



## Bernard Forrester

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, (Psalm 23:4).*

Bernard was born in New York on February 6, 1950. He was predeceased by his mother Mae Sylvester and father Nicolas Forrester both from Grenada. He passed away on Sunday September 3, 2017 in Texas at the age of 67.

Bernard graduated from Theodore Roosevelt High School in the Bronx, NY in 1968, and in 1973 he obtained his Bachelor's degree in Radio, TV & Film from the University of Wisconsin. In 1975, he graduated with a Master of Science degree in Library Services from Columbia University in NY. He was employed at CBS and ABC News agencies and was also an assigned cameraman for NBC. He also worked for Texas Southern University as an Archivist Coordinator of Special Collections, and was

instrumental in setting up KTSU radio station. He even did a short stint in Grenada at the "Radio Free Grenada" during the revolutionary period of 1979 to 1983.

Bernard was a very jovial and caring person; he loved life. All who knew him would remark after meeting him, "it was a tremendous pleasure of meeting and knowing Bernard." By contrast, he was a no-nonsense person. He would let you know just how he felt about something. As we would say he was bold and brazen. He, however, always had some useful words of advice for everyone and anyone who he came in contact with.

We all loved Bernard for who he was as a person. His love for family and friends, his love for Texas and New York. His love for Grenada, music, especially calypso, soca and jazz, truly a Caribbean Man. He loved to party and dance, loved comedy and was devoted to research and history, especially black history. During Black History month, he had a wealth of information to share, and would send everyone an email. Bernard can be described as a historian in his own right and he was also an astounding videographer. Fishing was another one of his past times.

He worked in the Community in Houston, giving back to the youth and others. He was an active member of Lakewood church where he was involved in the Drama Club. Until his passing he ran a Travel Agency as part of the *Avoya Travel Network*, and took much pride and pleasure in his work.

We believe Bernard's character came from his mother who raised him as a single parent. He loved his family and saw it as a family obligation to attend the annual Forrester's reunion in NY. He became a devoted member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Chapter Epsilon Theta on 12/06/1969 and became active in Chapter Rho Beta Beta in Houston.

Some may have looked at Bernard as a tough guy, but we saw a loving, caring and hardworking person. The many memories we shared over the years will remain with us always. Left to mourn are many relatives, friends and associates too numerous to mention, including the Roden, Ferguson & Forrester families of Grenada, and his brothers from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in Texas.

As we end this obituary, we would like to share part of this poem by Shannon Lee Mosley, "***I could not stay another day, to laugh, to love, to work or play. Tasks left undone must stay that way. I've now found peace at the end of the day. My life's been full. I savored much. Perhaps my time on earth seem all to brief, don't lengthen your pain with undue grief, lift up your hearts and share with me, God wanted me now, he set me free.***"

No one can ever take your place. Sleep in Peace.

### **Thank You**

We say a heartfelt thank you to all his relatives and friends, too many to mention, for the concern, love and care shown during this difficult time. It would be remiss of us not to mention a few names. We would be forever grateful to his dear friends Eric Ray and Oscar Mc Garr for the concern shown after the storm to check on him. He was found unresponsive at home and taken to the hospital, which allowed him a peaceful and decent passing to the great beyond. To his cousin Grace Peppers & husband Mel, words are not enough to express our appreciation for the services you took head on, to assist with the memorial arrangements, at times it was challenging and overwhelming, but you fought on. His cousin Cheryl Rush, although in the middle of hurricane Irma assisted as much as she could, cousins Michele Pinnock, Tania & Tonya Hyacinth we say a special thank you. To the Houston Grenadian Association, we express a big thank you, we are much obliged for all your assistance as well as All Saints Episcopal Church for providing accommodations and the fraternity brothers for all they have done. To all those who helped with funeral arrangements, we appreciate your help. To the medical staff at Houston Methodist Hospital we show our appreciation and to all those who sympathized with us during this time of bereavement, sent cards, made donations, called, said a prayer for the families, prepared food or helped in any other way, we say a heartfelt thank you. Finally, we thank all family members that journeyed to be here with us today to celebrate Bernard's life, may they all have a safe journey home.