

Homegoing Celebration Of

Billy Jerome (B.J.) Starr

Landed
4th of
November
in 1953



Launched
4th of
October
in 2013

Visitation

5:30 ~ 7:30 PM

Friday, October 11, 2013

Universal Memorial Center

1100 E. Jefferson St Phoenix, Arizona 85034

Celebration

Saturday, October 12, 2013

2:30 PM **Final Viewing** ~ 3:00 PM **Service**

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church

1401 E Jefferson St Phoenix, Arizona 85034

Bishop Alexis A. Thomas

B. J. STARR

Obituary

Billy Jerome (BJ) Starr, Jr. was the first born child to the union of Billy and Katye M. Starr on 4 November 1953 in Logan County, Guthrie, Oklahoma. The family moved to Phoenix in 1960 where BJ attended Sacred Heart Catholic School, Percy L. Julian Elementary and South Mountain High Schools. Upon graduating from East High School, BJ accepted a position at Valley National Bank. In 1976, BJ began a journey with the City of Phoenix Police Department that would span over 37 years. BJ earned his Bachelors of Science degree and went on to complete a Master's Degree of Science at Webster University, Luke AF Base. Bj retired from the Police Department in 2006, however, a week later he was a reserve officer stationed at the Sky Harbor International Airport. There he remained until his death.

As a young child, BJ was intrigued with aeronautics. While most children played tag, BJ and his cousin, Guy Guyton, made and launched rockets all over the valley, with the help of his father, Billy Starr, Sr. BJ was so intrigued with aeronautical elements that he paid for and acquired a fixed wing pilot license in the late 1970s. He eventually obtained helicopter and commercial pilot licenses as well. With a helicopter license in hand, BJ became the first and only African American Helicopter Pilot to date for the Phoenix Police Department. He flew with the Air Unit from 1985 - 1997. Throughout this period BJ became a Unit Flight Instructor and a Rescue Pilot. BJ could really fly!

An entrepreneur at heart, BJ also established three businesses. The first business was "Photography by B J Starr", where he was the lead photographer as in the organization. BJ produced calendars, photographed weddings, parties and established model portfolios for numerous customers. Most people can't remember seeing him without his trusted digital camera. BJ also established two prospering computer businesses called "Starr Enterprises" and "Starr Micro Solutions". In this business, BJ sold computers and software, built webpages and offered computer support, both on line and in person. The editorial world was not safe from BJ either. He worked as a freelance editor for the International Group Airborne Law Enforcement Association (ALEA). He worked with the board and was editor for the member magazine, Airbeat, for several years. He was inspirational in launching their first website. BJ also worked as a tech freelancer for "Black Enterprise Magazine" and publisher for the magazine "Peoples Underground Beat" (PUB), which he started. Being the first to do anything was never a deterrent for BJ.

Those who knew BJ also discovered his many other hidden talents. He was comfortable in any arena to include construction, plumbing, electronics and auto mechanics. A lover of the great outdoors, he also enjoyed hunting, with guns or bows and enjoyed the camaraderie of his many friends and neighbors.

BJ was a collector of many things, one of which was friends. A kind hearted person admired and respected by so many, which is evident in the number in attendance today. He will be greatly missed.

BJ is preceded in death by his parents and one great niece. He leaves his legacy of life to his; two sons, Emil Malik Starr, (Sade) and Eric Starr; two sisters, Debra Starr Boyd (Robert) and Jerita Starr Laforcarde (Jeffrey); 9 grandchildren, 4 nephews, 1 niece and a host of great nieces and nephews and relatives. Mourning the loss of his companionship is a multitude of close friends and acquaintances.

Order of Service

- FINAL VIEWING.....CASKET CLOSED AT 3:00 PM
- PROCESSIONAL.....HONOR GUARD, BAG PIPE & FAMILY
- SCRIPTURE OLD TESTAMENT.....PSALM 139.....JIM PATTISON
- PRAYER.....ELTON FORD
- POEM.....DEBRA STARR BOYD
"SOUL SECRETS FOR THE ONE YOU LOVE, T. D. JAKES"
- MUSICAL SELECTION.....RONEY JONES
- POEM & INTERPRETIVE DANCE.....KATHERINE RENE WOODS
JASMINE T. JACKSON
"HIGH FLIGHT"
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....LYNN MOSELY
- REFLECTIONS.....JERITA STARR LAFORCARDE
- MUSICAL SELECTION.....TERRY YAHWEH
- REMARKS.....PLEASE LIMIT TO TWO MINUTES
FAMILY AND FRIENDS
- SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION.....BRUCE AARONS
- EULOGY.....BISHOP ALEXIS A. THOMAS
- PRESENTATION BY CITY OF PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT.....HONOR GUARD
- MUSICAL SELECTION.....BAG PIPES
"AMAZING GRACE"
- RECESSIONAL.....

***Congregation,**

Please remain in place while the family exits to bid a private final farewell to B.J. Starr. You may exit the building once directed by ushers.

The family cordially invites you to join them in celebrating the life of B. J. Starr in the Pilgrim Rest Word Center Gymnasium immediately following services.

Pallbearers

REX WILLIAMSON
GEORGE HENDERSON
GARRON BOND

SPENCER PRESTON
JIMMY WASHINGTON
TERRY YAHWEH

Honorary Pallbearers

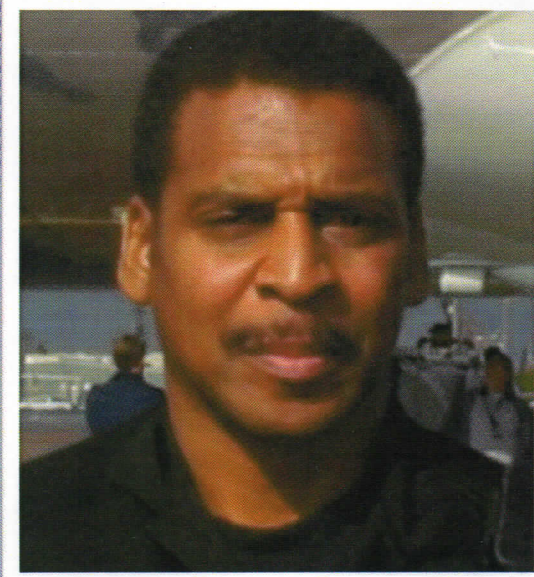
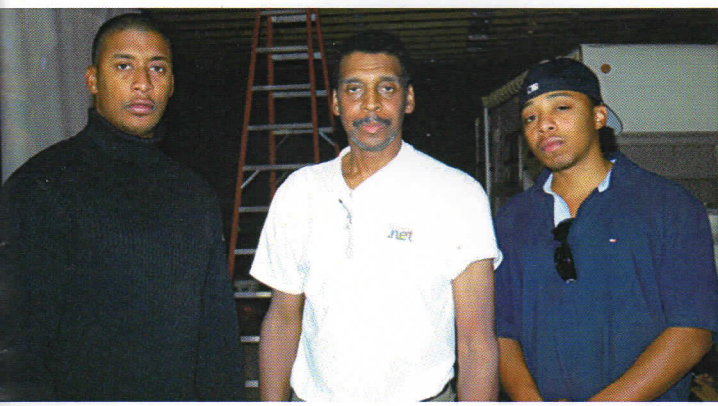
DAVID HUGHES
MICHAEL NEAL
MICHAEL JOHNSON
GUY GUYTON
DARNEL GAMBLE
ROBERT CARAWAY
RON PERRY
EARLIEST NELSON

MICHAEL BONNER
JIM PATTISON
RICHARD ALDRIDGE
STEVE RIDEAU
MICHAEL HAWTHORNE
JEFFREY LAFORCARDE
HUNTER HUGHES
DOC BROWN

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

CITY OF PHOENIX POLICE HONOR GUARD
HOSPICE OF THE VALLEY
CITY OF PHOENIX POLICE PERSONNEL OFFICE STAFF
PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH AND HOSPITALITY
ARIZONA BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

****In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that a donation be made
in BJ Starr's name to the American Cancer Society at
donate.cancer.org.***



The family of BJ Starr would like to thank the many friends and acquaintances who visited with and supported BJ during this illness. BJ chose to involve only a few in his battle against the cancer that attacked his body and he chose wisely. A special thank you to. . .

Jennifer and Johnsie Braxton, BJ's "road dogs", who accompanied him to countless doctor and hospital appointments. From picking up mail to grocery shopping, they were there and their love and support was and still is greatly appreciated.

Michael Bonner; the roommate, caregiver, protector, cook, medicine administrator and whatever else was needed. BJ was able to remain in the home that he loved because you were there to care for him. We will never be able to thank you enough.

Jim Pattison; who knew that a chance meeting at Fry's Electronics would turn into a friendship such as yours? Thank you for never giving up, even when he felt like it. A true brother.

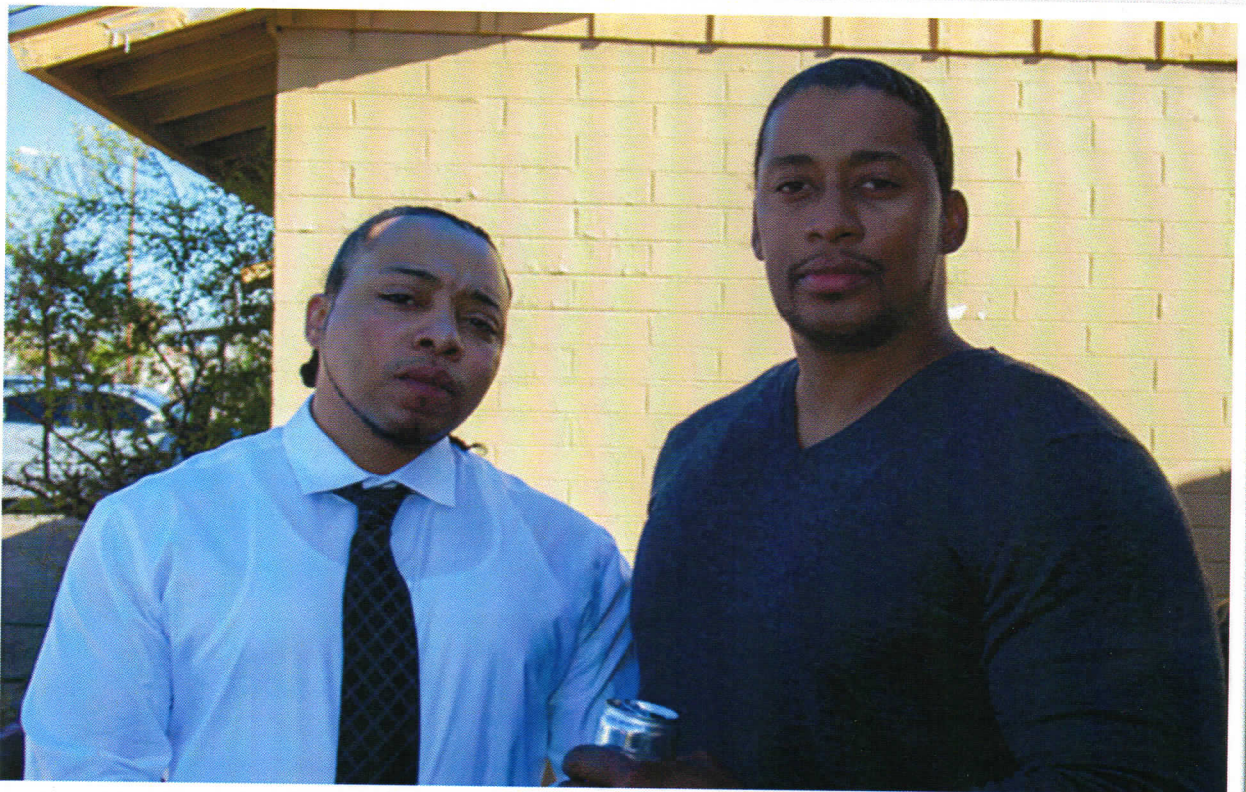
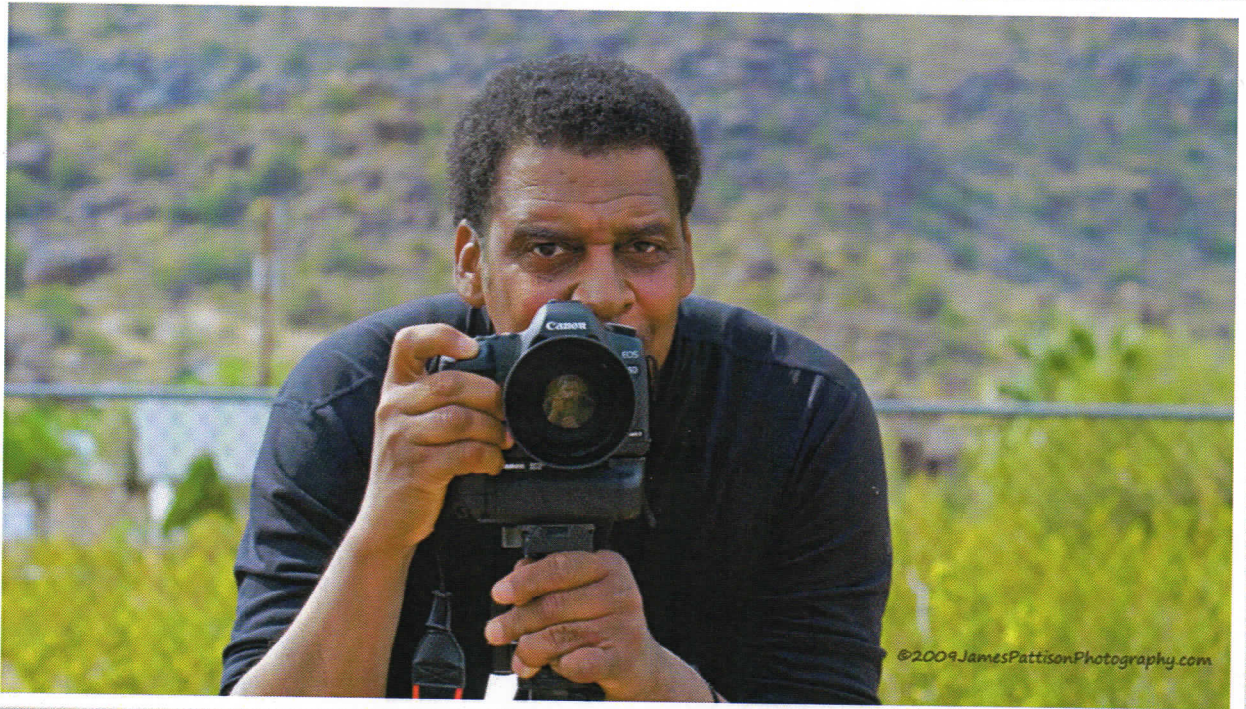
David Hughes and family; more than neighbors, you were a true friend, which makes you family. You have so many memories of the time spent with BJ and we want to hear all the stories. Our paths are intertwined as we travel this road together. BJ placed us in each other's lives for a reason.

Mike and Rita Hawthorne; who could ask for better neighbors? Together you built so much more than a house, you built relationships. Your love, devotion (and brownies) will never be forgotten.

Steve Rideau~ You said it yourself, "BJ and I have shared enough for five lifetimes together".... Until you meet again.

Ron Perry and family~ Thank you for your devoted friendship. The hunting trips and the honor of teaching Cameron to fly were special memories. Thank you for being a true friend.

City of Phoenix Police Department, Patrol and Air Unit~ The time BJ spent on the force were his happiest years. Even in retirement, he could not fully give it up. Who among us get to truly live out our dreams? Thank you for taking a young man and making him a hero in our community. You showed the residents of Park South in South Phoenix that one person could make a difference, one of our own at that. God Bless you.





Officer B.J. Starr
Unit Pilot

Soul Secrets for the death of someone you love . . . T.D. Jakes

O Lord, I have lived this day to bury one I love. My gratitude is as full as my grief, and my peace is as deep as my pain – All because of you. I need you as never before. Shepherd my soul through these dry and heavy days. You send us to this earth for a season, and then you receive us again unto yourself. I understand this cycle, but I wasn't quite as ready to let go of this one as I thought I'd be. All my life I've known that someday this would happen, but the finality and reality of it are piercing. One thing I know, that death cannot kill love and human hands can't bury it. On this, my loved ones resurrection day, I give you praise for a life lived well.

Final Arrangements Entrusted to:

South Mountain Mortuary
7007 S. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85042
(602) 304-9512



Universal Memorial Center
1100 E. Jefferson St
Phoenix, AZ 85034
(602) 252-6011