heart
--Edna





EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

Our family would like express our sincere gratitude to everyone for your many kind expressions of sympathy, words of comfort and prayers during our time of bereavement. Whether it was a prayer or a visit we felt your love and appreciate the support given to us all. We praise the Lord for you!

FLOWER ATTENDANTS

Family and Friends

INTERMENT (PRIVATE)

Washington Crossing National Cemetery
Newtown, PA

REPAST (IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE)

Germantown Church of Brethren Hall

Professional Services Entrusted to:

PRICE Funeral Home
613-615 North 43rd Street
Philadelphia, PA

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