

# Acknowledgments

We wish to acknowledge with our sincerest gratitude, the outpouring of love, sympathy, and prayers we have received from our many friends, neighbors and church family.  
May God bless all of you!

The Family of Everard Frank Belfon

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." II Timothy 4:7

## Pallbearers

Edward Alexander  
Carl Bolden III  
Justin Grier  
Miles Grier  
Eric Lewis  
Ramon White

## Honorary Pallbearers

Michael Grier  
Larry Williams

## Interment

Woodlawn Cemetery  
19975 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48203

## Repass

St Matthew's & St Joseph's  
8850 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202

## Funeral Arrangements

James H Cole Funeral Home  
2624 W Grand Blvd.  
Detroit, MI 48208  
313.873.0771

Program Prepared by: ExcellenTouch Consulting (India Black)  
BLK.EX.WI@GMAIL.COM

# Celebrating THE LIFE OF



Sunrise: March 27, 1933 | Sunset: April 13, 2023

## Everard Frank Belfon

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023 11:00 AM  
ST MATTHEW'S & ST JOSEPH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
8850 Woodward Ave  
Detroit, MI 48202



# My Life Journey



Everard Frank Belfon (Frankie) was born in Detroit, Michigan on March 27, 1933, and was the second of four children born to the late Darlean Lela Lillian Harris and the late Frank Everard Belfon.

Being nurtured and raised in a Christian environment, Frankie accepted Christ at an early age. He was baptized at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church by Father Everard Daniels, and was also an altar boy at St. Matthew's. Frankie became a member of various churches over the years, but very dear to his heart were St. Matthew's and St. Joseph's Episcopal Church Detroit and Detroit Unity Temple.

Drafted into the Army in 1953, Frankie was stationed in Ft. Collins, Colorado, to proudly serve his country. He met and was smitten by the beautiful Sylvia Blassingame in the summer of 1955. They fell in love and celebrated their union when they married on June 28, 1956, at Berea Lutheran Church in Detroit. Their union brought three lovely daughters that they nurtured in a loving Christian home. As parents, they felt that education was key to success; inspiring all three of their daughters to obtain their Bachelor's degrees from major universities.

While raising his young family, Frankie worked as a bus driver with the Detroit Street & Railway (DSR), system for over 10 years. DSR was later renamed Department of Transportation (DOT). During this time, he kept his sights on higher ambitions and diligently pursued an education in engineering.

Frankie attended Detroit's public elementary and junior high schools and graduated from Wilbur Wright High School in 1951. As an adolescent, Frankie was very inquisitive about how machines worked; however, it was when he worked on his father's old Ford pick-up truck that jump-started his lifelong love for cars. He loved sports and played varsity hockey during his high school years. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Drafting & Engineering from Detroit Institute of Technology.

In 1967, Frankie was recognized in the Detroit Free Press newspaper, as the first African-American Engineer hired in the Drafting Engineering Department at Chrysler where he was employed for 10 years. He was then hired by Ford Motor Company as a Design Engineer, where he was employed for over 40 years, until he retired in 1996.

As a very talented engineer, he took pride in his extensive tool set. He could build anything! In his younger years, Frankie built a stunning entertainment bar made of bamboo wood in his parent's basement. In his later years, he received a builder's certification. When asked what was one of his favorite things to do, he would proclaim "To explore!" His many hobbies included woodworking, drafting, and tree cutting, which became part of his freelance business. Frankie was an engineer at heart and by trade, he was a great mechanical, electrical, and design engineer.

# Tributes

I could not have asked for a better one. My life has been enriched and enlightened by you. My fondest memory I have of you is when we went out to play tennis. I was 18 and you were 80 and you were hitting all the balls every which way and giving me a run for my money. I was proud and embarrassed to get beaten by my Papa so badly.

Phenomenal

Astute

Pragmatic

Accomplished You were a light to everyone who met you, and a blessing to me. Even though I will miss you dearly, I know you are living not only in our hearts but on the generations of faces from your legacy.

*Love Eternally, Ryane*

My father-in-law was a very well respected and loved man. He always greeted me with a big smile and kind words. I couldn't have asked for a better father-in-law. You will forever be in my heart. Love You!

*Michael*

My Grandfather was a great man. I learned from him that family is very important. He also taught me that as family, we should always love and support each other. I am really gonna miss him. I Love You Papa

*Justin*

*I will miss you Papa.*

*Love Miles*

Papa,

You have created a wonderful legacy. A loving wife, beautiful children, and amazing grandchildren. We love you more than you may ever know. We take pride & honor being in your legacy. All the sacrifices you made & hard work that you put in to create this legacy will never go in vain. We strive to make you proud & build on the solid foundation you bestowed upon us. We admire and applaud all the accomplishments that you have made. We admire the person you are. As our family grows, your legacy will continue to grow & live on the hearts of all the generations to come.

Papa, I am your legacy and I wear that as a badge of honor. I love you & we all love you.

*Amanda*





# Tributes

## To My Love,

We had 66 truly joyful years of the deepest love, happiest marriage, and truest partnership that one could imagine. He gave me the experience of being deeply understood, truly supported and completely and utterly loved. He was there for me through the good times and the bad. I will be forever grateful for how much joy and love he brought to my life.



*Love Eternally, Sylvia*

Daddy,

You are the Best Dad!!! You were the one who taught me that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You showed me how to approach life with inner joy, a sense of confidence and optimism that kept me operating in faith. You showed me that life is a gift from God, and we are to enjoy his beautiful creations and be a good steward over them. You will be missed but never forgotten. I'm so blessed to have you as my Dad. I praise God that you are my Daddy.

*Denise "NeNe"*

Daddy,

You will always live passionately in my heart. I will always deeply cherish my memories of you and hold them dear to my soul. My life will never be the same without you for I've never walked this Earth without you in my life before. I'm taking baby steps as I grow in my new journey; right now my pain is raw, tears flow...How do I go on...what do I do? I go to the Lord for comfort for He is The Comforter. I just loved the way you lived everyday with energetic passion in your heart and inquisitive joy on your face.



Your love for your God, your self and your family shined through! You have taught me many lessons and your strong legacy runs deep and wide. In your Glory, smell the roses, cuddle the critters, dance to the sounds of the Heavens. You ARE the Best Daddy Ever in the whole wide world!

It's so long for now, Daddy, for I will see you again.

*Karen Darlene (Glibity Glob)*



Frankie loved life! He enjoyed fishing, dancing, biking, swimming, tobogganing, skiing, and traveling just to name a few. He played tennis well into his 80's. Music was at the top of his list of joys, and he played the bass fiddle in his high school band. Frankie was an excellent athlete in his younger years, and he especially loved playing basketball, hockey, and handball.

As an entrepreneur at heart, one of his many sayings was, "Your money should make money, even while you are sleeping". As a young husband, Frankie owned two 4-family flats that stood side by side on Collingwood Street in Detroit and moved his family into one of the units. He had a vision early in life to gain wealth to provide for his family and their future and took the time to show others how to do the same.

In his mid-70s, Frankie began studying healthy lifestyle living and modified his eating habits and practiced a fruitarian way of eating. He was passionate about healthy living and took every possibility to spread his knowledge to those around him. Being conscious about the world he lived in, Frankie gave to numerous foundations and organizations to do his part in protecting the environment and wildlife.

After his retirement from Ford, as "not to grow roots", he helped manage the automotive operation owned by his lifelong friend, Eric Lewis, who affectionally called him "Franko" along with his other very close friends for over 50 years, Larry & Silvia, TV & Shelly, whom he cherished very much! Franko continued to work in Eric's shop as a manager until his 90th birthday!

What brought Frankie the most joy was spending precious time with his family! He was a family man who genuinely loved his family and believed deeply in protecting and providing for his family. Frankie loved God and passionately served Him. He would rise early each morning to give thanks and pray for guidance over his daily journey.

Ten years ago, for his 80th birthday, his family and friends surprised him with a wonderful birthday celebration! And this year, on March 25th, Frankie's loving family gave him an awesome 90th birthday celebration showering him with love that will always be treasured!

Everard Frank Belfon leaves to cherish his loving memory, his beautiful and faithful wife of over 66 years, Sylvia Belfon, and two children: Denise Belfon-Grier (Michael), Karen "Kewi" Williams (Larry), and a daughter proceeding his death, Cynthia Sturdivant (the late Harvey Sturdivant). His sisters: Frances White (the late Damon Sr.), Letitia Bolden (the late Carl Jr.), and Alethea Belfon; 4 grandchildren: Justin, Miles, Ryane, Amanda; 3 bonus grandchildren: Darryl, Krista, and Deleon; along with a host of nephews, nieces, relatives, friends, and many "grands-by-love" that affectionately called him "Poppa". Frankie was excited at his birthday party when it was announced by his grandson Miles, that a great-grandbaby girl is on the way!



Love

