

Final Flight I Am Free

*Don't grieve me for now I am free,
I'm following the path that God lead for me.
I took his hand when I heard his call,
I turned my back and left it all.*

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

*If my parting has his left a void,
Then fill it with remember joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, those things surely will be missed.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I prayed for your joy to come on tomorrow.
My life was full, I saving much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart, celebrate with me,
God wanted me now, he set me free.*

Interment

Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston, MA

Pallbearers:

*Steven Epps
Glen Henderson*

Repass:

The Lantana, 43 Scanlon Drive, Randolph, MA.

Acknowledgements

Randell's family would like to thank all our family and friends who have supported in our grief and sorrow. With such a sudden loss of such a beautiful human being having your love and support has meant so so much to us. To learn more about the Veterans and Friends of Gourdin Memorial Park Randy's long-term project to honor his uncle please visit <https://gourdinmemorialpark.org/about>.

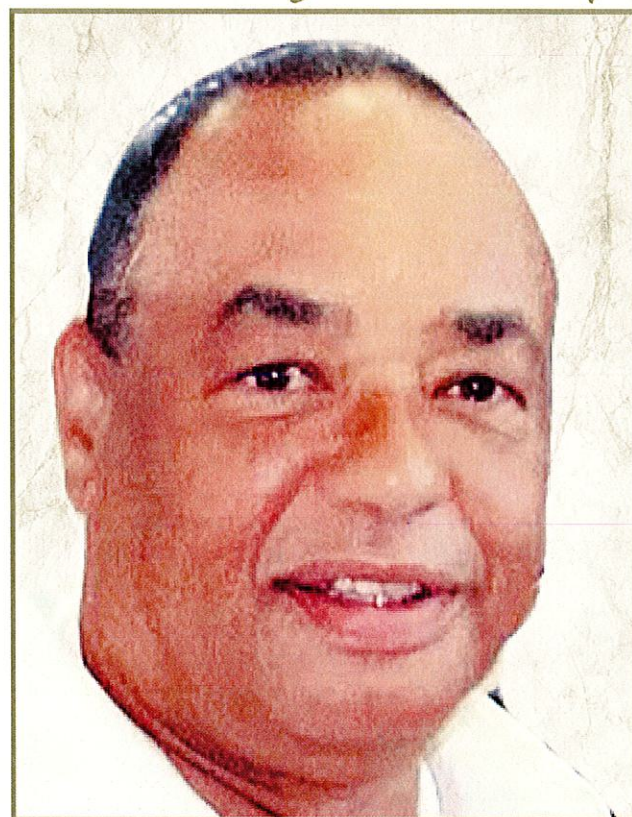
Funeral Arrangements

*Riley Antoine Funeral Home
171 Humboldt Ave • Dorchester, MA 02121
617-427-5625*

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In Loving Memory



MAY 20, 1954—JULY 1, 2021



RANDALL JAMES TATUM

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2021

WAKE: IOAM • SERVICE: IIAM

Riley-Antoine Funeral Home,
171 Humboldt Ave.
Boston, MA 02121

Randall Tatum passed away suddenly on July 1, 2021. The world lost a caring man and loving husband, brother, uncle, friend, and passionate activist.

A lifelong resident of Mansfield, Randy was born on May 20, 1954. He graduated from Mansfield High School in 1972, where he was a track star. He then went on to attend Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. He married the love of his life, the former Debra McKeithan, on August 30, 1986, and they made their home in Mansfield.

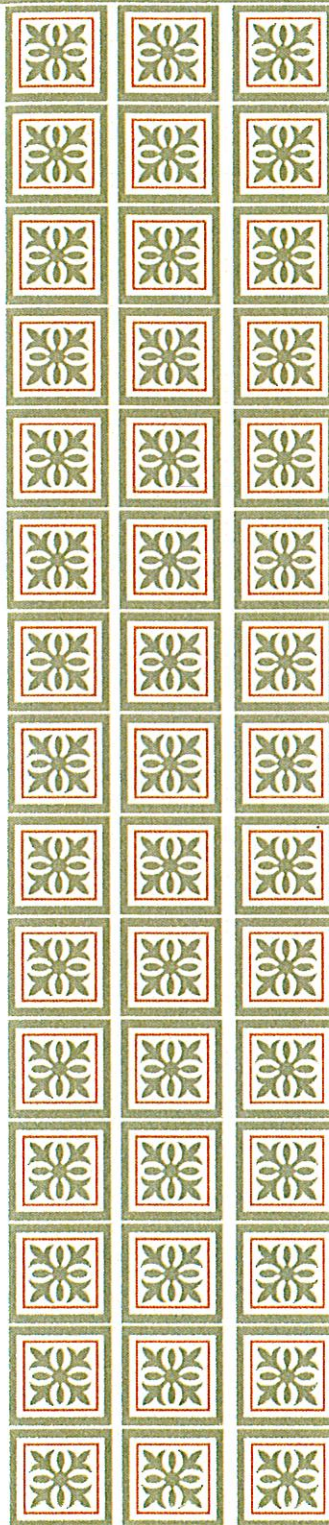
Randy always had a smile on his lips and a twinkle in his eye. He had many friends and exuded warmth. A committed activist, Randy devoted his whole life to fighting for social justice and he never backed down in the face of adversity. He attributed his desire to fight injustice to his memory of attending the 1963 March on Washington. Randy founded the Multi-Cultural Heritage Alliance, a non-profit dedicated to social justice and diversity education. Every year, under Randy's leadership the alliance held a community breakfast honoring the legacy Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He had a special fondness for young people, encouraging them to use their special gifts and talents to achieve their dreams.

Randy was an active member of the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee for 10 years, serving on the Affirmative Action and Outreach Committees, the Field Services subcommittee, and the Organized Labor Services subcommittee. He was a leader within the Mansfield Democratic Town Committee for 17 years, serving as Outreach Officer and in 2016, he received the award as the Mansfield Democrat of the Year. Randy's most recent project was focused on raising funds to erect a statue honoring his uncle Edward O. Gourdin, the first Black judge appointed to the Roxbury District Court. The design has been chosen and it will be placed at the Justice Edward O. Gourdin Veterans Memorial Park, in Roxbury*. Randy was a proud member of "The Fellas" a group of men who meet biweekly, supporting each other over decades and having big fun!! He was also active with the NAACP.

Randy worked for National Grid for 36 years and just retired in 2020. He was a union member and worked to create awareness of the benefits of union membership for Black youth.

Predeceased by his mother, Marcella A. Tatum (2015); his father James Tatum, (2004) his younger brother Ronald Tatum (1972), Uncles Charles Dance, Tony R. Dance and Aunt Marie Heath. Randall/Randy is survived by his wife of 37 years Debra McKeithan Tatum; as well as his sister Hazel McKinney and brother-in-law, Darwin McKinney, of Mission Viejo, CA, nephew Brien Porter and niece Cara Porter, of Mill Valley, CA, nephew Darrin Porter and niece Megan Porter of Oakland, CA, nephew Deon McKinney and niece Melinda McKinney, of Lake Forest, CA, great nieces Isabella Porter, of Mill Valley, CA, and Aliya Porter and Naomi Porter, of Oakland, CA, and great nephews Donovan Porter, of Mill Valley, CA, Benjamin and Jacob McKinney, of Lake Forest CA, his aunts Muriel Tatum, of Brockton, MA, Jenny Dance of Holbrook, MA, and his uncles Phillip Tatum, of Dedham, MA and Richard Tatum, of Fredericksburg Virginia; his cousins Christine Dance of Holbrook, MA, Charles Dance of Lunenburg, MA, Joanne Dance of Randolph, MA, Edward and Barbara Heath, of Canada, Mark and Brenda Tatum, of Mansfield, Texas, Ricky and Lilliana Tatum, of Washington, DC, Curtiss and Kathy Tatum, of Souderton, PA, Ronda Dance of West Roxbury, MA, Leslie Tatum, of Brockton MA, and many family and friends.

*In lieu of flower donations can be made in Randall's honor to the Gourdin Memorial please visit <https://gourdinmemorialpark.org/about>.



ORDER OF SERVICE

Invocation

Reverend Charmayne Cooke

Scripture

Jumaada A-K H. Smith

Prayer

Reverend Charmayne Cooke

Hymn

Glenda Powe

Acknowledgement

Seivea Avant

Obituary

Silent Reading

Selection

Glenda Powe

Eulogy

Reverend Charmayne Cooke