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Funeral Viewing Of Georgia Man Is Held In His Bedroom - Donald Trimble - Brief Article

Donald Trimble is a man who believed in entertaining at home.

That might be why Trimble, 58, who recently died of liver failure, had his funeral-viewing in the bedroom of his home in Decatur, GA.

Thousands stood in line to view the body of Trimble as he lay in his bed dressed in a red, embroidered robe on ivory satin sheets. His glasses and an open Bible lay near his body on the bed.

"He wanted to be taken back to his house and laid in his bed," his niece Chedonna Trimble-Holston of Conyers, GA, told JET. "He wanted to be laid out in his bed at his house. He said that for as long as I can remember. He never told us why. He always talked about funeral arrangements," she recalled.

Trimble was the founder of Donald Trimble Mortuary Inc., in Decatur, which he opened in 1983.

By the time he was 12, Trimble knew he wanted to be in the funeral business, his niece said. "Most of his life, he has been in the funeral life. He started hanging around funeral homes at age 12 and worked at local mortuaries." He bought his own graveside space when he was 19, his niece said.

Respected and admired in the Atlanta metropolitan area, he often gave huge holiday parties and invited anywhere from 600 to 1,000 guests.

"He loved people, he liked entertaining at his house," said Trimble-Holston, who organized the funeral and viewing. "He would cook dinner at his home and invite his employees. He would always find a reason to celebrate. `We better have a dinner for this or dinner for that,'" she recalled his saying.

She added, "when the street where he lived first got street lights, he said, `We should have a celebration.'"

His funeral business conducted more than 800 funerals a year and is one of the most popular mortuaries in the Atlanta area, his niece said.

Trimble-Holston said people were fascinated by seeing a deceased person having his viewing in bed at home.

"Usually when you go the funeral home for the viewing, you see the person in a casket. This is the first time a lot of people have seen a person viewed in his bed, not in a casket."

Trimble also did not have an obituary. "He did not want an obituary in his funeral program," said Trimble-Holston. "He just wanted poems and pictures of himself throughout his life. He always felt that what he did in his life wasn't important. He didn't believe that things he had done needed to be talked about. So he never wanted an obituary. An obituary tells what you have done. But what he did, he just did. He didn't do it for publicity or anything like that. He always said, 'I don't need an obituary.'"

Reflecting on the outpouring of visitors who dropped by to view his body and the thousands more who attended his funeral, Trimble-Holston noted, "He was loved by more people than he actually knew."

Services were held at Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church in Decatur. Arrangements were made by Trimble's funeral home, Donald Trimble Mortuary Inc.

Survivors include a brother, Billy Trimble of Decatur; nieces, Burnetta Trimble of Conley, GA, Chedonna Trimble-Holston of Conyers, GA, and Faith Trimble of Decatur, GA; and great nephews, Keith Smith II of Conley; Brenan Holston of Conyers; an uncle, Calton Trimble Sr. of Atlanta and a host of other relatives and friends.

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