

A
Celebration
OF
Life

HONORING

Carl Van
Green

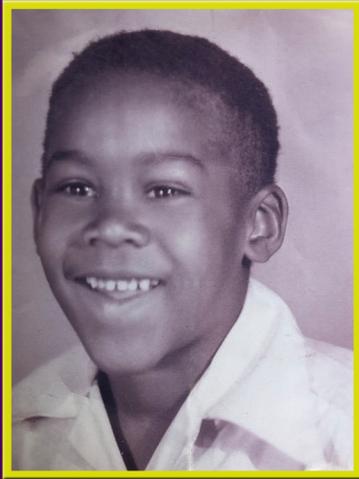
“Sweet
Meat”

SUNRISE:
April 28, 1948

SUNSET:
June 2, 2020



Remembering Carl "Sweet Meat" Green



On June 2nd 2020, with the backdrop of a global pandemic and social justice national protests causing discord and disharmony, Carl Van Green was called home by God marking the end of an illustrious life and career – highlighted by deep family connections, lasting personal relationships and global conversations as a blues saxophonist.



Carl was born on April 28, 1948, to Calvin Green and Geraldine Mandubourg in Galveston, Texas. He was the 2nd of four children born to this union. Carl came into the world at a time when the groundwork for future social movements were just coming to fruition and eventually was raised in Oakland, California. Carl was raised in what we would today call a traditional hard-working and blue collar family influenced by the migratory patterns of many blacks leaving the South and traveling to California for basic freedoms like employment, quality schools and desegregated housing. More specifically, this familial arc began its trajectory in Louisiana along with many other family members who also left and relocated to other parts of California such as Sacramento and the Greater Los Angeles area and would later draw many of Carl's musical influences as Louisiana has always been a cradle of blues music and expressions.

During his formative years Carl would cultivate his love of music not only from the growing popularity of Motown, R&B, jazz and blues artists having a cross-over appeal amongst black and white audiences, but also in his own home where his older brother Calvin "Richard" Green was a bass player and his father Calvin played both trumpet and saxophone. These musical genres in the 50's, 60's and 70's can be characterized by strong horn influences and arrangements either as call and response between vocalists or melodies that continued to popularize these genres into what they are recognized as today. Over the span of several decades Carl would captivate audiences at various music venues lending quite heavily to these music traditions.

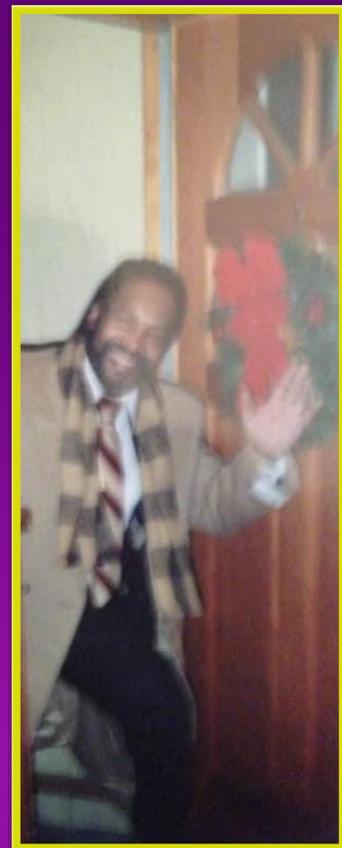
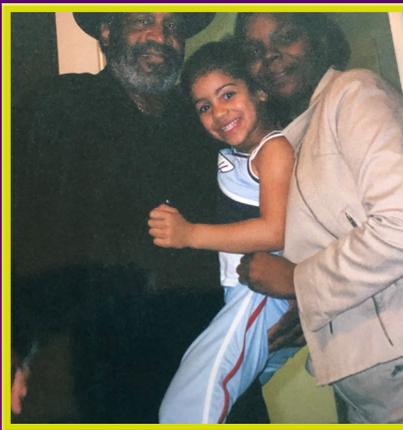
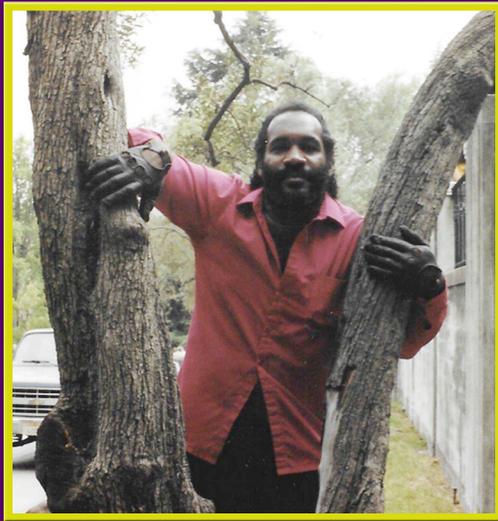
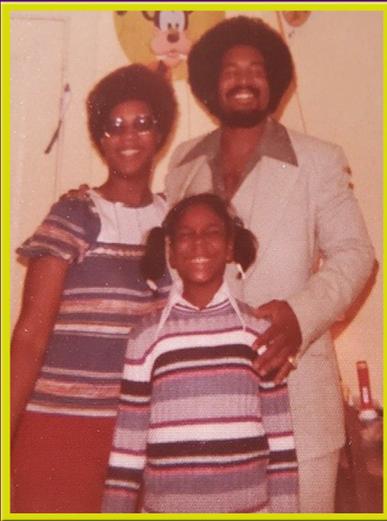


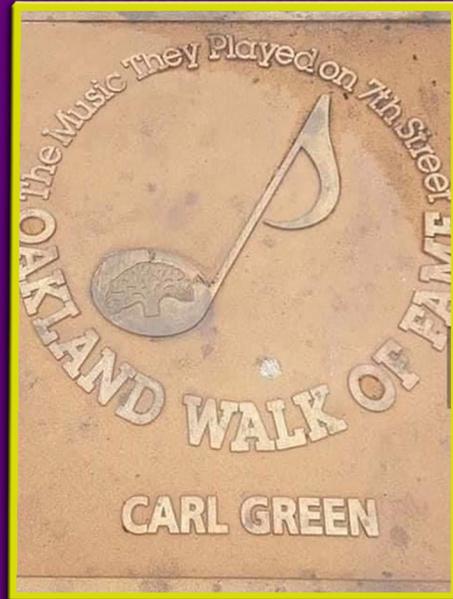
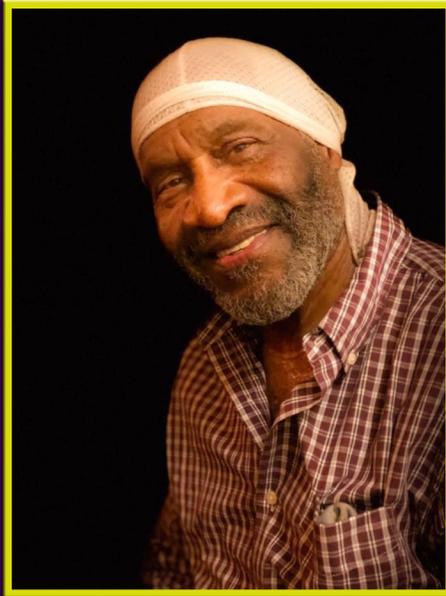
As he got older Carl would spend summers in Sacramento with his Aunt Stella or at other times with his grandmother, cousins, aunts and uncles in Los Angeles.

After the formation of the Five Brooks, which consisted of Carl, Richard and 3 other childhood friends from Brookfield Village. In 1962 he played for the first time in local talent shows. Performing many of the popular RnB songs of the day. Most notable being *Cold Sweat*, *Papa's Gotta A Brand New Bag* and *I Feel Good* by his favorite artist James Brown. Any song that didn't have horns he would compose horn lines and riffs.

In 1963 Carl had a life altering experience, surviving a brutal physical attack that could have left him dead or permanently injured. Instead, he used this experience to further fuel his passion for music. One of his sisters Paula recalled him coming home following this fateful event and saying "I almost lost my life from those injuries but nothing was more devastating than me possibly losing my ability to blow my horn." She would also reflect on that experience stating that, "awakening back in '63 produced an amazing musician that brought so much love and joy to so many all over the world for 57 years."

In 1966 he married Barbara A. Jones and from this union his first child was born LaTonia. This was the time period that he established himself as a local musician with various Oakland bands. Eventually he spent more of his time performing in San Francisco's North Beach. It was here that he met his second wife Sandy Griffin and to this union a daughter Carla and a son Cario were born.





By the mid 70's Carl was starting to explore musical realms outside of the Bay Area and was performing regularly in Southern California, in 1975 he performed at the Pied Piper on Western Avenue; this was an occasion marked by the first time his grandmother was able to see him perform live. He also performed at other venues such as Tiki Island on Western Avenue and Dooto's in Compton, CA, where he would again perform with his brother Calvin "Richard" Green, with the band Solid and Bobby Blue Bland.

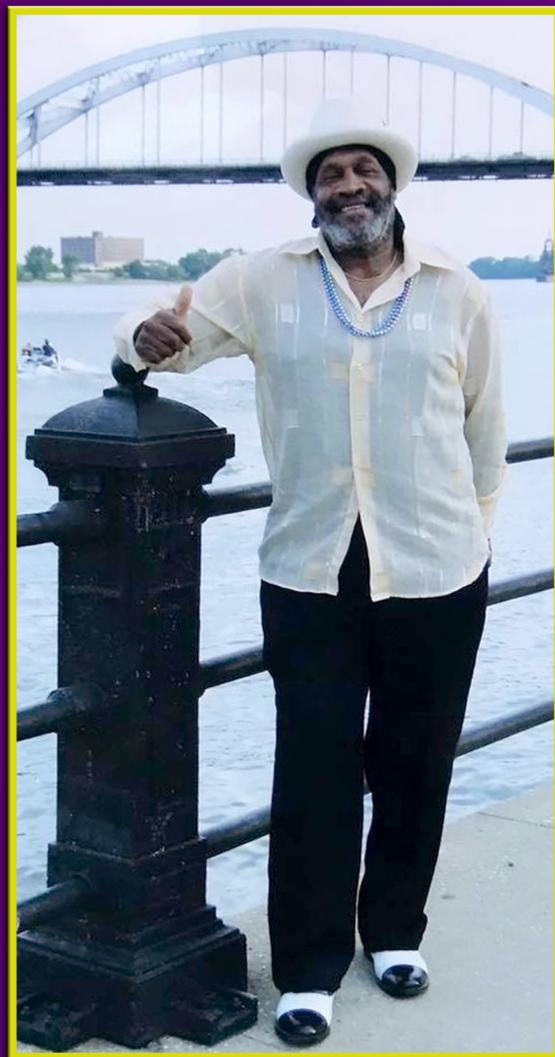
Carl also played at several cultural festivals and other venues across the globe. Some of these would include the Bay Area Blues Society/West Coast Blues Society, Art & Soul Festival, Russell City Blues Festival, Monterey Blues Festival, Monterey Jazz Festival, San Francisco Blues Festival, Chicago Blues Festival and the Isleton Crawdad Festival. His international music performances include Italy, France, Mexico, Thailand and Japan.

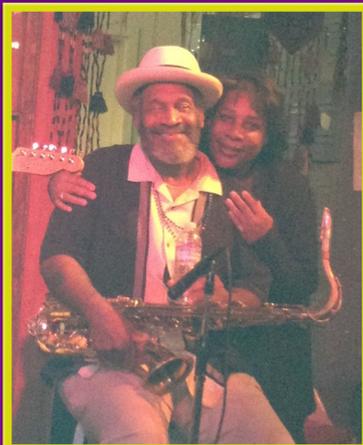
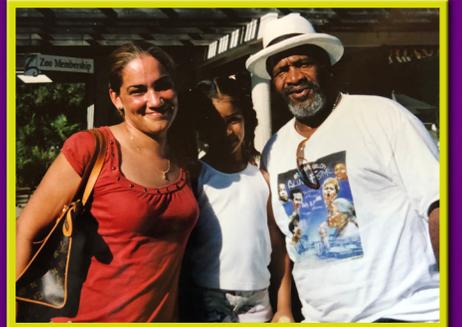
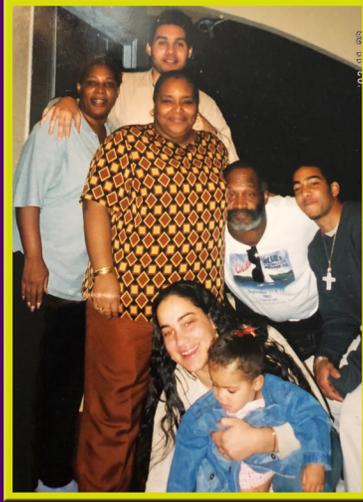
He was a mainstay at local venues in the Bay Area including Biscuits and Blues, Half Moon Brewing Company, Everett & Jones, Boom Boom Room, Eli's Mile High Club, Lou's Fish Shack on the Pier and the Condor Club. In case anyone missed Carl at any of these events and thanks to technology one can simply pull up Carl's music on Spotify or YouTube where he is featured with the Jackie Payne and the Steve Edmundson Band with tunes like *Tell It Like It Is*, *Feel Like Going Home*, *I'll Drink Your Bathwater Baby*, *I Saw The Blues* and *My Money Ain't Long Enough*.

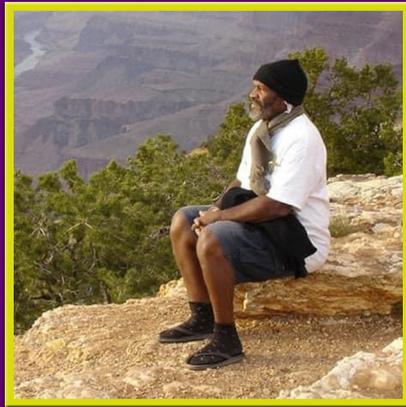
One could identify Carl by his signature hats, shoes and cigars. He was fond of the quote by Plato that said "music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything." One of his favorite things to make and eat was his signature tuna fish sandwich. His favorite song that he liked to play was *Mister Magic* by Grover Washington Jr. As a musician he continued to learn and educate himself and expand his horizons and saturated himself with the study, playing and teaching of his craft in his chosen profession. This is the side of him that most were familiar with along with his devotion to creative and especially sonic arts.

In 2008, Carl was inducted into the Blues Walk of Fame in Oakland, being named Saxophonist of the Year.

Carl is preceded in death by his parents Geraldine Green and Calvin A. Green, and his grandmother Stella Wiggins. Those left to cherish his memories and many accomplishments are his three children: LaTonia M. Green of Antioch, CA, Carla C. Green and Cario V. Green both of Oakland CA; brother Calvin R. Green of Santa Monica, CA, and two sisters: Paula J. Trotman of Los Angeles, CA and Jacquelyne Savage (Derick) of Rodeo, CA; his aunts: Stella Duncan of Sacramento CA, and Barbara Press of Lancaster, CA; and an uncle Frederick Green of Lancaster, CA; grandchildren: Ebony V. Chappelle, Earma R. Chappelle, Victor A. Chappelle, Tanner Lakes, Cario V. Green Jr., Nadia Eke and Ikoru Eke; four great-grandchildren and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, friends and fans of his music.







Music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind and flight to the imagination, and life to every thing.

-PLATO-



Expressions of Love

Losing a father is a trauma that changes your life forever. Unfortunately, reality gives us neither the time nor the privilege we need to quietly mourn. I can't avoid mourning the loss of my father. It's one of the worst things a daughter goes through. My father made me who I am. He protected me when I was defenseless. He taught me lessons I only understood later in life. At a time like this, coming up with the proper words presents a challenge even for the most eloquent among us. So I'll put it simply I love you dad, and I will miss you; you will forever remain in my heart.

– Love your daughter, LaTonia

To My Loving Father - Mr. Carl Green,

You demonstrated nothing but strength, per-severance, resiliency, consistency and unconditional love from the first time I opened my eyes until the day you closed yours. The day I have dreaded my entire life finally arrived.

My heart is broken. I feel all alone. My energy is low. Things don't make sense. I am struggling with regret, accepting that you are no longer here and learning how to allow myself to live without you.

Until we meet again, I will aim to make you proud and keep a smile on your face by: placing family first, being a better mother, discovering a passion that will earn income, chasing success, seeking happiness and contentment, living life, traveling the world, consistently communicating with people who are important to me, honoring your memory and taking care of myself, which means placing God first more often than not.

Although I was not ready for you to go, I find solace in knowing that you lived a full, abundant life and that you were ready. Thank you for making that clear to me, otherwise I would be even more torn apart than I already am.

Thank you for being such a wonderful father. I miss and love you with all of my heart!

– Your daughter, Carla Green-Davis

Dad, I looked up to you, you were someone to follow, someone to admire, someone to be proud of and someone to brag about. I feel so incredibly grateful that I had you as my dad. You were never judgmental, you accepted me for who I am. Your love was unconditional and this is something I will cherish forever. You didn't tell me how to

live; you lived and let me watch you do it. I watched you perfect your craft, and you taught me many, many things but I think most importantly you gave me the ability to know that if you really put your mind to something, anything is possible, and never to be afraid to give anything a go.

To say I loved you would be an understatement, and to say I'm going to miss you would be an even greater understatement. Your kindness and generosity will be remembered by all who had the pleasure of knowing you.

– Your son, Cario Green

Music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind and flight to the imagination, and life to every thing. –PLATO

Carl Green was the embodiment of the above expression by the great philosopher with his creative and artistic acumen. As a musician he continued to learn and educate himself and expand his horizons and saturated himself with the study playing and teaching in his craft and chosen profession. This is the side of him I was most familiar with and I shall always remember and honor him with my devotion to creative and especially sonic arts.

– KATHLEEN