

# Home Going Services



*Dwayne A. Washington*

*"Pearl"*

*Sunrise: January 6, 1964*

*Sunset: April 20, 2016*

## Service

*Friday, April 29, 2016 - 11:00 a.m.*

**CHRISTIAN CULTURAL CENTER**

12020 Flatlands Avenue • Brooklyn, NY 11207

*Rev. A. R. Bernard, Pastor*



## *Obituary*

Born feet first on January 6, 1964, **Dwayne Alonzo Washington** came into this world ready to run. George and Jannie Washington did not know what was in store for that child, but for sure they knew he would be different from his sister, Janie and two brothers, George “Beaver” and Steven.

Dwayne was a very shy boy. He was a loner, but had many friends. That sounds like an oxymoron, but that was who he was. He was easygoing, he never had a fight until he was grown and his real skills developed, as he got older.

Dwayne Alonzo Washington was his birth name; the nickname “The Pearl” was given on the playgrounds of Brownsville, Brooklyn, New York and later, shorted to just “Pearl”. This was because whichever team he played on in his youth, “The Pearl” was a precious jewel with a ball. Playing ball felt akin to being an artist constructing a masterpiece.

Upon entering Boys and Girls High School, Brooklyn, NY, Pearl achieved almost icon status. Playing ball from Brownsville to Harlem, he left his mark with his smooth crossover and lightning speed passing.

Over time, Pearl became the recipient of numerous awards. In his senior year of high school, he was named the number one player in the country. He was selected for the prestigious McDonald All-American two years in a row. After so many achievements, he was given the opportunity to attend Syracuse University.

Pearl's years in Syracuse began a different and exciting chapter in his life. He was able to hone his skills, while receiving an invaluable education—something he was grateful for throughout his life. The competition in college was definitely more challenging and Pearl had to step up his game. During his freshman year, he met up with Michael Jordan, Patrick Ewing and Ed Pinckney and still in 1983, he was named “Rookie of the Year”. Well known for his “Shake and Bake” moves, Dwayne was drafted by the New Jersey Nets in the first round of the 1986 NBA draft.

Life in the NBA was a dream that came true. The New Jersey Nets was a team still in development. For two years, Pearl played for the Nets before moving on to the newly formed Miami Heat.

Overall, life for Dwayne “Pearl” Washington was truly a fairy tale. How many can say they've been granted such an opportunity?

Since leaving the NBA, Dwayne has won numerous awards and honors. He had his basketball jerseys retired at Syracuse University, Boys and Girls High School, and the New York Gauchos Basketball Organization. In addition, Dwayne was inducted into the Brooklyn Hall of Fame and received the Distinguished Award from Syracuse University.

Despite his health being an issue for over twenty years, not once did he complain or ask for pity. He held his head up with dignity not letting his friends or fans know the pain and suffering he was going through with his seizures.

In August 2015, Dwayne became seriously ill with his second bout of brain cancer. He knew this was going to be his greatest challenge; one that his crossover and “Shake and Bake” moves couldn't defend against. He faced this fight with dignity and grace; never ever complaining.

On Wednesday, April 20, 2016, Dwayne departed this life at Calvary Hospital, Bronx, NY. Before transitioning he was honored by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, receiving a proclamation declaring Saturday, April 9, 2016, DWAYNE “PEARL” WASHINGTON day.

Dwayne is survived by: his mother, Mrs. Jannie Washington; his son, Dwayne A. Washington, Jr.; his daughters, Damira Washington and Tatiana Washington; grandchildren, Zyaire Grant, Giovanni Grant, JaMir Kinsey and Aliyah Washington. He is also survived by his fiancée and caregiver, Debra Busacco and her children, Marvin Jefferson, Tyneisha Parker, Tyron Parker and Tyrique Parker; his sisters, Janie Washington-Bennett, Nicole Washington and Maleeka Washington; his brothers, George “Beaver” Washington (Annette), Steven Clyde Washington, Gary Washington, Donald Washington, Daryl Jones and Eric Jones; his aunt, Mrs. Martha Brown; uncles, Elijah Duncan and James Duncan; his former wife, Tonya Washington; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and fans.

*In Loving Memory of Dwayne "Pearl" Washington*





# Order of Service

Processional

Praise and Worship

Scriptures

Prayer

Remarks..... Paul Brown/ HS Coach

Obituary .....Kevin Johnson

Acknowledgements and Condolences

Musical Selection

Tribute to My Father..... Dwayne Alonzo Washington, Jr.

Expressions .....Brandon Steiner - Author/Steiner Sports  
Jim Boeheim - Syracuse Coach

Syracuse/NBA Players.....Rafael Addison  
John Wallace  
Wendell Alexis

Acknowledgement of Elected Officials.....Letitia James/NYC  
Public Advocate  
Eric Adams/NYC  
Brooklyn Borough President

Remarks.....Bishop Melvin Artis  
Greater Highway Deliverance

Musical Selection..... "Take Me To The King"

Eulogy

Recessional

**Interment**  
*Maple Grove Cemetery*  
*Kew Gardens, New York*



## FROM DWAYNE "THE PEARL" WASHINGTON:

AS LIFE MOVES FORWARD, I KEEP IN MIND THOSE WHO COACHED, PUSHED AND INSPIRED ME ALONG THE WAY. COLLEGE GAVE ME A GLIMPSE OF LIFE BEYOND BROOKLYN AND OPENED UP EVERY FUTURE OPPORTUNITY, FROM PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TO ATHLETIC COACH. BEING AWARE THAT I COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT ALONE, MY AMBITION IS TO GIVE BACK; USE MY EXPERIENCE TO HELP THE YOUTH OF MY COMMUNITY, GIVE THEM CONFIDENCE THROUGH ATHLETICS AND CONVEY THAT EDUCATION IS AN OPTION FOR THEM. TO THIS DAY, MY COMMUNITY IS STILL BROOKLYN THE PLACE THAT HAS THE BIGGEST PIECE OF MY HEART.

## *Acknowledgement*

The Washington Family appreciates the many kind thoughts, prayers, donations and expressions of love extended to them during this time of their bereavement.

2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300  
 1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY • (718) 774-1023  
 1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833

Clifford V. James, President & CEO  
 www.unityfuneralchapels.com  
 email: unityfc@aol.com

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