



Benjamin Cunningham

October 23, 1945 - April 29, 2021

Benjamin “Wayne” Cunningham husband of Janice Davis, was born on October 23, 1945, and returned to Allah in his home in Minneapolis on April 29, 2021, at the age of 75. May Allah accept his good deeds and enter into Janat ul Firdous. Those who knew him will remember Brother Wayne as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and son.

Wayne was born at precisely 10:45am at Yale New Haven hospital to Elizabeth and Louis Cunningham. He spent his youth and early teen years in New Haven, Connecticut before moving to Los Angeles at the age of 15. After graduating from Roosevelt High School in Los Angeles, Wayne joined the Army and was stationed in Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Upon returning from service, he settled back in New Haven and was employed as a Welder for United Steele.

As he traveled throughout his life, he developed keen interests in the arts, singing, karate, tai chi, music and animals; often times coming home with stray dogs, exotic birds and lizards. He taught martial arts in the local community and converted to Islam in his early 20's and was a devout Black Muslim (complete with bean pies and bow ties). Wayne was known for being a fierce advocate for Black pride, Islam and Social Justice. He was also a good provider, protector and counselor. He had a revolutionary spirit, sparkly green eyes and good sense of humor.

Left to carry on Wayne's legacy is his mother Elizabeth Paradise, his loving wife Janice Davis, children: Kywan Thompson, Darius White, step-children Al-lisha, Terry and Shanda Davis of Minneapolis, MN., Audra Nishita of London, England and Omar Cunningham of Los Angeles; his brother Eudell 'Delly' Cunningham (Vina); aunt Magg Hamrick, grandchildren: Kaimana, Elijah, Ja'Nye, Tyjah, D'Nira and Rickyah; and great-grandkids: Brielle and Tru;

Wayne will be missed by all for his lively discussions, fierce debates, shaggy laugh, service to others, knowledge on a multitude of topics and his gentle karate kicks and punches as he entered your door - singing, as only he could.

As-salaam Alaykum, Wayne - Peace Be unto You.

Cemetery Details

Veteran Memorial Cemetery

Previous Events

Calling Hours

MAY 20. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

McClam Funeral Home Chapel
95 Dixwell Ave
New Haven, CT 06511

Funeral Service

MAY 20. 10:00 AM (ET)

McClam Funeral Home Chapel
95 Dixwell Ave
New Haven, CT 06511

Tribute Wall



“ *Benjamin Cunningham*

October 09, 2023 at 06:14 AM



“ *No words can express the lost of a good shepherd; however the light at the beginning of the tunnel protected Benjamin through the end but it was the burning light that enter him in the presence of GOD. The family of Stephanie and her two siblings God bless you and be strong.*

Elizabeth Preston - May 25, 2021 at 12:19 AM



“ *Elizabeth Preston lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Cunningham*



Elizabeth Preston - May 25, 2021 at 12:10 AM



“ *Wayne the Green family will miss you, I*

Barbara & Jimmy & Geraldine Douglas - May 17, 2021 at 06:05 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Benjamin Cunningham.*



May 17, 2021 at 05:56 PM