

## Obituary

**Donald T. Evans** son of Mary Evans was born in April 27, 1938 in Philadelphia. He attended Joel Cook Elementary School and Roxborough High School where he graduated Valedictorian. He participated in many extra-curricular activities such as the All-City Choir and the Debate team. Through this experience he met fellow choir member Frances Gooding. Their friendship grew over the years and blossomed into marriage. This union blessed with three children Todd Christopher Collin, Rachel Lynn, and Orrin Matthew.

His love of learning and the arts led him to pursue higher education. In order to accomplish this goal he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. After serving his country, he continued his higher education at Cheyney University where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Secondary English. His desire for more knowledge led him to Temple University where he received a double masters in Theatre and Communication. His studies continued in New York at HB Studios where he studied advanced Directing, Acting, and Playwriting. He also received a Certificate in Business Administration from Penn Business School.

His Professional Career brought him right back to where he started as a Director of Theatre and Professor of English at Cheyney University. Don went on to also teach at Rutgers University and Princeton University. In 1972 he found a teaching home at The College of New Jersey as the Associate Professor of African-American Studies with teaching assignments in Communications, Music, and African-American Studies. He also taught abroad as far as India. He influenced many former students who made a major mark in our entertainment history such as: Musician, Stanley Jordan, Actors, Christopher Reeves, Avery Brooks, and Sheryl Lee Ralph. Don was an accomplished Playwright and director. He was Founder of The Player's Company, Trenton, New Jersey's first Black Theatre group.

He had a strong desire to reach out to young people. He was the Recreation Coordinator for the Princeton Youth Center. He was also Founder of the Jr. Players Youth Theatre group and very instrumental in the NJ arts world. Some of his well-known plays are: "One Monkey Don't Stop NO Show", "Showdown", "Spooks", "Miss Lydia", and many others have been performed all over the world and off Broadway. Don has been listed in *Who's Who* in America and listed among the 50 Greatest Black Playwrights. He has worked with renowned Black Theatres such as Karamu Playhouse in Cleveland, OH, Freedom Theatre in Philadelphia, PA, and Crossroads Theatre in New Brunswick, NJ. Some of his works included actors and actresses such as Ted Lange, Kim Fields, and Debbie Allen, along with countless others.

Don is survived by his mother, Mary Evans of Philadelphia, PA, six children: Todd and Deborah Evans of Willingboro, NJ, Rachel and Kelly Marianno of Pennsauken, NJ, and Orrin and Dawn Evans of Philadelphia, PA., seven grandchildren, Latrice, Malcolm, Van, Elijah, Miles, Martin, and Matthew, An Aunt: Doris Williams, Nephew: Don Williams, Niece: Diane Williams, great nieces and nephews, close friends, Wesley Oliver, John Berry, Ruby and Joe Massari, Ken McClain.

**Agape Theatre Company Presents.....**

# Celebration Of Life



**Don Evans**

**Directed By God**

**Produced by**

**Mary Evans**

**Opening Day April 27, 1938 - October 16, 2003**

**INGLESBY & SONS FUNERAL HOME**

**2426 COVE RD.**

**PENNSAUKEN, NJ 08109**

“MOST DEAR TO ME”

*Most dear to me are those I love,  
Who share and bless my life,  
Who fill my heart with countless joys  
Despite days touched by strife.*

*Most dear are friends I cherish most,  
Whose loyalty is true...  
Whatever my lot, whatever my pain,  
They're faithful, through and through.*

*Most dear each blessing that the Lord  
Bestows with loving grace;  
No matter if I sometimes err,  
I'm safe in His embrace.*

*Most dear, indeed, the Voice within  
That guides me night and day,  
And gently chides my questing soul  
Each time I chance to stray.*

*Most dear to all, my faithful Lord,  
Who died to set us free,  
That we one day might find true joy  
With Him eternally.*

**ACT I**

- Scene 1 Musical Prelude
- Scene 2 Prayer for Comfort ..... Ruby Massari
- Scene 3 Smile.....Trudy Pitts
- Scene 4 Old and New..... Pastor Isha Edmondson/ Wesley Oliver
- Scene 5 Who Sent What?..... Debbie Evans
- Scene 6 Captain Black ..... The Band
- Scene 7 Family and Friends.....Bill Cook, Tim Dixon, Bob Younger,  
Gloria Dickerson, Frances Gooding Chapman,  
Ethel Gamble, Todd Evans
- Scene 8 Tell Us About The Man..... Latrice Marianno, Malcolm Evans
- Scene 9 The Message.....Pastor John Edmondson
- Scene 10 Words From Daddy's Little Girl .....Rachel Marianno
- Scene 11 That's The Way of The World ..... The Cast

The Evans Family would like to take this opportunity to extend their sincere appreciation for many kind expressions of love extended to them during this time of bereavement. May God forever Bless and keep each of you in his tender loving care.

Pall Bearers.....Friends and Family

Stage Manager ..... Inglesby & Sons

Setting.....Locustwood Memorial Park

Jazzy Repast .....Ortlieb's Jazz Haus ( 3rd & Poplar  
Streets, Philadelphia, PA.)