

OUR SHINING PRINCE...

He was our shining prince, though he was only with us for a while.....

Brother Jahti was my friend, and my comrade, for over the span of thirty-five years. We met while he was a photographer for the Black Panther Party newspaper, in the early 'Seventies, when I wrote for the Party paper. He gave of himself so freely then, just as he gave of himself to all of you, in the cause of freedom, justice, and enlightenment. Ossie Davis' words at the home-going for Malcolm X, paraphrased above, personify the way I feel about my comrade Jahti....

He was a beautiful brother, a great and shining soul -- and he will be missed dearly. A beautiful and strong man, an inspiration to so many.... How can we honor his sacrifice, and his courage in the face of danger? Even while knowing that he faced his departure from us, and his transition from this life, he continued to hold as his utmost concern the liberation of our people. He maintained his humor, and sense of being in our larger world. And therein lies the legacy that he leaves with us.

We must hold that spirit dear, and hold onto to the dear, gentle warrior spirit that he embodied, that spirit which remains embodied in all of our hearts -- in his wife and sons, in all of you who will continue to hold his memory dear.

On behalf of all of the comrades in the Black Panther Party who loved him, I salute our brother Jahti. And I salute all of you, who will carry on with his mission, with the work of Man Up, with the artistic vision he gave freely in his photographs in our struggle, ever to be rendered to history through his contribution to the Its About Time Website.

And I thank you for holding his spirit high.....

All power to the people,

Evans D. Hopkins

Comrade Derrell

Author, *Life After Life: A Story of Rage and Redemption*

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