



Joseph Adrial Thompson Jr.

January 16, 1944 – November 14, 2007

Joseph Adrial Thompson Jr. quietly left this world at 4:55pm, Wednesday, November 14, 2007 after a long and challenging illness. He was the oldest son of Joseph A. Thompson Sr. and Mary Louise Jones of Boston and had two siblings.

From a young age “Junior” had an incredible work ethic starting with chores for neighbors and family. As a high student at Boston Trade, he began selling all sorts of products such as fuller brushes, pots, pans and vacuum cleaners to earn money for college. Through the mentorship of people like Michael Haynes and Clyde Crawford he applied to and was accepted to Hampton Institute where he received a B.S. in Teacher Education. While at Hampton, he pledged Omega Psi Phi. He was commissioned as second Lieutenant and received an honorable discharge from the Army Corps. He was a member of the National Society of Pershing Rifles. He also received varsity letters in track, football and marksmanship.

After graduation, Joe returned to Boston and married Beverly Taylor of Concord, MA. They had one son, Kurentsa “Kurt” Omer Elan Thompson. He then went on to receive a Juris Doctorate from Northeastern University and began to practice Law. Joseph had many careers in law, insurance, and education. He was a Student Affairs Coordinator, Alternative School Program Coordinator, Assistant Principal of Industrial Arts Department, a Counselor Shift Coordinator/Supervisor, a Math instructor, Case worker, Child care Counselor, to name just a few of his professions. He was also excellent in sales including Real Estate, and Insurance. In every situation he excelled at human relations; winning friends and admirers everywhere. His winning smile was a trademark throughout his life as well as his ability to see the bright side while remaining realistic and honest. As a friend once said, “You were always the better person after meeting Joe.”

As an educator he was a strong advocate for youth and education. If you were one of “Joe’s kids” you were certain to get the help you needed to go to college or solve personal and social problems. He would use his personal resources to drive students to test sites, and college tours. If needed, he would counsel parents or advocate with teachers and administrator. Many of his students have remained in touch over the years and attribute their success to his intervention. He was also a driving force of the Youth-At-Risk Outward Bound Program.

Joseph was a life long member of Metropolitan Baptist Church beginning with his Baptism on Shawmut Avenue. He served as president of the Trustee Board, The Usher Board and various other posts including singing with the choir. God was at the center of his life, his guiding light and he was always ready and willing to share this ministry with others.

Following in his father’s footsteps, he became a Mason. He attributed a lot of his success in life to his parents who gave him strong guidance, discipline and love. He had close relationship with not only his brothers and sisters, but with all of his cousins, nieces and nephews. He hardly ever missed a wedding, graduation or family celebration.

Always thinking and planning for the greater good, Joe most recently took courses toward a Divinity Degree and was developing a plan to teach heart patients to assertively advocate for their health care needs.

He is survived by his mother Mary L. Brach, of Boston, sister Phyllis L. Bell of Atlanta, Sister and brother-in-law, Emma “Queenie” Emma and Bill Emma of Boston, brother and sister-in-law, Richard L. and Yvonne Thompson of Augusta Georgia, brother Horace Bowden of Boston, son and daughter in-law, Kurt and Robin Thompson, grandson Shaquille O’Neal Monroe, of Fitchburg, former wife Beverly Taylor, cousin Ekuia Holmes of Boston, special friend, Barbara Pittman of Boston and a host of other cousins, niece, nephews and friends.