

## *I'm Free*

*by Shannon Lee Moseley*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.  
I'm following the path God has chosen for me.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call.  
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day,  
to laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way.  
I've now found peace at the end of the day.*

*If my parting has left a void,  
then fill it with remembered joys.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss.  
Oh yes, these things, I too will I miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
look for the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much.  
good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seems all too brief.  
don't lengthen your time with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and peace to thee,  
God wanted me now – He set me free.*

## *Acknowledgements*

*The family wish to express their sincere gratitude to all those who have supported them during this time of loss. Thanks to Kristy, Liz, Benny, Beth, and Ms. Vivian for the extraordinary care, companionship, and support you provided Joe over the past several months. Special thanks to the staff of SECU Hospice House for you taking great care of Joe in his final days.*

*The Varn Family*

***Services entrusted to: Sanders Funeral Home***

*806 E. Market St.,  
Smithfield, NC 27577*

# A CELEBRATION OF

# Life



## JOSEPH VARN

**OCTOBER 12, 1950 – SEPTEMBER 12, 2023**

**MIRACLE TEMPLY HOLY CHURCH**

**1750 N. WEBB ST. SELMA, NC  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2023, AT 10:00AM**

**OFFICIANT – APOSTLE WILMA WARD-HAMPTON**



## *Obituary*

Joseph Varn, affectionately call “Joe” and “Joe Joe”, by his family and friends was born in Brooklyn, New York to the late Ada Varn on October 12, 1950. Joe transition from his earthly life on September 12, 2023, at the SECU Hospice House located in Smithfield, North Carolina.

Joe was very kind and loved people. He had a laugh that was infectious. Joe loved to cook and would cook for his friends and friends, especially his neighbors. Joe was one that did not meet strangers. To know Joe is to love Joe. He had a very big heart and was always lending a helping hand.

Joe was reared in Brooklyn, New York but during his early adulthood he moved to North Carolina. Joe resided in Goldsboro, North Carolina for many years until his relocation to Smithfield, North Carolina in November 2002. Joe was affiliated with the Community-Based Learning Alternatives Center, Inc. in Smithfield where he met many new friends, who later became his family. Joe attended many churches in the Johnston County area. However, Joe joined Miracle Temple Holy Church in Selma in 2005. Joe loved good singing. Later Joe moved to Garner, North Carolina and although he did not attend every Sunday, he would often call and share how he missed coming and would remind us that he was still a member, “even in his absence”.

Joe was preceded in death by his mother, Ada Varn; one brother, Iverson Billups; three sisters, Mary Speller, Rosalie Billups, and Barbara McNair; and a very close and dear friend, Caroline Hines.

Joe is survived by his daughter Lashanda Varn of Atlanta, GA; one brother Michael Varn of Brooklyn, NY, and one sister, Jeanette Duncan of Brooklyn, NY. His pet dog, Pepper, whom Joe loved much. A host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, his church family, his Last Stop Support Group/Family, and many friends.

Joe is gone, but he will never be forgotten. He will always remain,

## *Order of Service*

### **PROCESSIONAL**

### **SONG**

Miracle Temple Praise Team

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Minister Tashina Williams

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

Elder Lamale Williams

### **PRAYER OF COMFORT**

Bishop Ray Hampton

### **REFLECTIONS (3-5 minutes please)**

The Last Stop – Maurice Sowell  
Friend (Lainey St. Community) – Beth Forehand  
Family- Michael Varn

### **OBITUARY (read silently)**

### **SONG**

Miracle Temple

### **SERMON/WORDS OF COMFORT**

Apostle Wilma Hampton

### **SONG**

Miracle Temple

### **CLOSING PRAYERS & BLESSING**