

DENNIS STROY, JR.

A Celebration of Life

Sunrise
February 12, 1942

Sunset
March 20, 2022

Friday, April 8, 2022

Viewing: 10:00 a.m.
Service: 11:00 a.m.

From the Heart Church Ministries®
Annex at 5055 Allentown Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746

Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor

Obituary

Dennis Stroy, Jr., was born on February 12, 1942, in Washington, D.C., to the late Dennis Stroy, Sr., and Viola Adams. He was the eldest of eleven children.

Dennis also known as “Sleepy,” was educated in the D.C. Public Schools. And after spending a year at Central State University in Ohio, Dennis along with his brother, David, moved to New York where he developed and perfected his carving skills under the watchful eye of friend and mentor, Jimmy Gaskins. He remained in New York for over 20 years, but made frequent trips to Washington, D.C.

An artist for the people, Dennis demonstrated his skills and taught workshops at various universities, parks, high schools, and many gatherings for justice and equality. His most famous artist workshop was at a March on Washington where he taught former First Lady Thelma Catherine “Pat” Ryan Nixon, how to properly hold a chisel to prevent injury.

Further, Dennis’s work consisted of many wood statues, a few marble pieces, and several drawings. He proudly hosted showings of his works at the Harambe House (renamed The Howard University Hotel) where he carved the floor to ceiling arches that guests saw upon entering the hotel. Additionally, he hosted a showing at D.C.’s Executive Building (renamed the Wilson Building, after former Councilman John Wilson). Wilson took a personal interest in Dennis’s work; and he assisted in hosting the showing at the building.

Dennis’s most notable work of art is the Family Tree of Hope Sculpture, fashioned from a huge old oak tree donated to him by the U.S. Park Service. The tree was located at 16th and Kennedy Streets, NW, where families congregated on weekends and holidays, individuals jogged and walked, soccer games were played, live music from summer concerts could be heard, and where the Stroy family frequently gathered. Dennis labored each day until just before dark, diligently carving to the music, and answering questions from those who stopped by to watch and take photos of the work in progress.

Dennis came to know Jesus Christ at an early age, because his father took everyone to his brother’s church, New Light Beulah Baptist Church, where Dennis was baptized. On March 4, 2001, he joined From the Heart Church Ministries. He later joined a start-up church along with his sister, Adell, before returning to From the Heart.

Despite his memory loss, Dennis spoke fondly of his first love and the mother of his first child, Joyce Ann Holland, whom he reconnected with over 50 years later. Moreover, Dennis and his first wife, Jean Paige Stroy, mourned the loss of their daughter, April “Shelly” Carpenter, who was a creative artist in her own right. In fact, all his children and most of his grandchildren have creative abilities.

Dennis leaves to cherish his memory his son, Allen Stroy; daughter, Corrine Stroy; grandchildren: Ashley, Alanne, Jalen, Tyler, and Madelyn; brothers, Dr. John (Vicky) Stroy and Isaac (Terri) Stroy; sisters: Edna Marie Stroy Kellogg, Naomi Stroy McLaughlin, Esther (Sgt. Major Daniel) Stroy Harper, and Rebecca (Warren) Stroy Harris. Additionally, a host of nieces, nephews, and other family members cherish his memory, along with numerous close friends.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, Dennis Stroy, Sr., and Viola Adams; brothers, King David Stroy, and Mitchell Stroy; sisters, Viola “Cookie” Fitzgerald, and Queen Adell Stroy Mundwa; and daughter, April Carpenter.

Order of Service

Invocation

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 23
New Testament: John 14:1-6

Prayer of Comfort

Selection *Mrs. Dana Yates*

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Ms. Alanne Stroy
Ms. Ashley Stroy
Mr. Kemry Hughes

Obituary (Read Silently)

Song of Preparation *Mrs. Dana Yates*

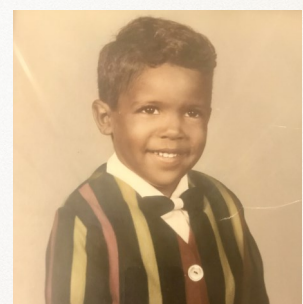
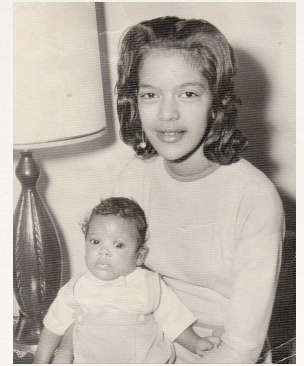
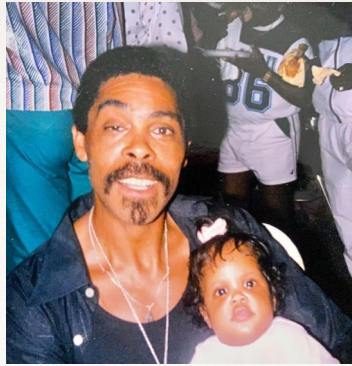
Message of Hope *Reverend Walter V. McLaughlin, III*

Call to Christ

Committal

Benediction

Recessional





*The Greatest Wood Sculptor
In the World*

Dennis Stroy, Jr.



Family Sentiment

*You can shed tears that he is gone,
or you can smile because he has lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that he'll come back,
or you can open your eyes and see all he's left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see him,
or you can be full of the love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember him only that he is gone,
or you can cherish his memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind,
be empty and turn your back.
Or you can do what he'd want:
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.*

By David Harkins

Pallbearers

Family and Friends

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

The family of Dennis Stroy, Jr., acknowledges with deep appreciation every act of kindness and expression of love shown to us during our time of bereavement. Your many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy have been a blessing to us. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless and keep you in perfect peace!

Services Entrusted to:
Hodges and Edwards Funeral Home
3910 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746