

### **Only A Dad**

by Edgar Guest

Only a dad with a tired face,  
Coming home from the daily race,  
Bringing little of gold or fame  
To show how well he has played the game;  
But glad in his heart that his own rejoice  
To see him come and to hear his voice.

Only a dad with a brood of four,  
One of ten million men or more  
Plodding along in the daily strife,  
Bearing the whips and the scorns of life,  
With never a whimper of pain or hate,  
For the sake of those who at home await.

Only a dad, neither rich nor proud,  
Merely one of the surging crowd  
Toiling, striving from day to day,  
Facing whatever may come his way,  
Silent whenever the harsh condemn,  
And bearing it all for the love of them.

Only a dad but he gives his all  
To smooth the way for his children small,  
Doing with courage stern and grim,  
The deeds that his father did for him.  
This is the line that for him I pen:  
Only a dad, but the best of men



#### *Pall Bearers*

**Rashiem Grant  
Sean Hines  
Dwayne Hines**

**William Owens  
Jermaine Singleton  
Robert Wall**

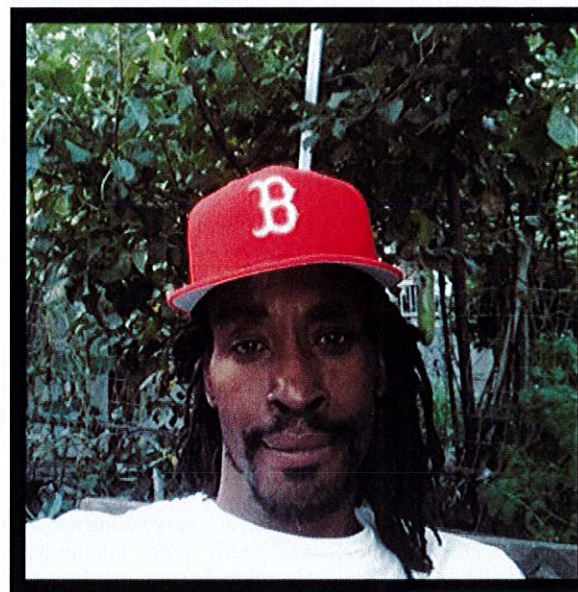
#### *Acknowledgements*

The family would like to extend its heartfelt thanks for all of the expressions of love and comfort. We extend a special thanks to Community Servings and for all those who helped to cater the repast.

#### *Arrangements entrusted to:*

Riley-Antoine Funeral Home  
171 Humboldt Avenue  
Dorchester, MA 02121

# *In Loving Memory of*



## **Jermain D. Wall**

February 23, 1973 - June 5, 2021



Prince Hall  
24 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02121  
6:00PM - 9:00PM

## Obituary

Jermain D. Wall, affectionately known as “Fred”, was born in Boston to Douglas Harris and Rhona Wall-Harris on February 23, 1973. He was the youngest of two children.

A self-described “Roxbury kid”, as a young child, Jermain was a risk-taker. He would walk fences, swing on ropes, climb trees, and jump off roofs. If it was dangerous, challenging, and thrilling, he was game to try it. Always fun-loving, Jermain loved to laugh, and loved to make other people laugh. Everything with Jermain was raw - the way he talked, the way he loved, and even the way he expressed his pain. He was fiercely protective of his family and those he loved. That sentiment of loyalty was something that he would carry with him for the rest of his life; it not only kept him close to his family but also drew him into the streets. Jermain never shied away from talking about this period of his life. It caused him heartache. It made him hard, but it also taught him lessons.

In his late teens, Jermaine met his life partner, Charnette Singleton. When Jermain discovered he was going to have a son, he realized that he could not be a good father and still stay in the streets. The two welcomed their first child, Jermaine “Lil Maine” Singleton, in 1996. Starting a new beginning, Jermain got a job with the City of Boston where he stayed for a number of years, determined to change his life for the better. Jermain’s driving force was his family and son. A few years after his son was born, Jermain and Charnette welcomed the birth of their daughter, and Jermain’s true joy, Jahki Singleton. Everything about Jermain became about his kids. Attending his son’s high school and college graduations meant the world to him. He was so looking forward to attending his daughter’s high school graduation less than a week before his passing.

Because his own father was tragically stolen from him at a very young age, he would always say to his sister, “I want to do for my children what daddy couldn’t do for us”. The loss of his father was a sorrow that would be compounded by other devastating life events. It was a sorrow that would never leave him. Despite all of this, Jermain was extremely dedicated and hard working. He was always able to light up a room with his spirit. And always had the raunchiest jokes!! He could have been a comedian. Humor came very naturally to him.

Jermain would often pop in on his mother and elder family, just for conversation or to relax; wrapping them in his bright energy. Time, presence and love were gifts he always gave to his family and everyone he loved. He will truly be missed.

In the last year of his life, Jermain found his professional niche. He was cheffin’ it up at Community Servings in Jamaica Plain and was an exemplary employee. He was so proud when he received his ServSafe Food Handler certificate in May of 2020. He absolutely loved his job.

Jermain lived his life taking care of others, yet he never fully ever realized the positive and powerful impact he had on those around him. He passed suddenly and peacefully in his sleep on Saturday, June 5, 2021. He is preceded in death by his father Douglas. He is survived by his loving mother Rhona Wall-Harris, his two beautiful children, Jermaine and Jahki Singleton, his sister Katrina “Trina” Hines-Hollins, and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

## Program

Prayer of Comfort

Poem ..... Shamieh Wall

Obituary ..... Jermaine & Jahki Singleton

Speaker ..... Brian Hillmer, Executive Chef  
Community Servings

Speaker ..... Harold “Pee Wee” Smitherman

Speaker ..... Trina

Speaker ..... Jermaine Singleton

Reflections (2 minutes max)

Closing Prayer

Repast will be held from  
8pm – 9pm at Prince Hall.