

Acknowledgements

Words of Thanks seem so inadequate for all of the kindness that has been given to our family. Our Family wishes to acknowledge with great appreciation the comforting calls, lovely cards, the beautiful floral arrangements, and the many prayers.

May God bless you all abundantly.

A special thanks to the Rollins, Blake, and Lee Family

The Celester Family

PALL BEARERS

Darryl Celester
Antonio Celester
Gregory Link Jr.
Jerome Link
Marquis Celester
Edward Brown Jr.

INTERMENT

Monday, March 7th, 2022

Meet 10 AM @ Riley's and drive to

Oaklawn Cemetery

427 Cummins Highway, Roslindale, MA 02131

REPAST

Florian Hall

55 Hallet Street, Dorchester, MA 02122

SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:

Riley - Antoine Funeral Home

171 Humboldt Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02121

William Richard Celester, jr.
"Billy"

Sunrise March 9, 1943

Sunset February 21, 2022



Sunday, March 6, 2022

Viewing: 1:00 pm Funeral: 2:00 pm

Morning Star Baptist Church

1257 Blue Hill Avenue | Mattapan, MA 02126

Bishop John M. Borders, III, Senior Pastor



Measure of Man

Not how did he die? But how did he live?
 Not what did he gain? But - what did he give?
 'These are the things that measure the worth
 Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.
 Not what was his station? But had he a heart?
 And - - how did he play his God - give part?
 Was he ever ready for a word of good cheer?
 'To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?
 Not - what was his church? Not what was his creed?
 But had he befriended those really in need?
 Not what did the sketch in the newspapers say?
 But how many were sorry when he passed away?
 'These are the things that measure the worth
 Of a man as a man, regardless of birth

- Anonymous

Here are just a few facts about Billy:

- * Billy was a cat person
- * His preferred genre of music was
 Classic Soul & R&B, Doo Wop,
 ...sounds that you could do the one-two shuffle to
- * He liked overbites, a la Ms. Warwick of old
- * He could watch hours of Barbra Streisand concerts
- * He loved to go fishing

Billy is survived by:

son's, Kevin and William III Celester, grandchildren,
 MarQuis and Ashley Celester, Jeavoni Thistle, Maurice
 Williams, Gregory, Jerome, and Mecca Link, sisters,
 Dorothy Fordham, Rhonda Celester, sisters-in-law
 Lula Fisher, Adline Jones, Joanne Andrews, nieces and
 nephews, Antonio, Darryl, Lawrence Jr., Jermaine
 Celester, Reshon Starkes, Tracey Kelly, and Edward Jones,
 their partners and children, and greatgrands, cousins,
 godchildren and many more.

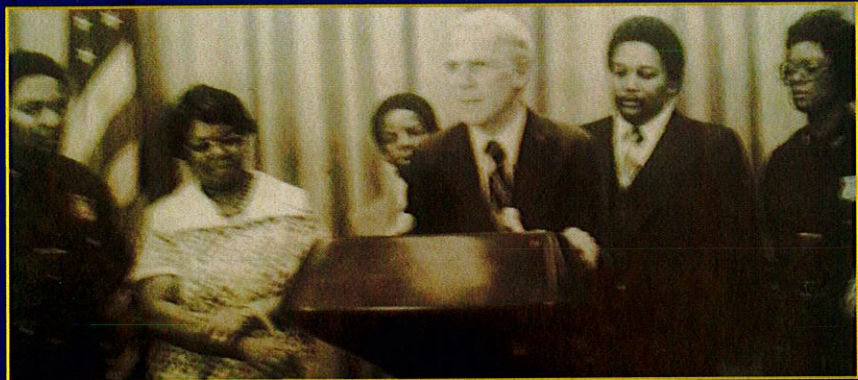
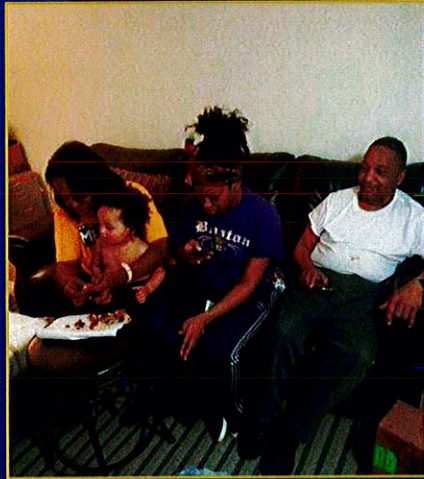
In lieu of flowers please make donations to:

MAMLEO

Massachusetts Association of
 Minority Law Enforcement Officers

www.mamleo.org

61 Columbia Rd. Boston, MA 02121



Order of Service

<i>Processional</i>	.....
<i>Invocation</i>	.....	Bishop John M. Borders, III
<i>Congregational Hymn</i>	.....	Rev. Ruthenia Tukes "I Will Fly Away"
<i>Reading of Scriptures :</i>		
<i>Ecclesiastes 3:1-8</i>	.....	Aisha Celester
<i>II Corinthians 1:3-4</i>	.....	Family Member
<i>Prayer of Comfort</i>	.....	Bishop John M. Borders, III
<i>Solo</i>	.....	Rev. Ruthenia Tukes "May The Works I Have Done"
<i>Reflection of a Man (Remarks)</i>	.....	* Cambridge Representative of the Honorable Louis Farrakhan Student Minister Rodney Muhammad * Boston Representative of the Honorable Louis Farrakhan Student Minister Randy Muhammad * Mayor Raymond Flynn * Senator Nick Collins * Attorney James Dilday * Detective Larry Ellison
<i>Remarks</i>	.....	Leonard M. Lee (2 min. each person)
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	.....	Ruth Rollins
<i>Obituary</i>	.....	Toya Marie Brown and Antonio Fluker, jr.
<i>Solo</i>	.....	Rev. Ruthenia Tukes "Precious Lord"
<i>Eulogy</i>	.....	Bishop John M. Borders, III
<i>Recessional</i>	.....

Scriptures

II Corinthians 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

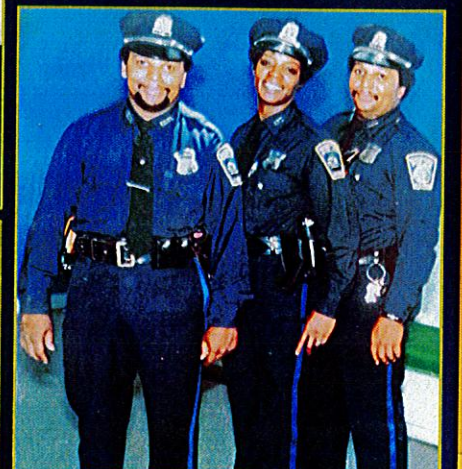
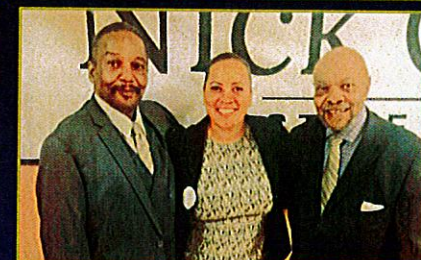
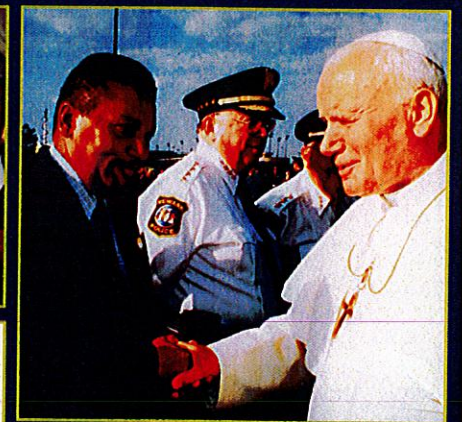
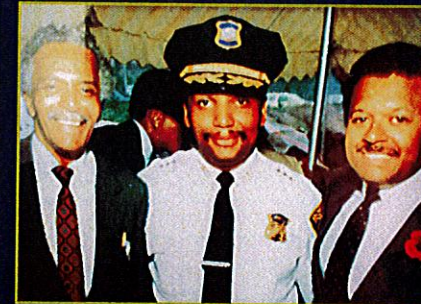
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.



It was the diligence of the Boston Police Department in securing the return of his kidnapped son in 1966 that led him on the path of fulfilling a childhood dream.

His mother often recounted him telling her at the age of three that he wanted to grow up to become a motorcycle officer. When opportunity knocked he answered, becoming one of only four blacks in his class at the academy.

It took hutzpah, to be one of a few for years and to sludge through the intersections of Civil Justice and Human Rights which changed the face of the BPD to become more inclusive for African Americans, Latinx, ethnic groups, women and LGBTQ+. Like so many of the young lions of his generation they not only made opportunity a reality, they not only kicked in the gates, they propped them open for others to enter all the while standing on the shoulders of those who came before.

These social and cultural gains were replicated across the landscape of this country redefining access and how economic and political power could transform lives.

Billy rose through the ranks from; Patrol Officer, Detective, became Commissioner of Suffolk County House of Corrections at Deer Island, returned to the BPD as Deputy Superintendent, Superintendent of Area B, and was recruited to become Director of Newark, New Jersey Police in 1991.

What an accomplishment for a young black man who grew up in Boston during the 40's and 50's, who was raised by a single mother supporting the family on the income as a domestic, to emerge as one of the Architects of change for Law Enforcement in the last century not only in the city of Boston but on the national front.

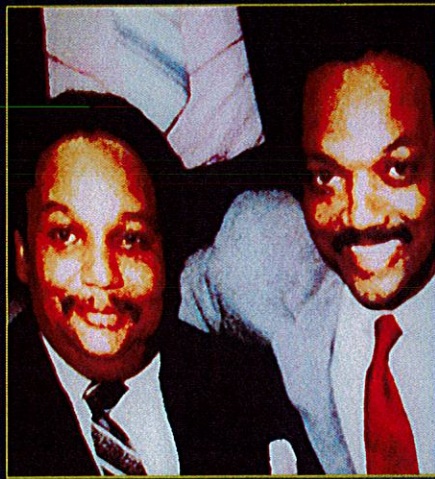
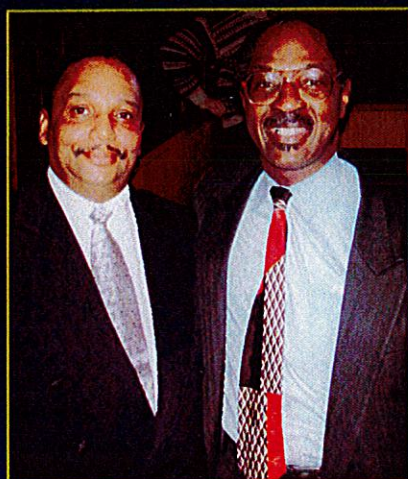
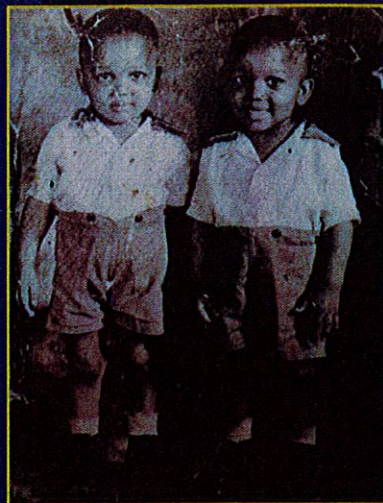
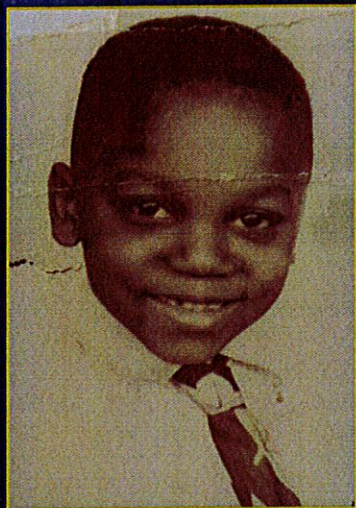
He was one of the founders of the union for African American Corrections & Law Enforcement Professionals, as well as the Massachusetts Association of Afro-American Police (MAAAP) which later became MAMLEO.

He met luminaries and dignitaries, he met presidents and a Pope, there was a picture that he always proudly displayed, of he and the smiling then President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela shaking hands. No one could ever have predicted this career path. Above all, and most importantly, he was most proud that he was able through his work to serve and represent his cherished community.

There were so many places where the Celester name carried weight and respect within the community as well as outside of it.

His storage compartment is full of boxed up plaques and framed honors, on the day of homecoming, many will extol his numerous accomplishments but do not forget to tell the many stories that will have everyone doubled over in laughter because that is who he was a complex beloved son of Boston.





Sometimes dreams really do come true.

Take for example, *William Richard Celester, Jr.*, also known widely and affectionately as “Billy.”

Billy was born to Edith and William Celester, Sr. in 1943, he arrived 5 minutes before his identical wombmate, Larry (Lawrence).

The twins and elder sister Joyce (Kelly) grew up in Lower Roxbury near Madison Park, off of Sterling, Ruggles, and Tremont Streets. They were members at Peoples Baptist Church where they attended Sunday School.

Everybody knew the Celester twins, they were notorious. It was always Billy and Larry or Larry and Billy. If they weren't together then they were usually within the same vicinity as the other. In fact, they weren't separated in school until the eighth grade when their teacher had had enough of their twin antics. As one can imagine, they were always up to some sort of hijinks.

They were so identical that their mother Edie, had two of the exact school pictures of Billy pasted in the family album, she swore up and down for the longest that it was the both of them.

Being twins served the brothers well, it provided visibility, but they were also charismatic, they exuded a certain *je ne sais quoi*, which made people want to be around them.

In the ensuing years, Billy became a Boy Scout, was a Marseille Dukes, did a stint in the military, entered the trades, married, became a father to his first son Kevin, 62. His second marriage to life long partner, Maggie Lee, produced three children; William III, 56, Sonya and Eileen, (both deceased).