

Together Again

A reunion occurred in heaven this week

Of the sweetest and most joyful kind

As Dad's spirit moved beyond this earth

Released from his mortal life

And what a reunion it must have been!

A joy beyond our conceiving

When Dad met Mom in heaven again

Ending his dignified grieving

And we are certain Mom is still holding Dad's hand

While he cherishes each moment by her side...

The Family Received Personal Care from the Staff of

FUNERALS+CREMATION+RECEPTIONS
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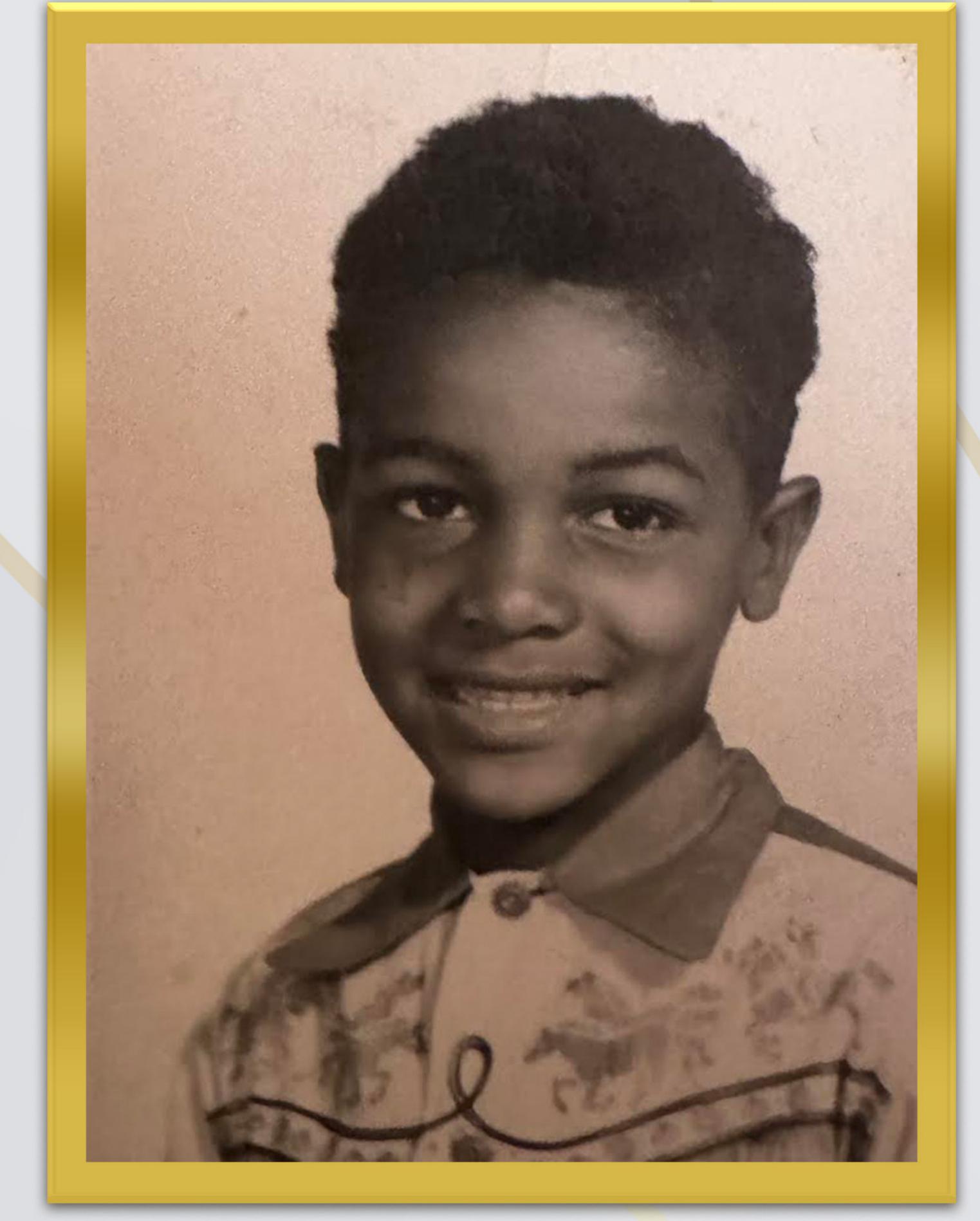
"When Someone You Love Becomes A Memory; The Memory Becomes A Treasure."

FINES.

Enlan Trumes

April 14, 1949-October 12, 2023





Life's Journey Convenience CRIMES

Kenneth Grimes (aka Dad, Grandad, Papa Grimes, Uncle Ken, and Baba Grimes) was born on April 14, 1949, in Denver, CO to Geneva Grimes(Braxton). Growing up one of seven children, Kenneth was always surrounded by an abundance of love. He grew up in the Lincoln Park Projects on the west side of Denver where he first began to show his gift of storytelling. After graduating from Denver West high school, he went on to attend Colorado Northwest Community College and from there Colorado State University where he received a bachelor's degree in English/Education and eventually a master's degree in Community Education. It was during this time at CSU that while spending time with his longtime friend Alex Burl he met his wife of 52 years, Gerie Grimes.

Kenneth leaves to cherish his memory and legacy, two sons, Troy, and Aaron Grimes. Troy and Aaron adored their father and credit him as being their "number 1" example of what it means to be a man. They have so many fond memories of Ken but mostly that he was a true partner for their mother and that everything they built and stood for they did so together. Also, they speak about him being their first coach. Aaron says, "I remember Dad and Godpop having us run at the field on 26th and Quebec which is now a park. Not knowing then that the work ethic, resiliency and standard of excellence they were instilling in us while they ran us to exhaustion would be the very guiding principles that I now live and share with myself and my kids". Troy remembers, "Dad was a confident man, secure in his self so much so that coming to watch me play football in knee high socks, short shorts and bad shoes gave him no shame. In fact, I now have a greater understanding of the importance of being authentically myself because of my Dad". Both Troy and Aaron speak fondly about being the pilot tests for so many of their dad's programs that he designed and implemented for positive youth and family development as well as his script readers for his mesmerizing plays. They say that both Ken and their mother Gerie left behind a deep, rich legacy of love and service that will forever be continued by them, their children, and their extended family.

Aside from his sons Ken was known as the Patriarch of the family to his younger siblings and many cousins and his grandkids alike. He could be found hanging out with his cousin Anthony "Wahoo" Wallace for many many years. Up until Anthony's departure from his earthly body just a year previous they would still get together regularly for lunch and to talk about the good ole days. Aunt Eudora remembers them all living at the family house on Williams Street and the love and joy that they all had living under one roof. His brother Jerome could be seen beside him even in his last days, caring and loving and sharing in brotherly bond. His cherished grandkids and great grandkids were the sparkle in his eye just like they were for his wife, Gerie. He would take them everywhere and do everything with them. They performed with him during Kwanzaa celebrations, invited him to their schools to perform magic or demonstrate science projects and could be seen singing by his bedside later when he became less able to come to them.

Kenneth was a Servant Leader, Educator, Griot (storyteller), Visionary, Creator and much much more. As a Director of CSU 4H he served between 3,000 -- 9,000 youth and families annually, coordinating school enrichment, after school programs and a variety of workshops in leadership, values, conflict resolution, skills-based programs in theater, gardening, photography and science related offerings in STEM and STREAM. Also, he worked with youth development agencies, schools, and institutions to design programs utilizing research-based concepts and juried curriculum. A few programs include SPACES, a science enrichment program, CARE to Wait, an abstinence program, 4-H Master Gardeners, rites of passage and more. He partnered with over 250 agencies, institutions and schools brokering a variety of educational and other cultural/civic and arts related services. He developed the Strengthening the Village Project to enhance the capacity of twelve community-based agencies to make a difference in the lives of low-income families related to poverty and entrepreneurism.

Processional

Friday October 27, 2023
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
2400 California St Denver Co 80205
REVEREND MARLIN MALONE, EULOGIST
REVEREND DAVID WASHINGTON, OFFICIATING

ProcessionalDr. Michael Williams
"Take Me To The King"
A Glimpse Till GloryFuneral Directors
SelectionMusicians
"His Eye Is On The Sparrow"
Comfort from the Scriptureh
OLD TESTAMENT Job chpt 14:14-15 Deacon Kirwin L. Childs
OLD TESTAMENT Job chpt 14:14-15 Deacon Kirwin L. Childs NEW TESTAMENT 1Corithians 15:54-55 Pastor Ayınde Russell
Prayer of SolaceRev Rashide Russell
SeléctionMusicians
"Going Up Yonder"
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, CONDOLENCES & RESOLUTIONS
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, CONDOLENCES & RESOLUTIONS PIPKIN BRASWELL DIRECTOR ObituaryTroy Del Ray Grimes
ObituaryIroy Del Ray Grimes
A VIDEO REFLECTIVE MOMENT

SPECIAL REMARKS Jo Bunton Keel

THE FAMILY REFLECTS

A Tribute to Our Cousin A Tribute to Our Grandmother A Tribute To Our Brother A Tribute To Our Father

	Deacon Kirwin L. Childs
Solo Selection	Drum Circle
Eulogy	Pastor Marlin Malone
Recessional	Dr. Michael Williams

"Amazing Grace" ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Aaron Grimes, Troy Grimes, Jerome Butler, Bryan Butler, Daniel Butler, Devin Grimes

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Kiko Grimes, Geovonte' Merritt, Raymond Grimes, Jasiri Grimes, Kevin Grimes, Anthony Grimes, Jalil Grimes, Antohny Wallace, Alex Burl, Steve Russell, Damon Burl, Kendrick Stewart, Kevin Robinson, Alonzo Butler, Ben Davis, Miles Keel, Josh Shields, Obera Litt III, Tommy Grimes, Riley Johnson, Derrick Grimes, Opalonga Pugh, Parkhill Falcons

FINAL RESTING PLACE AND COMMITTAL SERVICE Fairmount Cemetery Denver, Colorado

REPAST

Following the burial, Dinner will be served in the Continental Lodge

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

During a time like this, we learn how much our friends really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be treasured. May God richly Bless each of you. The family of Kenneth "Baba" Grimes

MEMORIES FROM HIS CHILDREN CONTINUED:

(Aaron) Dad was an example of a Man. Dad was a man who could do anything, coach, teach, guardian angel. He encompassed so much of a man that sometimes I asked if he was black. He made me imagine at a young age that not only was I great but that we came from Kings and Queens. One of my favorite Kings was Barca God of Lightning. As a man I realized what my favorite King was my Father and he is truly a blessing. He was everything that I needed, everything my mother needed, everything that his loved ones needed. I love you Dad.

(Teresa) - Daughter In Love - Dad, thank you for being here, there, & everywhere, for everyone. You've always been nothing short of extraordinary, even when things seemed to be falling apart. You always knew what to say and when to say it. Many would say sorry for your loss as it is the common saying when someone transitions. For me, a loss is like losing a baseball game or something. That's a loss to me. We didn't lose our father, he's with us forever in our hearts and knowing that we will forever be covered, brings joy to my heart. My dad is a great man, so I'd just say Don't be sorry for our loss, instead, love like him, live like him, and be grateful for everything. Every time I'd see dad and ask how he's doing he'd say "Oh PRETTY GOOD".... He is the reason why I will not accept excuses.

(Shean) - Daughter In Love - Dad, thank you for loving me and everyone.

MEMORIES FROM HIS GRANDCHILDREN:

Devin - Thank you grandpa for your leadership and being an example of what a strong loving black family man looks like. You led with love and wisdom and never turned or dimmed your light. You allowed others to shine. My faith is built strong because of your first introduction of Christ to me. I know you wouldn't want the water works but you taught me it's ok to wear your emotions on a sleeve just "don't let your emotions wear you". I love you for being real through and through.

Josh - Thank you, grandpa, for accepting me, my brother and my sisters into the family as if we were your own grandkids. You never looked at us any differently and treated us with love and kindness. You will be missed dearly. You were a positive role model in my life and for that I thank you! Love you Granpa!

Ashia - Thank you grandpa for exemplifying how to walk in love and humility, no matter the odds. For leading and paving the way for so many of us. You were not only an inspiration to me, but to many others. You knew a little about a lot! You kept God first at all times, and demonstrated the meaning of obe-dience in serving God. You were many things to many people; a life coach, vocal coach, mentor, leader, community activist, therapist etc. I know you would want us to move forward in this lifetime with poise, dignity, love and to rejoice in life. I will strive to do just that. I know you have happily reunited with the love of your life, whom we miss so dearly. You are happy, you are at peace and no longer suffering. May your legacy live on forever and your soul rest peacefully! I love you and will miss you greatly.

Shaquaisha - Hey papa , you've been my north star in life guiding me through and teaching me the things a strong black woman needs to know in this life. It important to have male figures like you I still laugh at how you would scrunch your face up at any mention of a man or when I told you "I gotta hurry and have kids papa I need them to meet you" I used to think i'm so grown when he gonna let me go but then you would remind me how special I was that I was your jewel to never settle and you would tell me you and grandma love story so that I know the type of love that last in every lifetime true soulmates and proof that adam's rib was taken to create eve and together they were whole. 26th and poplar the street that hold my heart we didn't have a regular grandpa we had the cool one, the one that'll climb the trees with you and let you eat dirt to step your immune system up. The grandpa who would pick at your food to grab himself a few bites, he didn't care lol. He would put up tents in the backyard so all of us cousins could gather together listen to him tell us the stories of the house in the mountains with the gorilla in the basement down to uncle jed barbershop he was such a great story teller you could see it play before your eyes and eventually we had stories to tell too. I'll miss your spirit your funny jokes the way that you always brought me back to my strength. I know Grandma happy to have her man back by her side. I miss you guys forever but I'll search for you guys in every lifetime. We're unconditional!

Jalil - Grandad, thank you so much for the many life lessons. As I grow into a man taking care of myself, I look back on the many lessons you showed by your actions, you have shown me the value of love, to always chase your dreams, make decisions with a calm temperament, the importance to live holistically (mind, body, soul) your smile was contagious. I've always been told I resemble you with looks but I will always go forward resembling the ways you have instilled in my character to continue to be the best Son, Brother, Uncle, Nephew, etc. my superhero grandparents. I know you are together forever. I miss you grandad but I'm glad you're back with your Queen and our Holy Father.

Jasiri - I'm forever grateful for my grandad. He showed me what it means to be a man, to love proudly. He taught me to drive, supported any dream I had in front of me and was always there to cheer me on. I'm honored to share his last name and be a part of his legacy and wouldn't change it for the world.

Imani Eshe Grimes - I remember cooking green beans for one of the holidays with Grandma. She told me to put some Black Pepper in the green beans and when I went to sprinkle some the entire lid fell off. I simply stirred it up and we served it to the family. Grandma did try to save it by draining it in the sink. Granddad tried those green beans smiled and said I'm not going to eat those.

Za'maya Grimes - One of my fondest memories of Granddad is when we would go to the family house and he would have us do a family talent show. I would practice all week to perform this special performance for the Family and Grand Dad would stand right there front row and center cheering for me. He was always so proud.

Journee Grimes - I will always remember Granddads laugh. I remember he had me looking up a movie for him and I got distracted. He just looked at me and smiled. His smile made you feel full with joy.

Mansa-Hannibal Grimes- I will always remember Granddad coming to record me at my game and his phone died. He stayed and cheered me on. I love you Grand dad!

On the performing arts end where so many know him for, he was accomplished and truly gifted. He truly is one of the great creatives from the Midwest region in this current era. He wrote award-winning musicals, plays, short stories, and featured articles. Recent musicals include Uncle Jed's Barbershop, a finalist for the O'Neill Musical Theatre Conference; winner of the ASCAP Disney Award, Director's Choice Award and Off-Broadway showcase for the New York Musical Theatre Festival. He also wrote, Reverend W. T. Liggins; Passion Rhapsody; and Ain't No Grave, about the first female African American doctor in Colorado. Musicals include Barca: Men of Lightning about the ancient Phoenician General, Hannibal; and Gifts: A Lesson in Giving, a show written as a traveling production for the Denver Public Schools. A musical entitled Girlz, engaged youth and adults learning from each other in a gospel dramatization; Dramatic plays are numerous and include The Queen Must Die and Black Punk. Ken was also an accomplished director, having served as artistic director of the Denver Black Arts Company and primary director for Eulipions Cultural Center for several years. Plays of note include Mahalia's Song By Dr. Vada Butcher which ran for over two years. He directed the popular Mama I Wanna Sing by Vy Higginsen and Ken Wydro, which also benefited from a long run. Ken was a trained dramaturge and served as President of Colorado Dramatists having work shopped with some of the country's most noted writers as Peter Shaffer (Amadeus) and August Wilson (Fences). Stephen Schwartz, Wicked, and others.

Designated as a Kwanzaa Elder in the Circle of Wisdom, Ken provided workshops, storytelling and a variety of educational activities for community development. He was a sought after storyteller, trained facilitator and trainer in such topics as organizational development and "Being Unstoppable." He was a community activist for the performing arts, having served on panels for the Colorado Council on the Arts (now Colorado Creative Industries), the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District and the Mayor's Commission on the Arts as well as the Colorado Black Roundtable's Performing Arts Council. He played an instrumental role in establishing the Denver School of the Arts. Ken served on numerous committees including the Mayor's African American Commission where he served as Chair of the Education Committee. He is a co-founder of the Colorado Black Arts Movement: an Arts Advocacy Organization.

Ken received the "Community Educator of the Year Award" from EduCtr in 2012. Received the "People's Choice Award for Arts, Culture & Community Affairs" – 2012 Received the CSU Extension Diversity Award in 1998, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011 and the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents award in 2010 and 2011 for influencing decisions to improve diversity policies and programs for the university locally and nationally. He was selected to the National Extension Leadership Development Project in 1999 through 2001 – One of 26 leaders selected nationally to participate in the Extension system's premiere leadership development program. Leaders were trained and mentored by the System's top directors including recognized frontrunners as Stephen Covey and others. Training included travel to a select group of cities. A variety of experiences were designed to increase awareness and to test situational responses while shadowing police officers, interviewing Federal, State, and Community leaders, problem solving and partaking in an international experience. Twenty six days were spent in Thailand, interacting with the country's leaders and the United States Embassy staff in an unforgettable manner.

On Oct 12, 2023, the sunset on Kenneth "Baba" Grimes where he drifted peacefully in his home to reunite with his wife, Gerie in eternal bliss. He is preceded in death by his mother Geneva Braxton, sisters Kathie Winona Limes-Braxton, Yvonne Johnson, brothers James Alan Braxton, Shawn Regnald Johnson. Those left to cherish his memory include his sons, Troy Del Ray (Teresa) Grimes, Aaron (Shean) Dion Grimes Denver, Colorado, his brothers Jerome Paul Johnson, Carle Ramon Braxton both of Denver, Colorado, a host of nieces and nephews, 16 Grandchildren, and 18 Great-grandchildren.

Kenneth would leave you with a word a wisdom as he was filled with an infinite amount. Ken believed in the power of Collective vision, work and responsibility(Ujima) and he demonstrated throughout his 74 years that Ujima along with faith removes barriers, dismantles inequities and shifts power to those around the country who may have come from humble beginnings similar to his growing up on the Westside of Denver. Ase'

MEMORIES FROM HIS CHILDREN:

(Troy) Dad is my first and perfect example of a man, husband and father. He taught me humility, love, faith and family. He inspired me to not only dream but become a dream maker realizing whatever it is that I desire to be. Dad was my first teacher, coach, friend and confidente. I will miss every family outing that you led. I will miss every joke funny or not. I will miss all the guidance, advice, and unspoken lessons you delivered just by encouraging and allowing me to be free minded. I will miss your smile and your heart. I will miss you Dad but I know that you are not gone from me and only from this earth so I will take you with me everywhere I go just as I do mom until we meet again. I love you Pops!



