Home Going Celebration
For
Brother Norman Matthews

Sunrise
April 27, 1929

Sunset
May 11, 2014

Saturday, May 17, 2014
11:00 am

Holy Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church
700 Lola Avenue
North Las Vegas, Nevada

Pastor Pamela Myrtis Mason
Officiating
Obituary

Whereas God in His Wisdom and Love has called from our midst a devoted husband and loving father from labor to eternal rest. Norman Matthews died peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, May 11, 2014 at 11:30 am.

Norman was born April 27, 1929 to Gladys Cooper and Jack Matthews of Memphis, Tennessee. He was the oldest of nine children. Six of his siblings Harold, Adolph, T-Bow, Jim, Newton and George along with his parents preceded him in death. Norman relocated to Las Vegas with his wife Barbara where he continued to be the Tour Manager for BB King.

We are sad to see Norman leave, but those who have gone on before us have a BIG smile as they welcome him home to Glory.

Norman was a loving husband and a great provider. He never missed an opportunity to provide his bride with beautiful flowers. He did the small things to say "I Love you”.

Norman’s memory is cherished by his devoted wife Barbara of 23 years; his six children: Shelton Parker of Memphis, TN; Winfred Parker (Sharon) of Oxford, MS; Tina Lackland of Los Angeles, CA; Mary Parker of Memphis, TN; Paul Lackland of Phoenix, AZ; and Nikita (Skeeta) Lackland of Las Vegas, NV. One brother Freddie Newman (Minnie) of Chicago, IL; One sister Jackie Matthews of Memphis, TN; One sister-in-law Annie Ruth Newman of Abilene, TX, along with a host of grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, loving relatives and friends. Dr. Darin Brinhall his personal physician who cared for him for many years.

Treasuring the love, the memories and their 55 years of friendship is BB King.
Order of Service

Processional

Prayer

Scripture Readings

Old Testament – Brother Roger Walker
New Testament - Reverend Cynthia Pitts

Musical Selection
Anthony & Erma Henderson

Expressions From Family & Friends
(2 minutes please)

Resolutions

Obituary (Read Silently)

Musical Selection
Anthony & Erma Henderson

Eulogy
Pastor Pamela Myrtis Mason

Recessional

Interment
Bunkers Memory Garden Chapel and Cemetery
7251 West Lone Mountain
Las Vegas, NV 89129

** Repast at Holy Trinity A.M.E. Church following the interment
The Life of a Bluesman

Norman in his own words said, “There is no one like me”, truer words were never spoken.

He had his own way of doing everything, he had his own language and his own personal style in the way he lived life. For those of us who knew him we would call them “Normanisms”. We understood the uniqueness that exemplified Norman.

Who doesn’t remember Norman rolling the dice on the side of the stage during the show or coming out at the end of a show and doing a “Norman Dance”, and the way he would be flat out in a crazy position sleeping on the bus sofa, his tuxedo lapel full of so many pins that the shoulder was slightly off balanced. What about his drawers and closet on the bus? He had everything you could possibly need in them. How he made a meal out of nothing with the little electric burner, we can never forget these images.

In the midst of a conversation and all of a sudden he would say, “Bye, Gotta go” or “Send me a fax. Who could forget him the way he used his flip phone and the conversations you would overhear that were in code which all of us understood. It’s these little things that bring a smile to us and we can remember the special times we shared. They are like treasures locked in our hearts.

When Norman walked into a room people noticed him, there was something about his face that showed he had a life well lived, he was no ordinary man.

He could sometimes come across rough on the outside, but on the inside he had a heart of gold. He was truly selfless in everything that he did and was always more concerned about everyone else more than himself.

Norman could turn anything into a wonderful adventure. He had a zest for life, with energy and vitality until the very end. He was unstoppable until God took him away from us. His passing marks the end of an era.

He will be greatly missed, but the wonderful memories will live on with us forever. **REST IN PEACE OUR DEAR FRIEND NORMAN.**
Dale Mosse  
Reggie Taylor  
Alvin Morris

Active Pallbearers:  
Wayne Wedlow  
Thomas Nicholson  
George Thornton

Shelton Parker  
Stafford Davis  
Robert McGee

B.B. King  

Honorary Pallbearers:  
Rashad Lowery  
Anthony Jackson

Winfred Parker

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took his hand when I heard his call,  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work, to play  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I've found that peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one touch,

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free.

The family wishes to assure you we are mindful of every kindness. We are indeed grateful to each of you for your visits, phone calls, flowers cards and many expressions of sympathy shown during this time of bereavement.