

CELEBRATING THE LIFE  
& LEGACY OF  
"LITTLE BENNY"  
BENNY ANTHONY  
HARLEY

SUNRISE  
SEPTEMBER 26, 1963

SUNSET  
MAY 30, 2010



FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2010

VIEWING: 9:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.  
SERVICES: 11:00A.M.-1:00PM

WALTER E. WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER  
801 MOUNT VERNON PLACE NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001



# OBITUARY

## "LITTLE BENNY" ANTHONY HARLEY

Benny Anthony Harley (Lil' Benny) was born September 26, 1963, in Washington, DC to Nancy Harley-Winston and the late Frank Ford Harley. Benny received his education in the Washington, DC public school system. He was a 1981 graduate of Ballou High School as well as a member of Ballou's marching band, in which he played the drums. He was also on the school's wrestling team. He attended the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) for three years where he majored in music and was a trumpet player in the school's band. He attended Humro Tech School for Electronic Technician. He used his technical education to gain employment with DCI. Benny was electronically inclined at a very young age, he would take his mother's old TVs and Radios that she threw out and would switch the fuse from one TV or radio to another to get them to work again. He would take them back inside and say to his mother "Ma they're working" and she would be in awe. Benny had many other talents, on a more subtle side that most people wasn't aware of such as; cooking (bread pudding, greens, and beans), sewing, swimming and teaching kids to swim, roller skating at Crystal Skate, Kalarama Road, and Alexandria VA skating rink. Benny showed his entrepreneurship as a contractor with the District of Columbia Government as an electrical technician installing ADT alarm systems. Benny was united twice in marriage. He has three sons born from his first marriage to Daphne Scott: Benny Jr., Bryan and Brandon Harley. Two children born to Kecia Bing: one daughter Tiara and one son Torian Harley, his second marriage to Melita Harley: one daughter Kayla Harley and two stepdaughters Jasmine Young and Kelita Bennett.

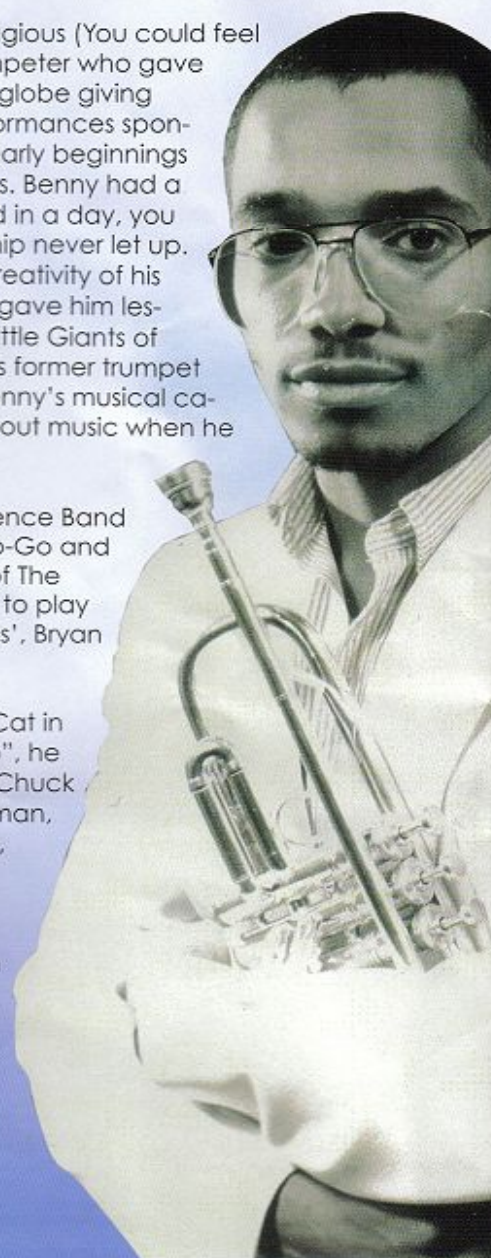
Benny was full of life and a ball of energy. He had a spirit and aura that was contagious (You could feel his energy, but you probably could not keep up with it) Benny was a talented trumpeter who gave 110% when he performed. An accomplished musician who travelled around the globe giving performances in places like London, Japan, New Orleans and several cruise performances sponsored by Tom Joyner. He performed with various artists and groups to include his early beginnings with Rare Essence and eventually forming his own group Lil' Benny and the Masters. Benny had a relentless passion for his art of performing and no matter how many gigs he played in a day, you could never tell his first show from the last show, because his energetic showmanship never let up. Benny stated years ago that his passion for music was influenced by the musical creativity of his father. Along with his father, Mr. Harrington at the Baptist Center of Southeast, DC gave him lessons in playing the flute, drums, sax and trumpet. He played with Mr. Harrington's Little Giants of Jazz Band. He learned to play two trumpets at one time from Tillery, Chuck Brown's former trumpet player. Chuck Brown and Sugar Bear (Gregory Elliott) were major influences in Benny's musical career. Benny started blowing a trumpet at the age of nine and really got serious about music when he turned twelve years old.

Benny joined The Young Dynamos in 1974 which later became the group Rare Essence Band and Show, which produced hits like, Who Come to Boogie, Take me out to the Go-Go and One on One, just to name a few. Mark Lawson aka "Godfather" also a member of The Young Dynamos became a close friend and confidant of Benny. The two went on to play together with various groups and he became the godfather to one of Benny's sons', Bryan Harley.

Later, Benny went on to form Lil' Benny and the Masters, which produced hits like Cat in the Hat, Do Re Mi and Killer Joe. Benny's musical talent was not limited to "Go-Go", he could play jazz and R&B. He had many musical friends and associates to include Chuck Brown (Godfather of Go-Go) Keith Galloway, Doug Moody, Rick "Sugar Foot Wellman, Scottie, James Funk, Go-Go Mickey, Gregory "Sugar Bear" Elliott, Rory "DC" Felton, and countless others too numerous to mention.

Benny Anthony Harley leaves to cherish his memory, his wife Melita Harley; his six children Tiara, Benny Jr., Torian, Bryan, Brandon and Kayla Harley; two stepchildren Jasmine Young and Kelita Bennett; one granddaughter, Taylor Harley; his mother, Nancy Harley-Winston; his father, the late Frank Ford Harley; three sisters, Nancy Harley-Williams (Perry); Tina Harley-Tobias (Carl); Lawand Harley; one brother Frank Harley; and a Host of family, friends and loyal fans.

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE





# ORDER OF SERVICE



Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading

John 3:16 ..... April Proctor

Musical Selection ..... Michael Muse

Remarks and Acknowledgements .....

**Eleanor Holmes Norton (D)**, *U.S. House of Representatives, District of Columbia*

Special Presentations .....

**Honorable Adrian M. Fenty**, *Mayor, District of Columbia*  
& **Jim Graham**, *Ward 1, Council of the District of Columbia*

**Vincent Gray**, *Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia*

Musical Selection ..... Y'Anna Crawley

Reading of Cards ..... Angela Childs

Obituary Reading ..... Erika Evans

Family Remarks ..... Douglas Moody

Special Tribute ..... Doug E. Fresh

Eulogy ..... Pastor Deron Cloud  
*Soul Factory Ministries*

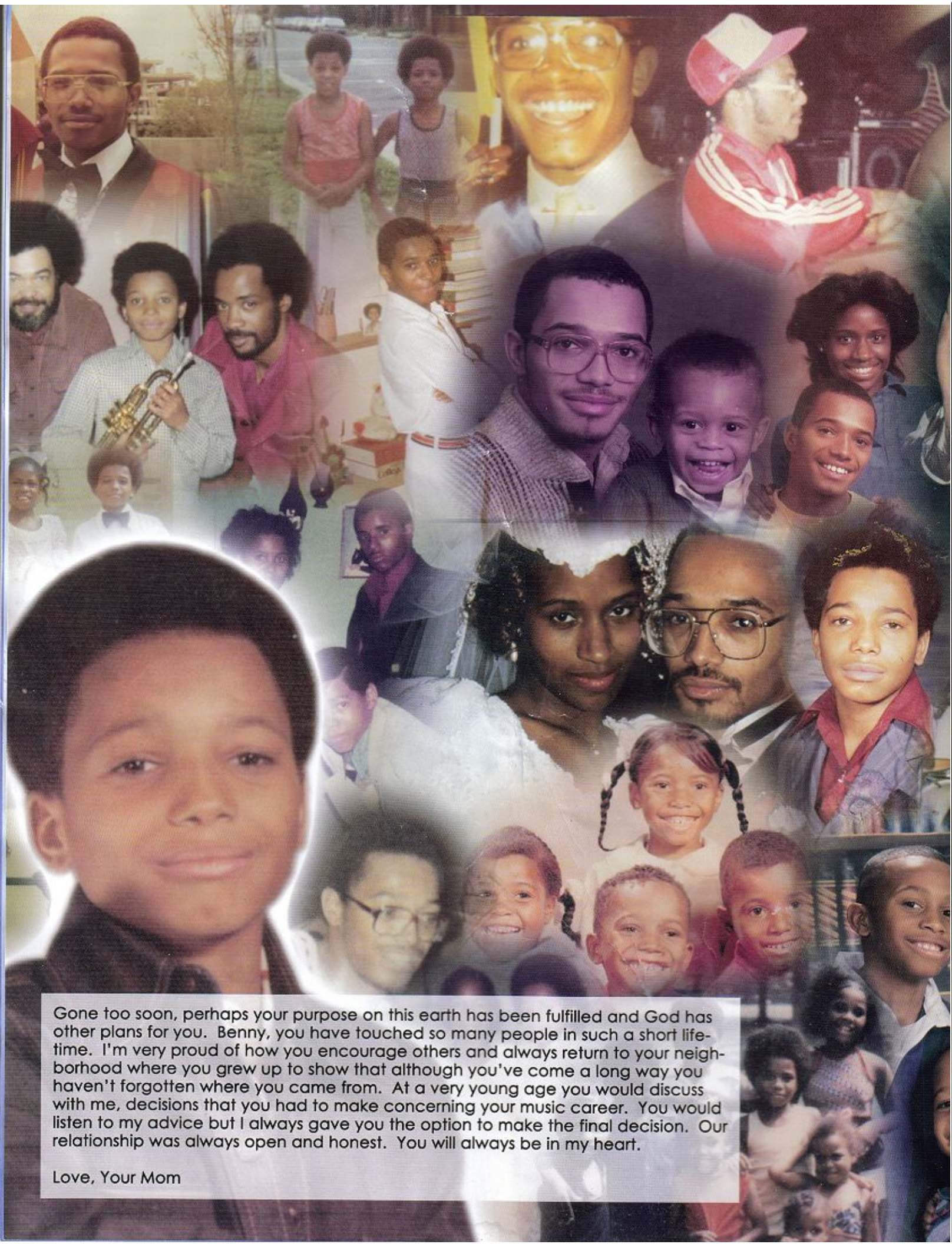
Visual Tribute

Special Performance ..... Proper Utensils

Recessional

ANTHONY "LITTLE BENNY" HARLEY





Gone too soon, perhaps your purpose on this earth has been fulfilled and God has other plans for you. Benny, you have touched so many people in such a short lifetime. I'm very proud of how you encourage others and always return to your neighborhood where you grew up to show that although you've come a long way you haven't forgotten where you came from. At a very young age you would discuss with me, decisions that you had to make concerning your music career. You would listen to my advice but I always gave you the option to make the final decision. Our relationship was always open and honest. You will always be in my heart.

Love, Your Mom













Benny, my husband, my love. I can hardly believe that you're gone. You left us without a warning, without a sign, without us knowing that anything this unspeakable could happen to our lives. Although you are now gone, the love we had will not be in vain, and the love I have for you will never die. My heart is so heavy and my mind is not clear because of my grief, but I know that I will keep you in my heart forever.

Your Wife,  
Pumpkin



## PALL BEARERS

MILTON FREEMAN	IRVING BRADY
CHARLES GARRIS	ANTHONY CASH
ANDRE GALLOWAY	KEVIN HOWARD
BRANDON WILLIAMS	CHARLES GREEN

## FLORAL BEARERS

FAMILY & FRIENDS

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE FAMILY WISHES TO EXPRESS SINCERE GRATITUDE & APPRECIATION  
FOR YOUR ACTS OF KINDNESS AND COMFORT DURING THIS  
TIME OF BEREAVEMENT. MAY THE LORD CONTINUE TO BLESS & KEEP YOU.

## SPECIAL THANKS

MAYOR ADRIAN M. FENTY FOR YOUR CARING SUPPORT  
TO THE FAMILY DURING OUR TIME OF NEED.

ALSO, TO REVEREND DERON CLOUD OF SOUL FACTORY MINISTRIES

## WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK

WE R ONE CLOTHING	COUNCILMEMBER KWAME BROWN
PERFECT SOUND	PEACEOHOLICS INC.
POSITIVE BLACK MEN COALITION	DC SERVE
93.9 WKYS FM	OTHERSIDE MEDIA
95.5 WPGC FM	RONALD "MOE" MOTEN
DAVID BOWERS	SHOWTIME RENTALS
CHERITA "COOKIE" WHITING	GLP INC.
ANDRE JOHNSON	EAST OF THE RIVER CLERG-POLICE
THOMAS SAYERS ELLIS	COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
DEMITRIUS GATHERS	
HOGATE'S ON THE WATERFRONT	

## INTERMENT

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