Celebrating the Life

Of

John David Harrell, III

Sunrise
August 26, 1957

Sunset
June 30, 2008

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 2008
Family Visitation 12 Noon
Funeral Service 1 P.M.

WHITE ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH
3400 Fayetteville Street
Durham, North Carolina 27707

Dr. Reginald Van Stephens, Pastor, *Officiating*

John David Harrell, III

Mr. John David Harrell, III. a native of Durham, N.C. was the son of Fannie Johnson Harrell and the late John D. Harrell, Jr. He departed this life on Monday, June 30, 2008, at INOVA Fairfax Hospital, Falls Church, Virginia.

John was educated in the Durham Public School System. He completed his early education at Fayetteville Street Elementary School, James E. Shepard Junior High School and Hillside High School. He finished Hillside High School in the class of 1975. In the fall of 1975 he began his college education at North Carolina Central University (NCCU), majoring in Mathematics. While attending NCCU, John played one season with the Eagles Basketball team and was the leading scorer, averaging 19.3 points per game. While at North Carolina Central University, John received several awards including the distinction of being the only freshman on the MEAC all conference team. In 1977 John transferred to Duke University and became a member of the Blue Devil Basketball team. John was a point guard for the Duke Blue Devils and played from 1977-1979. In 1978 John played on the Blue Devil NCAA Championship team. His last minute free throws helped the Duke team to bring home the final four victory over Notre Dame. John graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics in 1981.

John started his working career at N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Company in Durham as an Actuarial Analyst. In 1982 John moved to the Northern Virginia area to pursue his career in software development. He then spent the next twenty-six years managing IT projects and systems development and providing systems analysis and testing in both the telecom and government sectors.

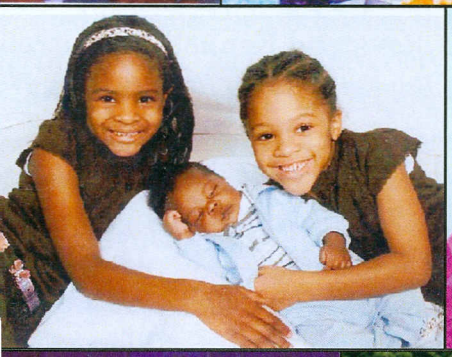
He was baptized at an early age at White Rock Baptist Church and remained a member until his death. He served as a junior usher, sang in the Junior Choir, Vacation Bible School recreation ministry, and was a proud member of J.W. Carrington's Sunday School Class.

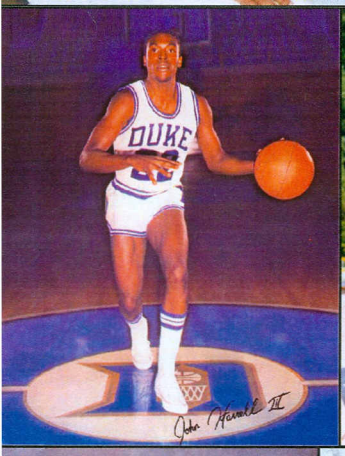
John was an avid reader and owner of a vast collection of books on the topics of spirituality and religion, health and exercise. He was also a writer, having written several volumes of poetry and was in the process of completing his first book entitled, *Running and Being Love, Living the Runner's High*. John enjoyed tutoring public school students, and watching basketball and football games. He was a devoted Washington Wizards fan.

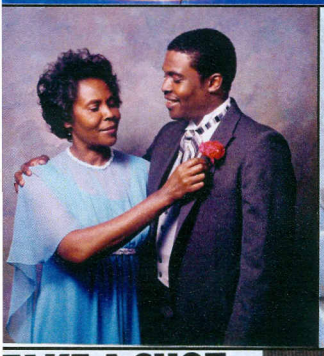
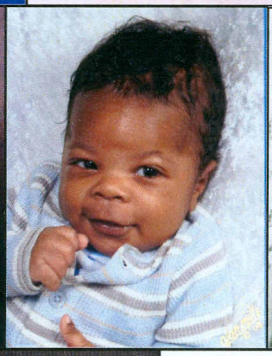
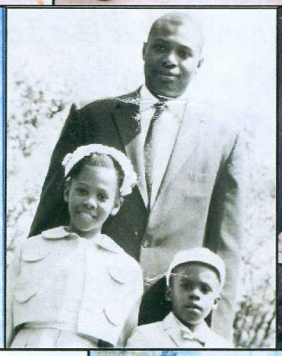
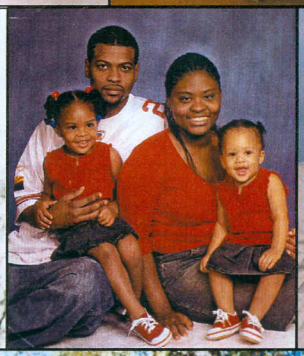
Left to cherish his loving memory are his mother, Mrs. Fannie J. Harrell of Durham; a sister, Dr. Paula D. Harrell, and a brother, Mr. Ivan K. Harrell, of Durham; a special relationship with Mr. Tab Lunsford Jr. and his children, Amaia, Aaliyah and Jahvid Lunsford of Durham; aunts, uncles, other relatives, and a host of friends and associates.

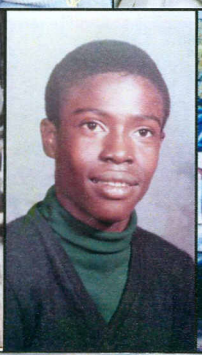
When I Must Leave You

When I must leave you for a little while-
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you through the years;
But start out bravely with a gallant smile;
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same,
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
But fill each waking hour is useful ways,
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you and hold you near;
And never, never be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky!







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