



Alton B. Guidel

November 8, 1945 - October 4, 2021

Alton Guidel

Big Al | Bootsie

Alton Guidel, Big Al, Bootsie was born Durham, NC on November 4, 1945. He was the oldest son of Lucille Green and had three sisters – Jackie Leitzsey, Sandra Faison and Debra Allen and a younger brother David “Dawud” Wheeler. Alton obtained a position in the NY garment center as a sample clerk directly after graduating High School. It was there that Alton was introduced to the world of business and soon discovered he had a talent for talking and interacting with all types of people. Alton took his talents and became a super salesman for White Plains Photo Studios. Alton achieved great success there and found his calling. Selling was in his blood. He quickly became the Studio’s top salesman and later the trainer of all new sales associates. Alton eventually ventured out and started his own successful photography studio which he operated for over 40 years.

In 1986 Alton moved to the heart of Brooklyn, Bedford Stuyvesant. As always Alton was his engaging self and quickly made friends with his new neighbors. He married a wonderful woman named Barbara and became a stepfather to her four sons who adored him. He was not only a father-figure to their sons, but many of the other children in the neighborhood who referred to him as Mr. Al, while the adults referred to him as “The Mayor”. He was always willing to

assist and help a neighbor in whatever way he could. After losing his wife to asthma, Al met his soulmate Lydia Billups and from this union came his true legacy, Imani Guidel-Gaymon, who he could not stop talking about with tremendous pride. When the grandchildren arrived... it was a wrap.

Alton was a visionary, thinker, and tactician. He played chess with some of the great NYC “street” chess players for money and sport. Al would play chess all day long and eventually started spotting his opponents pieces to keep the game interesting and competitive to him. This love never died and continued after he moved to North Carolina to be near family. Even through his final days, you could usually find Al in the game room at Prosperity Creek Senior Apartments looking for some friendly competition.

The fever of the 2007 election sparked Al’s inner political activist. He was determined to do his part in getting the first black man elected president and he frequently spoke the merits of Barak Obama with anyone who he “rolled up on” – young, old, black or white. To this end he continued his political pursuits by serving as the 128th Precinct Chair for the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party. In this role he tirelessly worked to assist with voter outreach, registration, education and arranged transportation to take voters to the polls. One of his fellow residents noted that Alton was an inspiration in the building and that he did more in his motorized chair than many “of us” walking around. “He was like a wheelchair activist in his own pleasant way to make sure we were exercising our rights and privileges to vote.”

Alton is survived by his brother and sister David “Dawud” Wheeler and Sandra Faison. His partner Lydia Billups, who blessed him with his only child, Imani Guidel-Gaymon. Three grandchildren – Amari Harmon, Jazelle Harmon, Legend Gaymon and son-in-law, Cornelius Gaymon. His stepchildren, Shawn Billup, Carrie Billups and stepgrandson Kareem Billups. Alton has eight nieces and nephews (in birth order) – John McDonald, Darryl Leitzsey, Michael

“Sayid” Muhammed, Julie Early, Kimberly Allen-Hardy, Paul Green, Julia Burgess and Leslie Brown. He also leaves behind a host of great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and countless friends who all miss him deeply and the sound of his melodic voice singing Moody Mood For Love “there I go, there I go, there I go, theeeeerrrrreeee I gooo...” trailing behind him.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **16**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC.
2310 Statesville Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28206
(704) 377-4243
info@aegriersonsfcc.com
<https://www.aegriersonsfcc.com>

Celebration of Life Service

OCT **16**. 12:00 PM (ET)

A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC.
2310 Statesville Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28206
(704) 377-4243
info@aegriersonsfcc.com
<https://www.aegriersonsfcc.com>

Tribute Wall

TO

“ 82 files added to the album Memories Album



Tony - November 02, 2021 at 02:03 PM

GB

“ *Bootsie came to visit my parents and I am in corona New York. He was always funny and fun to be around and I love him and look forward to seeing him in heaven*

George Bing - October 16, 2021 at 12:52 PM

DL

“ *Deepest condolences and sympathy to the family of my best and oldest friend of over 70 years whose wit, companionship and charisma will be missed, remembered and never forgotten. With much love, and fondest regards,
Judge Danny Lewis*

Daniel Lewis - October 16, 2021 at 11:59 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Alton B. Guidel.



October 14, 2021 at 05:37 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



A.E. Grier & Sons Funeral and Cremation, LLC. - October 14, 2021 at 03:59 PM

TF

so sorry for your loss, he was a good person always playing his music, so good to all his friends he will be miss praying for the family, stay strong love and blessing to the family and friends so sad but God only take the best, love from the Evans family

the evans family - October 16, 2021 at 11:14 AM

LT

Always had your charming smile. You were dazzling. Now a star in heaven.
RIP my 137th street brother.
Love you.
Lorraine Treadwell

Lorraine Treadwell - October 20, 2021 at 03:48 PM



I will miss you forever. Whenever we talked , we would laugh and share memories. You were always such a joy to be with. You and Dan were life long friends from 137th street. You were my brother-from-another-mother. One time, we all attended a musical. When the star sang, you acted like she was singing "only to you" . Later, you met her, you were so charming that she was dazzled by you.

At a 137th street reunion, we sang back-up with Mary for Sammy and Deborah's wedding. Dan married them. You did a toast. Then we were harmonizing and sounded good singing love songs! "Neither One of Us " .. on our little platform stage .

We were stars.

I will miss all of the stories you would share, you were always funny and laughing. We always called each other for our birthdays and would sing HB.

You have your wings . Rest in peace . Love you forever, my brother, my friend. 💕💕💕

Lorrain Treadwell - October 20, 2021 at 05:50 PM