



Dewey Edward McRae

May 16, 1954 - April 30, 2024

Dewey Edward McRae, born on May 16, 1954, was a man of spirited independence and unyielding determination. His journey commenced in Clearwater, Florida, as the lively offspring of Walter McRae and Ella Mae Williams. He was the third of five children. Amongst his siblings, Dewey shined as a bright and vivacious soul, fearlessly carving his path through life's twists and turns.

From his earliest days, Dewey radiated an irrepressible energy, with a reputation for his boundless enthusiasm, quick wit, and gifted artistry. Embracing his middle name, Edward, he adopted a myriad of affectionate aliases – from Eddie, Mr. Ed, Uncle Ed, and the endearing Uncle Evie – each a testament to the multifaceted brilliance of his personality and the simpler pronunciation for the kids.

Edward embarked on numerous journeys throughout his life, the first leading him from the shores of Florida to the bustling streets of New York City, during the Great Migration of African Americans seeking greater opportunities in the North. Brooklyn became his stomping ground, where he was educated in the public school system. Ed was OUTSIDE, for real.

As an adult, Ed migrated to the mountainous region of the Southern Tier of New York with his younger sister, Ninette's family. It wasn't long before the

tranquil landscapes of Binghamton, particularly its southside Saratoga community offered Ed a greater sense of belonging. There, amidst the embrace of several migrant families from New York City, “Uncle Ed” was welcomed as one of their own. Ed carved out a place for himself, weaving the threads of his life into the colorful tapestry of shared existence. After only a short time, Uncle Eddie followed his family south to Virginia, where his infectious personality attracted a diverse array of companions, leading him through both enriching experiences and challenging trials that would impact the next 20 years of his life.

Despite facing numerous years within the confines of the correctional system, Edward was buoyed by the unwavering support of his loved ones. With the assistance of his niece, Ed transitioned from his institutionalized past, emerging from adversity with resilience akin to a phoenix rising from the ashes, ready to reestablish himself and stake a claim on his terms. Though he lost his vision, Dewey never lost his sense of humor nor his famous laugh echoing like the joyful chime of a child. Edward is predeceased by his parents Ella Mae Williams and Walter McRae Sr., his eldest sister Alice Clarke-Dempsey, his youngest sister Ninette Legette, and his older brother Walter McRae Jr. He leaves behind his youngest brother, Daniel Witherspoon and wife Fawn of Jacksonville, FL; his brother-in-law Terry Legette of Hampton, VA, whose friendship deepened as his sight diminished, and became a caretaker, companion, and travel buddy for daily activities and medical appointments; his beloved daughters, Katherine Thompson of Newport News VA, and Funmi Thompson of Fayetteville, NC whom he adopted as his own, and regularly

visited and were there by his side at the end. Ed also leaves behind a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

His legacy of laughter, love, and indomitable determination will continue to echo through the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to call him friend, family, or simply, Ed.

Tribute Wall

TJ

“ *My heart is heavy I miss so much sweetheart this is my on his 69th birthday. I gave him my friend I know you are in better you will forever be in heart my condolences to the family RIP MY FRIEND*



Theresa Jones - May 03, 2024 at 07:12 PM