

Meredith Buntun

September 30, 1943 - February 6, 2023

Meredith Barrain Buntun more affectionately known as Marco, was born on September 30, 1945 in Dallas, Texas to Juanita Barrain and Paul Hall. Juanita later married Jenno Buntun who adopted Marco, and had his siblings Michael and Mildred.

Marco grew up in a small farm town in Hutchins, Texas with his family. He and his siblings Michael were raised in a Methodist church. Every Sunday Marco and Michael would get up and sing the same song in front of the entire congregation. In The Garden (He walks with me and He talks with me). Marco came from humble beginnings and was always taught great work ethics even at a very young age.

In 1960 Marco moved to Los Angeles, met and married his bride Sally Geary with whom they were blessed to have two daughters, Kiana and Rako .

Marco earned his barbers and beauticians license because “he wanted to do hair... to get somewhere” and that he did! Most people don’t know this about Meredith, but his secrets are out now! Marco’s clientele were from Little Richard, James Brown, Jackie Wilson, Bobby Blue Bland, Johnny Guitar Watson and Betty Wright to name a few and many more.

Later in Marco’s life after retiring from Lockheed Aircraft, Marco decided to move to a mutual friends hometown where her father lived. He fell in love with Centralia, IL., where he brought plenty of smiles, jokes, laughter and new hair styles to our town. Everyone thought Sammy Davis Jr. had come had arrived. Marco became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-Day Saints,

where he was embraced as Brother Bunton and became a faithful greeter. Marco demanded to remain living in his Centralia until he took his last breath the morning of February 6, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, Juanita Bunton, Paul Hall, his sister Mildred Bunton- Smith and his beautiful granddaughter Khalilah Muhammad. Marco is survived by his two daughters Kiana and Rako, one brother Michael Bunton, grandchildren Zaai, Ishmael, Nadia, Kye, Nekko, Kelsee, Camry, and Cameron, 6 great-grandchildren, and his special adopted California family Charlotte, Bryan, Ea and their children.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 11:00 am at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home. The service will be recorded and put on the funeral home website for friends and family that may not be able to attend. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the family and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street in Centralia, Illinois 62801 (618) 532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Bunton family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com or the Funeral Home's Facebook page.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

FEB **22**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home Inc.
235 North Sycamore
Centralia, IL 62801

Tribute Wall



“ Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Meredith Bunton




Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - February 22, 2023 at 11:52 AM

EW

Marco,

I'm so happy that you're free and no longer suffering. Since you loved the Lord and was His faithful servant, I know that you are now with our Heavenly Father.

Marco was always a joy to be around. He'd kept you entertained by singing the many songs he had written over the years, accompanied by playing the piano  along with the harmonica. I could always count on Marco to cheer me up on a down day.

He always reminded me that this too shall pass! He would always remember my birthday and tell me that he loved me but God loved me so much he was crazy about me.

Marco was so cool, he never seemed to let anything or anyone ruffle his feathers. I remember his favorite song "No Not One" by Al Green

I will miss you Marco, thank you for everything. I may have lost Marco however I gained a sister, Rako. Thank you for sharing your father with our family.

Ea Williams - February 23, 2023 at 11:18 AM

JC

Oh my, I am saddened to just read about my dear friend Meredith "Marco Polo" Bunton's passing. He lived with his family on 48th Street three doors away from me and my father. We used to speak as I walked to school each morning and he was cleaning his vehicle to take his girls to school. He also employed me at his beauty and hair care salon here in LA on Crenshaw Blvd. I met Little Richard, Merry Clayton and Johnny Guitar Watson while working as a student at his salon. Meredith was a very cool person. Talented and could hold a conversation without taking a breath. I had lost touch with him over the years and thought to do a google search and ran across this memorial. I will always remember him to be a friendly man who lived an amazing life. God bless his legacy!

Julius Crowder - December 22, 2024 at 03:24 PM

DN

“ Marco, I am sad that you are no longer here, but you are no longer suffering. Knowing that you are with our Heavenly Father is a comfort to me. I am going to miss the laughs, your smile and games of tonk! I love you always and forever until we meet again!



Deanna "Baby D" Norris - February 25, 2023 at 07:59 PM

BW

“ I love you Merideth.

You have meant so so much to me and my family...you are always going to be forever in our spirits.

Never ever met a man as Happy as You.

Beacon of light and the sunshine that warms the room.

Your spirit and soul will always be a special part of us.

*Love,
Bryan Shea*

Bryan Williams - February 22, 2023 at 08:03 PM

CG

Marco

There will never be another you!!!

I have SO many happy memories!!

You will always be a part of me and my family. We will miss you! But hope that we will meet again in another life.

Love You! 💕💕💕💕💕

“Charlo” “Darling Jill”

Charlotte Golden - February 22, 2023 at 11:16 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Buntton Service



Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - February 22, 2023 at 05:48 PM

BG

“ I just want to share with the family that Marco was one of the nicest people you could ever meet. He was kind and thoughtful of those around him. He always had good things to say about people and he was just a positive person. He will be missed.

Love and Prayers

Bunny Garrett

Bunny Garrett - February 22, 2023 at 10:11 AM

VP

“ Marco was a very ingaging person and devoted friend, a positive asset to our community he will be missed. Reverend Val J Powe

Val Powe - February 22, 2023 at 09:53 AM

DB

“ I loved Marco, he was a close friend of my late husband. Rest in Peace.

Darlene Bedford - February 21, 2023 at 12:15 PM

LC

“ Marco was a very nice and friendly man. I remember when Marco was famous for his finger waves that I would get on a regular basis. Marco loved boxing and would always break out the old VHS tapes of previous fights.. He would also show up at my moms on holidays and loved to challenge me at a game of tonk.... He will be missed..

Louis Crosby - February 20, 2023 at 04:55 PM