

*Home Going Celebration*  
*for*  
*Lenford Nesbitt, Jr.*



*Sunrise*  
*June 8, 1941*

*Sunset*  
*April 14, 2014*

*Services*

*Wednesday, April 23, 2014 - 11:00 a.m.*

*Temple & Sons Funeral Directors, Inc.*

*Earl M. Temple Memorial Chapel*

*2801 North Kelley Avenue*

*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

*Pastor John F. Jones - Officiating*

## *Obituary*

Lenford Nesbitt, Jr., also called Len or Skippy, was home born June 8, 1941 in Crescent, Oklahoma to Lenford and Mary Smart Nesbitt. The family moved to Wichita, Kansas where he was raised and still calls home. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lenford and Mary Nesbitt, one sister, Celestial Saunders, wife, Louester Nesbitt, and grandson, Roderick Saunders.

Len accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior at an early age. Later in life he developed a more intimate relationship with Him.

He graduated from Wichita North High School in 1959. On March 7, 1960, he enlisted in the United States Air Force on a "buddy plan", with a longtime friend, James Jones. They were sent to Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas for basic training. The buddy plan ended. He was sent to Lowery Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado for photography and photo finishing training at Lowery School of Photography on the base. In addition to his studies, he served as an Honor Guard, performing duties at military ceremonies and burial detail for fallen military personnel.

Len was honorably discharged from the Air Force in San Francisco, California, on May 15, 1962. After being discharged, he relocated to Wichita, Kansas. Len had the distinction at some point of being employed by all three major aircraft manufacturers in Wichita, Kansas; Beech, Cessna and Boeing.

Len met Rosa Lee Hawkins and they had a son, Graylan K. Nesbitt. Len later met and married Louester (Lou) Haynes on April 5, 1964. To this union three children, Dorlestial



Ann, Cassandra Elaine, and Lenford (Skip) III were born. After a major layoff at Boeing in late 1967, early 1968, Len moved his family to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Len became manager and co-owner of the Top Hat Club, within the Bryant Center Bowling Alley. He brought in big named entertainers to the facilities, such as, O.V. Wright, Al TNT Braggs (Backup to Bobby Blue Bland), Sam and Dave, Little Johnny Taylor, Joe Simon and local bands. Len managed other clubs in the northeast part of Oklahoma City. Len joined the management team of company called Northeast Oklahoma City Manufacturing Company (NEOC Mfg. Co.). The company was one of the few black minority managed and operated in the country. Len started a company under the name of Freelance Services, where he created Liz, Nancy and Len Janitorial Services. In 1973, Black Voices Magazine presented Len with an Outstanding Achievement in Business Award. Len and three comrades, John Basco, Norvis Ryan and the late, Orlander Ausberry, established the Four Aces Lounge. The club became one of the most popular attractions in the city. Len was a resident of the Mt. Olive Senior Cottage in Oklahoma City, where he served as president of the tenant association. Len was employed as a Security Guard at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, before being diagnosed with cancer.

He leaves to mourn two sons, Lenford (Little Skip) Nesbitt of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Graylan Keith Nesbitt of Wichita, Kansas; two daughters, Dorlestial Ann Nesbitt and Cassandra Elaine Nesbitt; two brothers, Johnnie Nesbitt and James Nesbitt; three grandchildren, Daniel M. Nesbitt, Christopher Hopson and Jaylee Nesbitt; his aunt, Bertha Buford; and a host of other relatives and friends.