

In
Loving Memory
of



*D*arel Evans

Sunrise

October 23, 1982

Sunset

December 8, 2015

Service

Friday, December 18, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.

Christian Pentecostal Church

971 Clinton Ave.

Irvington, New Jersey 07111

Obituary

Darel Everett Evans was born on October 23, 1982 to Daryl Evans and Michelle Monique Meacham at University Hospital in Newark, New Jersey. He arrived three months ahead of schedule, and showed his fighting spirit early on by pulling through and coming home.

He grew up in a loving "full house" on Wainwright Street alongside his younger cousin, Andaiye Taylor, who was his partner-in-crime in "tearing up" their grandmother's house. Darel also loved spending time at his paternal grandparents' house just around the corner.

From the beginning, Darel was known for wit beyond his years and an ability to make everyone he encountered laugh -- and laugh hard. He kept his family members and friends in stitches with his one-liners and hilarious observations. Darel loved hanging out with his older cousins and sharpening his wit with them and their friends.

In addition to being a born comedian, Darel was a natural athlete who made fast friends with people from all walks of life. He loved learning to swim at the Newark YMCA, and played basketball and Little League Baseball while in middle school in Hillside. In school, he expanded his comedy audience to his fellow classmates, and was known for having a wide and diverse circle of friends.

Darel spent his freshman year at Hillside High School before moving to Allentown, Pennsylvania to live with his father. There he met April Bailey, who gave birth to Darel's firstborn daughter, Tianna Marie Bailey (who he sometimes called "Gizmo") in 1999. Darel earned his high school diploma when he returned to New Jersey.

In 2006, Darel began a courtship with Jessica "Jayda" Jacques. Their relationship and work with at-risk youth were highlighted in the five-part docuseries "Brick City", which premiered on the Sundance Channel in 2008 and won a Peabody Award. The couple's daughter, Layla Anyai Evans (who he liked to call "Daddyface"), joined the pair and Jayda's son Aljahmeir on New Year's Eve in 2008. Darel was also featured in a second "Brick City" series, and on "Jersey Strong", which aired in 2013 on Pivot TV.

Darel used his life experiences and engaging personality to give back to the community by encouraging youth to seek constructive paths. He spoke on panels, at summits, and at schools, and was a beloved figure to his friends' children and to neighborhood kids. Darel cultivated a cherished second family of longtime close friends that included James White III and his wife Al-Nisa, Jeffrey Saunders, Brian Dye, Kevin Jones and their families.

In 2009, Darel decided to go professional with his comedy skills and hit the standup stage. He performed at venues throughout the area, won the respect of his comedian peers, and developed a devoted local following. He has also worked at Integrity House, the New Jersey Food Bank, and the City of Roselle's Department of Public Works.

On the evening of December 8th, 2015, Darel Evans took his untimely final breath on this earth. Through all he accomplished in his short time here, he was most proud of being a father to his beloved daughters and "heartbeats", Tianna and Layla.

Darel was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother, Charity Meacham, who loved him dearly, and maternal great-grandmother, Missouri Lyde, one of his favorite comedy sparring partners.

Darel leaves to mourn his mother, Michelle Monique Meacham; father, Daryl Evans (KaTonya); two daughters, Tianna Bailey and Layla Evans; maternal grandfather, Edward Meacham; paternal grandparents, Hubert and Bertha Evans; brothers, Daryl Evans Jr. and Tariq Fennell; aunt, Tanya Meacham; uncles, Michael Evans, Steve Evans (Leslie), and Wayne Evans (Stacey); first cousins, Andaiye Taylor, Malcolm McClain, Tyrell Evans, Taila Evans, and Skye Evans; godmother, Kimberly Dargen; fiancée, Leandra Lassiter; and scores of aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and fans.

****ALL CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF AND PUT AWAY****

Order of Service

Hymn of Comfort “I Won’t Complain”

Scriptures

Old Testament – Psalm 27:1-7,14

New Testament – 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Prayer of Comfort Minister Markos Guess
Hussayn Aakil

Selection Valerie Crump
“I Can Only Imagine”

Tribute Dance Layla Evans

Remarks

Hassan “Baby Boy” Oliver/Donna Jackson/James C. White, III
(Lamar)/Latifa Barnett/Tanya Meacham

Acknowledgements Condolences Resolutions & Obituary

Joy Tomlinson/Cristal Howard

Selection Gearl Cobbert

Poem Michelle Meacham/Alice Barnett

Eulogy Pastor Bryant Ali

Recessional

Interment

Evergreen Cemetery
Hillside, New Jersey

Pall Bearers

James C. White III (aka Lamar)

Jeffrey Saunders

Mikel Sajouste

Mikel Jones

Juawan Peterson

Llewellyn M. Taylor

My light, my joy, my hope, the air I inhale and exhale, has been taken from me. The laughter, the soul of my life that made my heart shine bright morning, noon and night has been snuffed out during the mid morning day nightlight. My heart, my soul is going through an uncontrollable uproar. I have been blindsided by the darkness of some hatred soul who pulled the trigger in the morning day nightlight. The cowardly phantom snuffed out the life of my son, who brought joy and happiness to my life.

Michelle Monique Meacham

December 9, 2015

2:27 a.m.

Acknowledgement

The family wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation for all acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy that was shown to them during this time of bereavement.

Professional Services by:
Whigham Funeral Home

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Newark, New Jersey 07102

973-622-6872

Carolyn Whigham, Director

