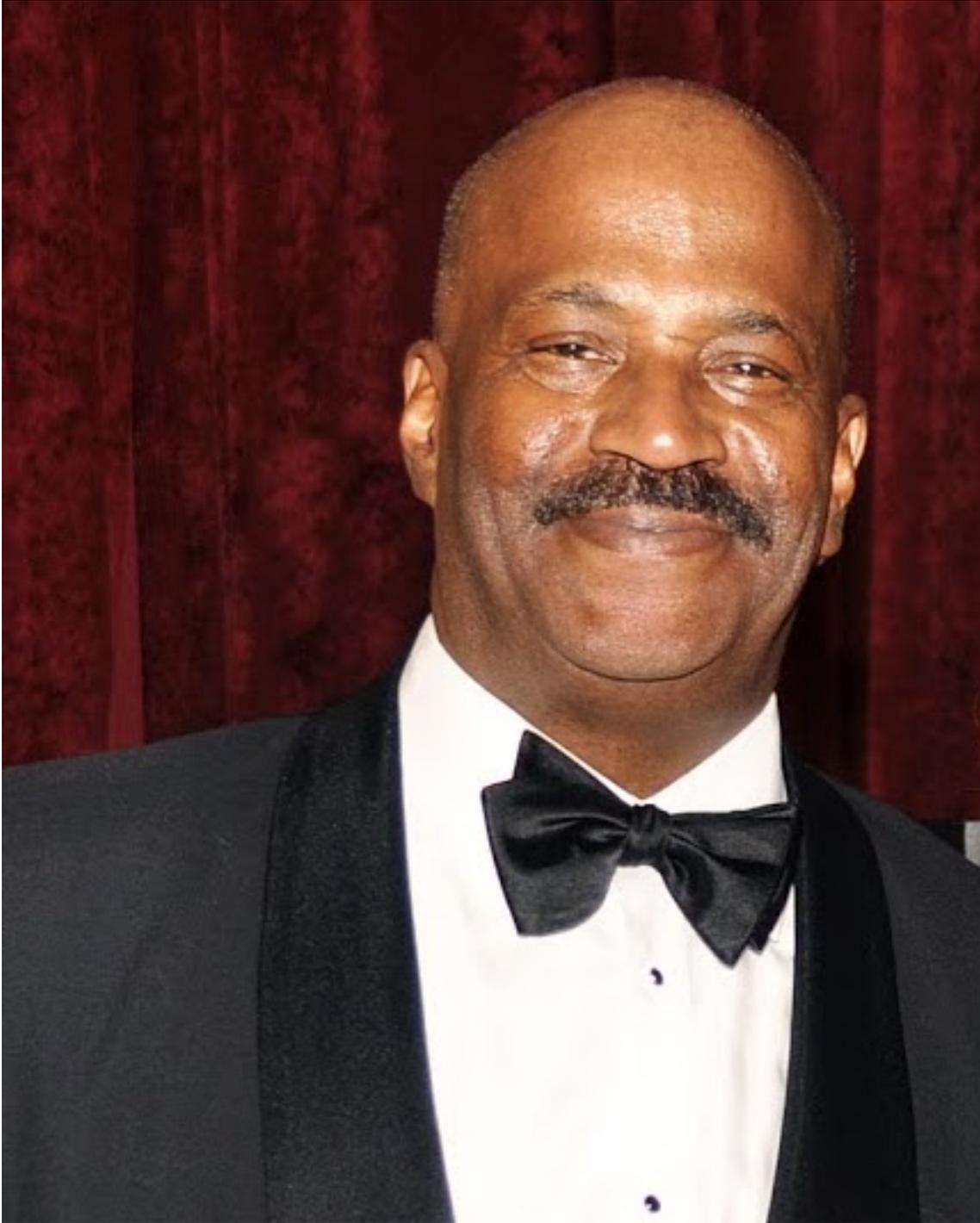


A CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND LOVE

Donald Allen “Philly” Garnett

March 30, 1955 - June 29, 2018



“For now I am ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith!” (II Timothy 4:6-7)

SERVICE OF TRIUMPH

Monday, July 9, 2018 @ 11:00 AM

Boston College, Trinity Chapel
885 Centre Street, Newton, MA 02459
Bishop William E. Dickerson II, Officiating

Musical Prelude

Processional and Scriptural Admonition.....Clergy

Invocation.....Bishop William E. Dickerson

Scripture ReadingClergy

Old Testament ~ Psalm 23

New Testament ~ John 14:1-6

PrayerClergy

Remarks.....Elder Ron Bell

Reflections.....Fareed Abdul Mumin

Carl Walton

Member of Wine Psi Phi

Mike Daniels

BC Alumni

Obituary Reading.....Carl Walton

Hymn....."Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Eulogy and Benediction.....Bishop William E. Dickerson

Recessional....."Soon and Very Soon"

Donald's Journey

My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it.”
- Clarence Budington Kelland

On Wednesday, March 30, 1955, at the Thomas Jefferson Hospital, in Philadelphia, PA, Donald A. Garnett, Sr., and Charing (Desphy) Garnett welcomed their eldest son Donald Allen Garnett into the world. Growing up, “Philly Dawg”, as he would affectionately be known throughout his life, was surrounded by the love and affection of his parents and four younger siblings; brothers, Howard, Anthony, and Julian and his sister, Charing. During his childhood, young Donald fully embraced his responsibility as the protective, older brother.

Donald thrived in the supportive environment of a warm Christian home filled with love. Although Donald enjoyed joining his siblings in youthful pursuits like sports, card games and riding bikes, he was focused on his future. At an early age, Donald began delivering newspapers, working odd jobs, and operating small businesses, a practice he would continue throughout his life.

Donald was educated in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Schools. In 1973, he graduated from Cardinal Dougherty High School where he played football and basketball. In addition to playing sports, Donald also coached youth sports. He loved books and developed a keen interest in music.

In September of 1973, fueled in part by his desire to enter the Priesthood, Donald enrolled in Boston College as a member of the Black Talent Program. The Black Talent program was a unique program which began as a scholarship and recruitment effort in 1968. Black Talent students were completely responsible for recruiting, enrolling, and maintaining the academic progress of its students. It provided an avenue for promising students from challenged socio economic backgrounds to attend Boston College.

During his tenure at BC, Philly fully immersed himself in extra curricular activities: he joined the Black Student Forum, co-chaired the Concert Committee, and was a member of the Summer Orientation Committee for the class of 1978. He became a late night DJ on WZBC-FM Boston College's student run radio station. In his freshman year he pledged Wine Psi, Phi, a Social Fraternity. Inc. Donald also played and served as a referee for intramural sports and ran a darts league. During this time, Donald took a photography class, which led him to become a life long recorder of events. He was rarely without his camera!

Consider the fact that he did all this, while raising his infant son Dorien, while attending Boston College. Philly became a father at sixteen, yet he was determined to be an integral part of his son's life. As a toddler Dorien spent a great deal of time at BC with his dad. Everyone at Fenwick Dormitory willingly pitched in to baby sit with Dorien so that Philly could attend classes.

The 1970's and the advent of busing contributed to social turbulence on campus and in greater Boston at large. To the surprise of his family, Philly, who was always willing to embark on a new adventure, decided to join the marching band. It was one of Donald's most significant activities as an undergraduate at Boston College. And although he could not read music, he played the tuba! It should be noted that the black members of the BC band were often met with hostility by spectators and some of their peers. Yet, to the credit of Philly's powers of persuasion and the courage of the late Band Director, Peter C. Siragusa, Philly and his frat brother Frank Jones became the first African American Drum Majors of the Boston College Marching Band. Their ascension was a positive statement about the school and Philly made sure to recruit Black students to join the BC Marching Band. With the exception of varsity sports teams the Marching Band and its auxiliaries were the most racially integrated activities on campus during a very contentious time in the life of the university.

As an alumnus, Donald was instrumental in the development of the AHANA Alumni Advisory Council (AAAC) and served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. He faithfully and enthusiastically participated in all AAAC activities, and was never without a smile and his camera, documenting countless memories for everyone. He was also very active with the Wine Psi Phi Social Fraternity, Inc. where he served on the W.I.N.E. Grand Council and various committees.

Following graduation from BC, Philly remained in Boston to take advantage of several career opportunities. He worked at Boston College in the Office of Development, however, Donald was determined to become an entrepreneur. He was ambitious and worked hard to bring his dreams to fruition. His entrepreneurial spirit led Donald to open his own successful real estate firm, the Nett Company (TNC). Throughout his career he really enjoyed the camaraderie and respect of his employers, supervisors, co-workers, and clients.

On August 18, 1979, Donald married the love of his life Tanya S. James. Philly and Tanya created a home filled with love, laughter, food and fun. Their hearts and home were always open to family and friends in need of a meal or shelter. Their adventures took them to family reunions and vacations throughout the United States, Mexico, St. Martin and the Caribbean. They enjoyed hosting their children, grandchildren, and extended family each summer on the cape. They were a team, truly one in spirit, body and soul. Through the years, they remained deeply in love, and were best friends!

Donald was a man of integrity who loved and encouraged his family to follow their dreams. Philly gave his children Dorien and Akilah unconditional love and support. One of his greatest joys in life was spending time spoiling, and bragging about his grandchildren. He loved them dearly and unconditionally. He treasured his children and grandchildren and loved to swoop them away on weekend outings.

Donald was a natural born leader who pushed his children, and those whom he coached and mentored to achieve their highest potential. Donald was the consummate family man. He lived for his family and loved family occasions. You could always depend upon him to show up with a smile on his face, a twinkle in his eyes, and ready for a good card party! And although he resided in Boston, Philadelphia was always his home.

Philly was the adored family Rock Star and his visits home were highly anticipated! Swarms of kids and the adults waited anxiously for his arrival. Before he could get out of the car everyone came running, calling out his name. The kids couldn't wait to help him unload the car. He was a dutiful son, extraordinary husband, adoring father, reliable brother and confidant to his nieces and nephews. Philly was a piper who walked to the beat of his own drum. He had a keen intellect, rapier wit, a ready smile, and kind heart. His heart was as big as his appetite for life which embodied the Second Commandment; "Love your neighbor as yourself." No other commandment is greater than these." . His was a life well lived!

On the evening of June 29, 2018, Donald A. Garnett Jr. exchanged life for eternity and was enfolded in the loving arms of God. Predeceased by his father Donald A. Garnett, Sr., and his grandson Dorien Garnett, Jr.; Donald leaves to cherish and to his legacy his devoted wife Tanya S. (James) Garnett; his beloved mother Charing (Desphy) Garnett, his adoring children; Dorien Garnett, and Akilah Garnett; five grandchildren, Taylor Garnett, Arianna Garnett, Jiovan Garnett, Gianna Garnett and Quinton Garnett.

Philly, is survived by his siblings Howard Garnett, Anthony Garnett (Denise), Julian Garnett (Latrell, Charing Francis; and his in-laws Marleah Oruma, Germain Myers, Diane James, Charles James and a host of beloved aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members and friends, as well as his BC Family, who will miss him dearly.

Thank you Philly, for being an integral part of our journeys; we are honored to have been a part of your Village. You will always be in our hearts, Rest in Peace.

When Great Trees Fall

- Maya Angelou

When great trees fall, rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down in tall grasses,
and even elephants lumber after safety.

When great trees fall in forests, small things recoil into silence,
their senses eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die, the air around us becomes light, rare, sterile.

We breathe, briefly.

Our eyes, briefly, see with a hurtful clarity.

Our memory, suddenly sharpened, examines,
gnaws on kind words unsaid, promised walks never taken.

Great souls die and our reality, bound to them, takes leave of us.

Our souls, dependent upon their nurture, now shrink, wizened.

Our minds, formed and informed by their radiance, fall away.

We are not so much maddened as reduced
to the unutterable ignorance
of dark, cold caves.

And when great souls die, after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always irregularly.

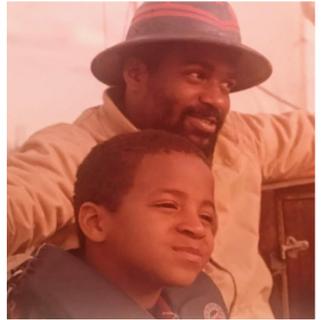
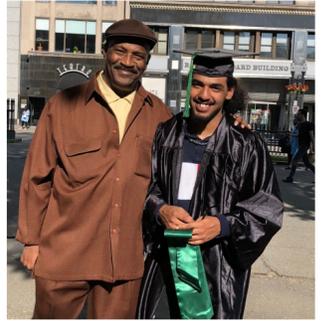
Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration.

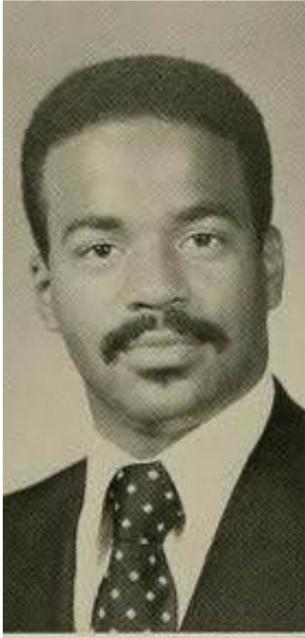
Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us.

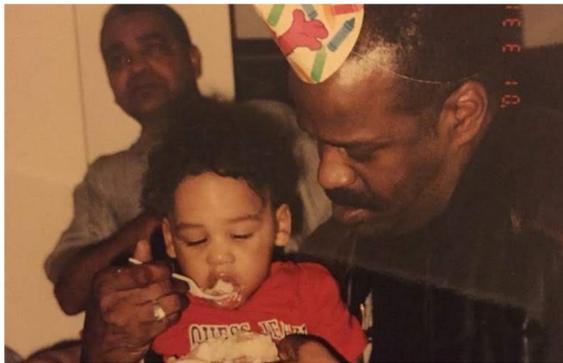
They existed. They existed.

We can be. Be and be better.

For they existed.







Interment & Repast

The Interment will be at Forest Hills Cemetery located at 95 Forest Hills Avenue, Boston, MA 02130. On behalf of the family of Donald A. Garnett, the Boston College Alumni Association invites you to partake in the Repast to be held in the Boston College Alumni House, 885 Centre Street, Newton, MA, on the Law School Campus immediately following the Interment.

In Lieu of Flowers

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Donald's memory to the **AHANA Fund at Boston College** by visiting www.bc.edu/give or by sending a check to the address listed below:

Boston College

Office of University Advancement
Cadigan Alumni Center
140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

Pallbearers

Michael Daniels
Ronald Davis
Douglas DuBoulay
Arthur Hendon
Duke Johnson
Abner Logan

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with sincere appreciation the many kind deeds and comforting expressions of sympathy. We ask for your continued prayers and may God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness and concern.