

# *When Great Trees Fall*

by: Maya Angelou

When great trees fall,  
rocks on distant hills shudder,  
lions hunker down  
in tall grasses,  
and even elephants  
lumber after safety.  
When great trees fall  
in forests,  
small things recoil into silence,  
their senses  
eroded beyond fear.  
When great souls die,  
the air around us becomes  
light, rare, sterile.  
We breathe, briefly.  
Our eyes, briefly,  
see with  
a hurtful clarity.  
Our memory, suddenly sharpened,  
examines,  
gnaws on kind words  
unsaid,  
promised walks  
never taken.  
Great souls die and  
our reality, bound to  
them, takes leave of us.  
Our souls,  
dependent upon their  
nurture,  
now shrink, wizened.  
Our minds, formed  
and informed by their  
radiance, fall away.  
We are not so much maddened  
as reduced to the unutterable ignorance of  
dark, cold  
caves.  
And when great souls die,  
after a period peace blooms,  
slowly and always  
irregularly. Spaces fill  
with a kind of  
soothing electric vibration.  
Our senses, restored, never  
to be the same, whisper to us.  
They existed. They existed.  
We can be. Be and be  
better. For they existed.

# *Expressions of Love*

Of all the special gifts in life however great or small  
to have you as my son was the greatest gift of all  
A special time, a special face,  
a special son I can't replace.  
With aching heart I whisper low  
I miss you son and love you so.

## **Love, Mother**

Those special memories of you will always bring a smile  
if only I could have you back for just a little while.  
Then we could sit and talk again just like we used to do  
you always meant so very much and always will do too.  
The fact that you're no longer here will always cause me pain  
but you're forever in my heart until we meet again.

## **Love, Steven and Craig**

# *Our Appreciation...*

The family of Brian Christopher Washington wishes our sincere  
appreciation for each act of kindness as expressed in your thoughts  
and deeds. Thank you! May God continue to bless each and every one  
of you.

- The Family -

# *Interment*

**Houston Memorial Gardens**  
2426 Cullen Blvd. • Pearland, Texas 77581

# *Services Fulfilled by:*

**McCoy and Harrison Funeral Home**  
**"A Family Serving Families Since 1926"**  
4918 Martin Luther King Blvd. • Houston, Texas 77021  
Phone: (713) 659-7618 Fax: (713) 748-7122  
Web: [www.mccoyandharrison.com](http://www.mccoyandharrison.com)

Designed & Printed by:  
**Memorial Programs & Etc. by Myron Bruines© 832.506.0434**  
"Retaining The Memories, Maintaining The Integrity, Sustaining The Legacy"  
Web: [www.programsbymyronbruines.com](http://www.programsbymyronbruines.com)

# **Remembering The Life and Legacy of Our Beloved**

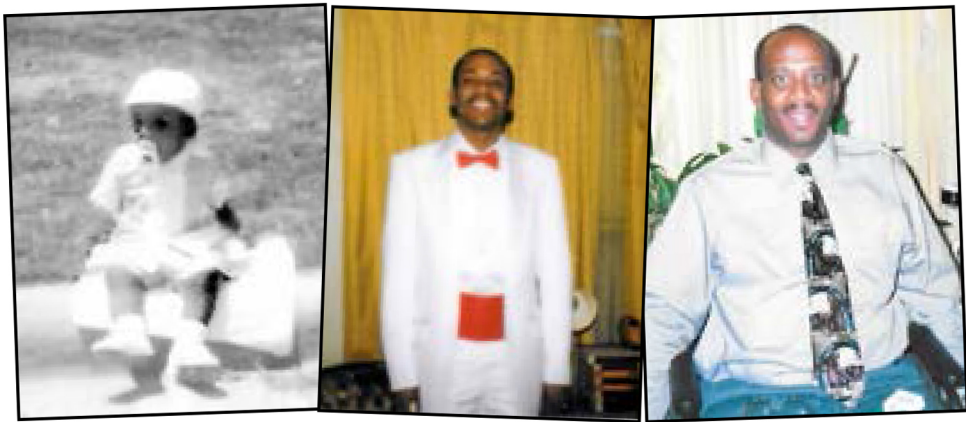


# *Brian Christopher Washington*

*"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord  
and he delighteth in his ways."*



# *His Loving Journey*



**Brian Christopher Washington** was born on October 23, 1960 to James Arthur Washington and Dorothy Jean Washington in Houston, Texas. While growing up in the third ward area of Houston, Brian was constantly surrounded with much love from family and friends. As he grew older and became a teenager, the nickname “blind” was bestowed onto him due to the new glasses the doctor prescribed to him; the nickname would remain with him until his final days. Brian attended Lucian Lockhart elementary, James D. Ryan middle school, and graduated from Mirabeau B. Lamar Senior High School.

Brian encountered Terri Spiller quite often as a teenager while visiting her father’s store Spiller’s on Scott Street for years, and they began dating in 1982. They would go onto marry on March 5, 1983 and from this union came three children: Brian II, Steven Craig, and Jacqueline Marie. Brian always worked hard and provided for his family throughout his life, working at companies such as Ben Taub Hospital, The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (T.I.R.R), Metro, and Home Depot. Although Brian suffered a life altering setback in 1989, he always remained faithful to the Lord, his family, and most importantly his children.

He is preceded in death by his father, James Arthur Washington; paternal grandparents, Steve and Betty Lee Washington; maternal grandparents, Robert and Sally Petty Smith; aunts, Maggie Ruth Forbes, AlPearl Moore, Thelma Smith Marshall, Gloria Mae Smith; uncles, Robert Smith, and Melvin Smith; mother-in-law, Jacqueline Spiller; father-in-law, Charles Spiller II, and brother-in-law, James Anthony Spiller.

He is survived by his mother, Dorothy Washington; brother, Bernard Washington; two sons, Brian II (Valencia) and Steven Craig; one daughter, Jacqueline Marie; two grandchildren, Jaylyn and Jordyn Washington; ex-wife, Terri Spiller; one brother-in-law, Charles Spiller III; four aunts and one uncle, James William Smith (Penny) of Dickerson, Texas; Mercelane Smith, Dorothy Jewel Smith, Hattie Smith Allen of College Station, Texas. Special cousins Dora Henderson of Houston, Texas, and Otis Wayne Moore of Port Aransas, Texas; very close friends Steven Owens (Sharon) of Houston, Texas, and Craig Hanna (Jerricia) of Houston, Texas; along with many more cousins, relatives, and friends that will miss him dearly.

