

"Footprints"

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach
with the Lord.

Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.

In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.

Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,
other times there was one only.

This bothered me because I noticed that during the
low periods of my life,

when I was suffering from anguish,
sorrow or defeat,

I could see only one set of footprints,
so I said to the Lord,

"You promised me Lord,
that if I followed you,

you would walk with me always.

But I have noticed that during the most trying
periods of my life

there has only been one set of footprints in the sand.

Why, when I needed you most, have you not been
there for me?" The Lord replied,

"The years when you have seen only one set of
footprints, my child, is when I carried you."

—Author Mary Stevenson—

WastePrize

In Loving Memory Of Clarence E. Counts, Jr.



Sunrise
June 17, 1984



Sunset
March 13, 20

Monday, March 18, 2013

Wake: 11:00a.m.

Funeral: 12:00Noon

Elim Christian Fellowship

70 Chalmers Avenue

Buffalo, New York 14214

Bishop T. Anthony Bronner, Senior Pastor

Obituary



Clarence E. Counts, Jr., was born on June 17, 1984 and departed this life on March 13, 2013. Since the age of 7 he was loved and raised by Michael and Nancy Schnider, and the birth son of the Mary Battles.

Clarence professed his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as a youth, and became a faithful, and beloved member of the Elim Christian Fellowship under the Pastorate of Bishop T. Anthony Bronner. He was an active member of the "Generation Now" Youth Ministry, participating with his many friends in all aspects of this ministry under the direction of Pastor-Tommy McClam. His faith in the Lord, enabled him to overcome many obstacles in his life, and to face his final challenge with courage, and the determination to "let his light shine," for Christ.

He graduated from Riverside High School in 2002 and Canisius College class of 2006. He was an Investigator for the Public Defenders office of Washington DC and an Investigator for the Federal Public Defenders Office in Jacksonville, FL.

His accomplishments also included: PAL - Cliff Robertson League 13-14, 1998 Champs, Highgate Heights-1998 Push-Excell Tournament MVP, West Side Classic Christmas 1997 Champions, Youth Advantage 2001 Champions and Engineering Tomorrows Leaders Step Conference 2001.

Clarence was a proud member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo, Butler Mitchell Clubhouse, a member of NDIA (National Defenders Investigators Association) for 5 years and he was a Junior Kappa within the Kappa League.

He was preceded in death by his father, Clarence E. Counts, Sr.; his uncle, William M. Counts, Jr.; and grandfather (husband of Idella Counts).

He leaves to cherish his memory, Fiancee: Yohiji Bryant; Mother: Mary Battles; Foster Parents: Michael and Nancy Schnider; Grandmother: Idella Counts of Buffalo, NY; Godmother: Lori Kenney; two brothers: Derrick Counts of Houston, TX and Darryl Counts of Miami, FL; one sister: Angela Battles of Buffalo, NY; four aunts: Patricia A. Warren of Palmdale, CA, Cynthia Wilson of Buffalo, NY, Sally Stoyanoff and Holly Maciejewski; one uncle: Larry Maciejewski; eight nieces and nephews; one great nephew, two best friends: Earnest Poindexter and James Vernon; and a host of friends, family members and loved ones.

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Darryl Counts
Jawaan Quarles

Derrick Counts
Kyle Boker

PALLBEARERS

Larry Maciejewski
Neal Maciejewski
Niles Hardy
James Vernonn

Corry Haqq
Ernest Poindexter
Justin Patterson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of Clarence E. Counts, Jr. wishes to express sincere thanks for your many acts of kindness shown to us during these hours of bereavement.

Special Thank You To:

*Lorri Kenny
Boys & Girls Club of Buffalo
Pastor Tommy McClam*



**Clarence Touched
with Love.
He is Love.**



From that great big happy smile that greeted us all as he moved into our lives, to that pouty "I can do this myself" attitude, he touched us.

Clarence Fought. *He fought to be six inches taller when playing ball. He fought to find God's meaning in his life. He fought to excel at learning to be the best investigator on his work team. He fought to bring love and joy to all he knew. It would be on his terms, but it would be. He fought to the end of his days to be here for all of us.*

Clarence Led. *We followed because he would have it no other way. When the kids normally wanted to play, Clarence came up with the games...and the rules. He led to the end telling the staff at the hospital how best to care for his body and how to be at peace.*

Clarence had a plan. *He worked hard at Riverside. He coped at Canisius College. Scored well on his exams for his work. He did it because he had a plan. A plan to own a home, marry and have a family. Every step he took was towards a goal. Some steps were easy some not so much. But it was part of his plan to include us all in it and to make use of our collective wisdom and faith. His plan included us all.*

Clarence Touched with Love. *He built a community of family, friends. We are all a part of his plan. Let us keep a small part of him in our daily plans as we move forward.*

Order of Service



- Prelude.....Min. Ralph Fleming
Mr. Larry Maciejewski
- Processional.....Clergy and Family
- Prayer of Comfort.....Pastor Betty P. Williams
Elim Christian Fellowship
- Hymn of Praise....."Amazing Grace"
- Scripture Readings.....Pastor Ted J. Howard, Jr
Psalm 23; II Corinthians 5:1-8 Edison Street Community Church
- Ministry of Music.....Sis. Deidre Davidson
- Reflections.....Designated Family, Friends & Clergy
Proclamation from The National Defender Investigation Association...Karen Jackson
- Ministry of Dance.....Sis. Daycia McClan
"It's Not Over"
- Acknowledgments & Obituary.....Sis. Briette Bryant
- Ministry of Music.....Sis. Deidre Davidson
- Words of Exhortation.....Pastor Tommy L. McClan
Edison Street Community Church
- Invitation to Christian Discipleship.....
- Recessional.....Clergy and Family

INTERMENT

*Mt. Calvary Cemetery
800 Pine Heritage Blvd., Cheektowaga, NY 14225*

AUSPICES

*Brian K. Lewis Funeral Home
354 Peckham Street, Buffalo, New York 14206*



Message from Yohiji Bryant (Fiancee)

With You!



I want to grow old with you;

I want to share all your mistakes with you;

I want to love all the parts of you no one else wants to love;

I want to be there & enjoy the heartbeat of life with you;

I want to be the strongest part of your weakest parts;

*I want to be the one like 3 divide by 3 and exponentially
we can grow;*

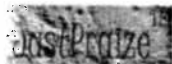
I want to patiently peruse you until your last-name Counts;

I want to pray and worship with you and present myself approved;

I want to talk without words & make love between your thoughts;

I want to take your hand and show you what commitment looks like;

I want to grow old with you.



Clarence Counts Jr.

Proud member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo, Butler Mitchell Clubhouse

Clarence was very active in various programs and activities at the Butler Mitchell Club. He was a mentor, All-Star Basketball player, and member of the Torch Club & Keystone Clubs, where he participated both in and out of the Club, in activities in three focus areas: academic success, career preparation and community service.

In 2000, Clarence was named Butler Mitchell's Youth of the Year, a premier recognition program for Club members, promoting service to Club, community and family; academic success; strong moral character; life goals; and poise and public speaking ability.

Clarence was more than just a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs; he was a role model for all, brother friend and most important a CHILD OF GOD.

One year Clarence sang "I Believe I Can Fly" for a talent show. I truly believe he lived his life through this song.

He believed he could fly and he did.

I used to think that I could not go on
And life was nothing but an awful song
But now I know the meaning of true love
I'm leaning on the everlasting arms

If I can see it, then I can do it
If I just believe it, there's nothing to it

I believe I can fly
I believe I can touch the
sky
I think about it every night
and day
Spread my wings and fly
away
I believe I can soar
I see me running through
that open door
I believe I can fly
I believe I can fly
I believe I can fly



You're flying Clarence, you're flying!!!

Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo, Butler Mitchell Clubhouse Family

