

BERNARD LAWRENCE (BERNIE) MILTON



Tuesday, May 21, 2002

BERNARD LAWRENCE MILTON

“Ithaca’s King of Soul dies at 60”

Bernard Lawrence Milton was born on January 30, 1942, in Ithaca, NY to Agnes and Curtis Milton.

He attended Ithaca High School and worked at Camp MacCormick for several years.

Bernie first shared his singing talent as a child in the Calvary Baptist Church, where he performed alongside his mother, Agnes, the organist at the Church. For the past several years, Bernie has been a member of the Church on the Rock, Ithaca, NY.

His lifelong entertainment career began in earnest at the age of 11, when he entered a talent contest at the famed Apollo Theatre in Harlem, NY. From the mid-50’s until his sudden passing, Bernie’s unique soulful style and beautiful voice led the Silvertones, Bernie and the Blazers, Bernie and the Cavaliers, Bernie Milton Soul Train, The Bernie Milton Band, Bernie Milton and the Soul Patrol, and the Bernie Milton Experience. His many recorded hits include “My Love, I Have You,” “By the Light of the Silvery Moon,” “The Waddle,” “Poor Town,” “Do You,” “Barefootin,” and his signature song, “60-40.” Bernie also served as the host of the popular radio show “Looking Back” on WICB for the past 20 years.

Bernie also enjoyed a lifelong interest in the martial arts. He was a Tae Kwon Do Master, achieving his sixth dan (six degree black belt). He founded the Quiet Society Tae Kwon Do School in Ithaca.

A true icon, honored as one of the most influential people of Ithaca, Bernie will always be remembered for his vibrant performances in the local community and throughout the east coast.

He leaves to cherish in his memory his loving wife of 25 years, Renee (Steele) Milton; his brothers, Curtis Milton and his wife, Patricia, of Ithaca, NY, Duane Milton and his wife Carol, of Groton, NY; eight children: Terry Holland Lewis of Ithaca NY; Anthony Milton of San Diego, CA; Faith Milton of Ithaca, NY; Dion Milton of Fredericksburg, VA; Valerie Milton of Ithaca, NY; Eric Milton of Syracuse, NY; Jude Milton of San Diego, CA; Nick Milton of Ithaca, NY; 12 grandchildren: one great-grandchild; and a host of close nieces and nephews, and many close friends.

A viewing will be held at Herson's Funeral Home, 110 S. Geneva St. from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2002. Funeral services will be held at the First Assembly of God Church, on Bostwick Road, at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, May 23, 2002.

In lieu of flowers, donations will be accepted by Church on the Rock and Calvary Baptist Church on behalf of the Milton family.