



LeVert Martel Payne

July 4, 1947 - March 13, 2014

LeVert Martel Payne was born on July 4, 1947 – the youngest child of four to LeVert Martel Payne, Sr. and Daisy Quinn of Santa Monica, California. He was baptized as an infant into the African Methodist Episcopal faith by his maternal grandfather, Reverend Alfred Kerruthers Quinn. It was the First AME Church by the Sea that Marty was introduced to his lifelong love of music by his mother, who as church Music Director and Organist, sat him at her feet while she played on Sundays – a loving memory of learning that he passed on to his grandson Elijah in the form of piano lessons right up until his passing. Marty excelled from an early age. From athletic achievements such as being one of the first black surfers in Southern California, to setting state records in Track and Field at Santa Monica High School – his Alma Mater, to being the first African-American to drive in the Mobil Economy Run at the young age of 17, Marty's life was marked by great accomplishments. Marty attended Santa Monica City College and later California State University, Hayward where he helped found the Black Student Union before graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

As a young man, Marty worked as a surveyor on many engineering projects throughout the San Francisco/Bay Area including the Port of Oakland expansion of the 1970's before breaking through racial barriers in SF Labor Unions as one of the first African Americans to join Sign and Display, Local 510 demanding equal job opportunities for all. As a musician whose career spanned five decades, Marty was a trailblazer who created innovative,

forward thinking music that spoke to his love of different world cultures and social activism, so much so that his music has stood the test of time to be re-introduced to a new generation of fans to this day. Marty was for 66 years a dynamic man who was truly.....revolutionary.

Marty lived his life always moving forward. While his personal passions included media and technology, music, travel and boating, perhaps his greatest passion was his belief in social justice to which he remained true his entire adult life. Whether it was his work with Oakland Direct Action Committee, Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, or the Black Panther Party, the fight against police brutality in Black and Latino communities, the fight against wealth inequity in this nation, or his support for People's Community Medics-an organization teaching community members emergency first aid skills founded after emergency aid was denied for over 20 minutes to fatally wounded Oscar Grant, Marty's commitment to both local and global communities was unwavering.

While preceded in death by his parents LeVert Martel Payne Sr. & Daisy Thompson, as well as his sister, Deanna Price,

Previous Events

Service

MAR **22**. 3:00 PM (PT)

Harris Funeral Home Legacy Center

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Tribute Wall



“ 56 files added to the album Memories Album



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