

## *Pallbearers*

Jay Thurston  
James McCombs, Jr.  
Jordan Montague  
Desmond McPhail  
Emmanuel Yemoh  
Pastor Antonio Brooks  
Kurtis Waites, Sr.  
Ramah Williams  
Ira Dobson, Sr.

## *Honorary Pallbearers*

Elder Dante L. Perkins, Sr.  
Eyan Griffin  
Timothy Ballenger  
Pastor Dr. Torrence Ivy  
Bishop Michael A. Thurston  
Paul Turner  
Keith Butler  
Douglas Barrow

## *Interment*

Fairview Memorial Park  
900 North Wolf Road  
Northlake, Illinois 60164

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family of Elder Dennis L. Griffin would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions. Your phone calls, visits, flowers, thoughts, and prayers have all helped greatly during our time of bereavement.*

*May God continue to bless each of you, is our prayer.*

## *Professional Services Entrusted To*



Dante' and Towanda Perkins, Proprietors  
2817 St. Charles Road  
Bellwood, Illinois 60104  
(Bellwood Location)  
1600 Chicago Avenue  
Melrose Park, IL 60160  
(West Suburban Location)  
Ofc. (773) 759-3362 | Fax (708) 540-4656  
www.dlperkinsandsons.com | dlpsrmmchapel@yahoo.com

## CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF

# *Dennis* L. GRIFFIN

LYING IN REPOSE  
Saturday, September 4, 2021  
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

THE LIFE CELEBRATION  
Saturday, September 4, 2021  
11:00 AM

THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE CONCERT  
Sunday, September 5, 2021  
Starts at 5:00 PM

ALL SERVICES HELD AT  
New Evangelical Bible Church  
4636 West Washington Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60644

*Pastor Willie Sams, Host Pastor  
Bishop Michael Thurston, Eulogist*



# Obituary

*Dennis Lamont Griffin* was born on November 7, 1967, in Chicago, IL, to Cora Lee Griffin and Robert Griffin. Dennis was blessed with a “second dad” when his mom married Van Waller, Jr. Dennis departed from his earthly vessel on Friday, August 27, 2021, and gained his just reward of eternal life.

Dennis grew up and was educated on the west side of Chicago. He graduated from Rezin Orr High School and continued his education by attending Harold Washington Community College. In his youth, Dennis attended The Earl Bedford School of Music. Those lessons would later enable him to become a skilled organist where he shared his gift with choirs, groups, gospel singers, and churches.

While growing up in Chicago, Dennis was blessed to have life-long friends, referred to as brothers. Michael Thurston, Timothy Ballenger, and Dante Perkins were his brothers for over 40 years. Their friendship truly lasted a lifetime.

Dennis was baptized at an early age, and upon death was a dedicated and faithful member of Sun Rise Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Anthony Jones. During his lifetime, Dennis became a licensed minister in 1999. He was later ordained as an Elder in the Church of God in Christ and a Baptist Minister for the State of Illinois.

**Dennis and Angela met in 1988 at Sunrise Missionary Baptist Church, where he served on the musician staff. They were married for 31 years. Throughout their life together, Dennis and Angela created a family of six, known as the “Alphabets.” He was a devoted husband, father, and pawpee.**

**Dennis had a personality that allowed him to work in various capacities during his lifetime. Dennis enjoyed people, and he never met a stranger. He worked for the United States Postal Service for over 15 years and served as the Minister of Music for Corinthian Temple Church of God in Christ of Chicago, IL, until the Lord called him home. No matter where Dennis was employed, if you knew him, you knew he would be on an organ or piano, sharing his gift, as well.**

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Griffin, Cora Lee Waller, and Van Waller, Jr.

Dennis leaves to cherish memories: his wife of 31 years, Angela Griffin; his “Alphabets”, his children, Candace (Ira Sr.) Dobson of West Lafayette, IN, Britainy (Jordan) Montague of Springfield, IL, Eyan Griffin of Houston, TX, and Felisea Griffin of Killeen, TX; his prides and joy, his grandchildren, Chastity Williams, Ira Dobson, Jr., Ashlee Yemoh, Marlee Yemoh, Caiylin Dobson, RaiLynn Williams, Romeo Montague, Hailee Montague, and (coming September 2021) Hayden Griffin; special sons, Emmanuel Yemoh of Alsip, IL, and Ramah Williams of Sauk Village, IL; godchildren, Arrie, Desiree, Zyaria, Zacchaeus, Alexis, Tyra, Walter, Olivia, Iyla, Kyla, Kurtis Jr., Kayla, and Karli; stepmother, Edna Griffin of Chicago, IL; godmother, Barbara Cook of Oak Park, IL; sisters, Kimberly (Kurtis Sr.) Waites of Joliet, IL, Darlene Gordon of Villa Park, IL, and JaLeesa (Sean) George of Greenwood, IN; brothers from other mothers, Michael (Gina) Thurston, Dante (Towanda) Perkins, and Timothy (Stephanie) Ballenger; mother-in-law, Sharon Bennett-Early of Killeen, TX; brother-in-law, Robert (Angie) Rush of Pflugerville, TX; sisters-in-law, Karen Rush of Minnesota, Lisa (William) Holyfield of Avon, IN, Paulette (Torrence Sr.) Varvarro of Staten Island, NY, and Michelle Early of Killeen, TX; special friends, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and all his “adopted” children.

# Precious Memories







## Last Glimpse 'til Glory



# Tributes

## To My Sexy Beast:

My love for you is never-ending. I have spent the last 33 years bearing your children, going to countless concerts and musicals, and travelling to various states and countries with you. I never thought that life in this world would move on without you, but here I am today, with memories of your smile, your voice, your smell, and the way you made me feel, which was always safe. With you, the impossible became possible. Rest easy. See you on the flip side. I'm really going to miss you, my buddy. I'm really going to miss you, my friend. Loving you always and forever. What's next... "CHOCOLATE!"

Your wife for life, Angela



Many of you may know, but I promise it seems like people forget. Momma and I came as a package deal into Daddy's life. Maybe it was because he had peppermints, and y'all know Momma wouldn't let me have anything sweet! This man raised me like I was his biological child. He spoiled me; all it took was one, maybe two "but Daddies," and he would do whatever I needed or wanted. He even took in "my" family as his own and loved on them, too. He took my siblings, Momma, and I to church, concerts, musicals, choir rehearsals, recordings, across the states and back. (This is not an exhaustive list, y'all). Daddy worked unto the Lord and would always give him his BEST praise. He made the organ sing, he made us sing, he mentored so many people. He did his good works unto the Lord, even when he was tired. My daddy, a piece of my heart is resting with the Lord. While I don't think there is a word in the dictionary to describe the pain or grief, whew, I have comfort in knowing where my daddy is. Daddy! Your babies have it taken care of down here! Rest in the arms of Jesus!

Love, Candace

"A father is an irreplaceable person in a girl's life..."

My first love, my Daddio, has gone on to be with the Lord. WHEEEWWWW!!! God makes no mistakes, but I SWEAR it surely feels like it. WHY?!! WHY?!!!!!! I am angry, hurt, sad, but overall, I am grateful and blessed to have had you for as long as I did!!

We were praying that God would heal you!!! We were specific and asked God to heal you on Earth, and He did just that.

He healed you on Earth and wanted you with Him, so, He gave us what we prayed for, even though it hurts. It's apparent that you touched the lives of SO MANY!!! You were a Husband, Friend, PawPee, Uncle, Brother, Father, and Cousin, but most of all, you were a Servant of God!! You knew Him, and He KNEW YOU! That is something you truly instilled in us! You would do ANYTHING for your family and friends!! Your love for God and His people is incredible! You could teach a song like nobody's business, and you were always so patient, but a perfectionist; that's where I get that from! HA! When you stood in front of a choir, THEY SANG!!!!

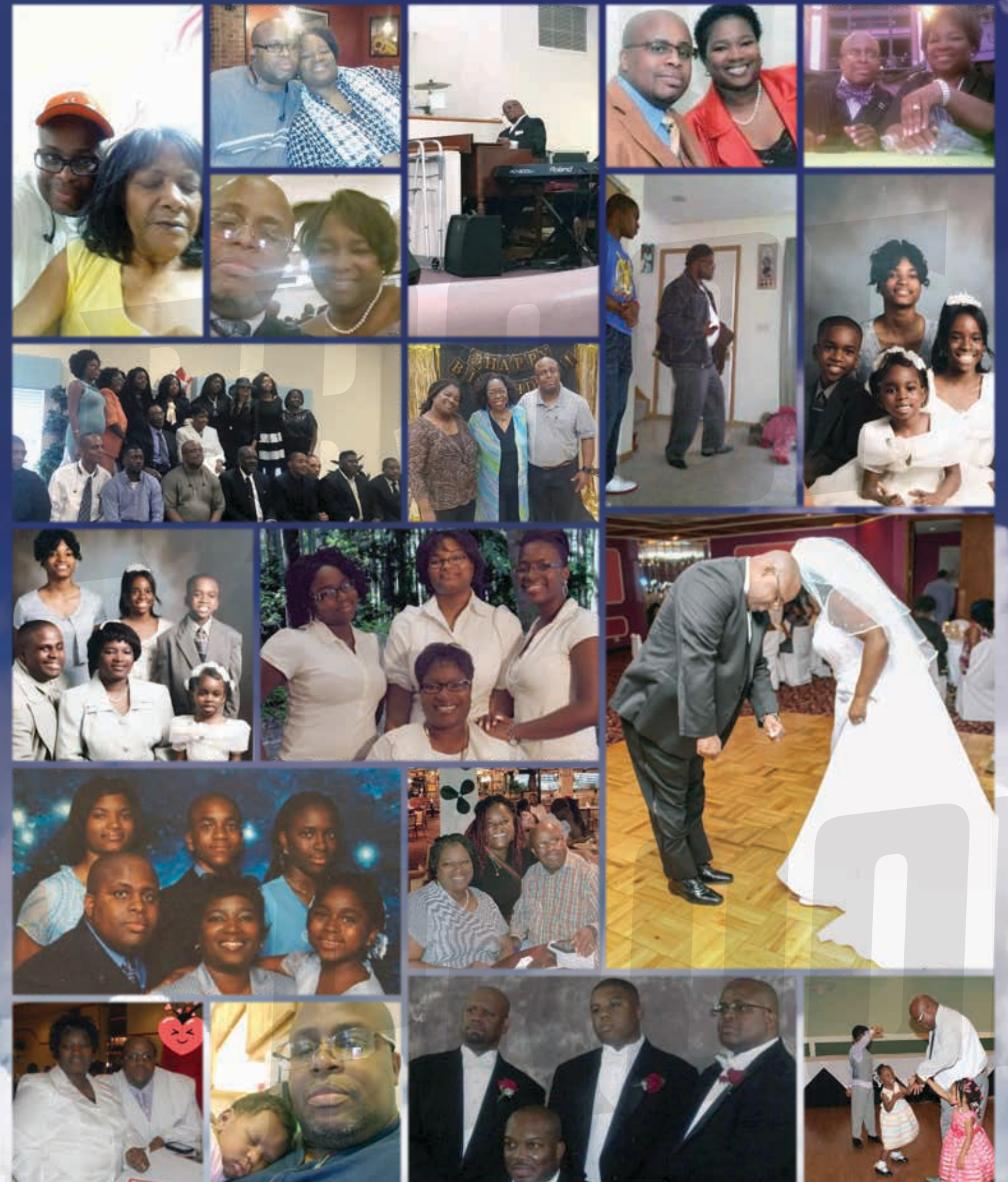
Who's gonna teach the grands to play the organ now? Who's gonna be up with us writing songs at 4:00 a.m., now? My love for all types of music is FROM YOU!! We will continue to make you proud. One of the last things you said to me, "Brit, I'm really proud of you..." Such a blessing that those who knew you, knew that you loved them; and you knew they loved you!! You gave flowers to people, and your flowers were given while you were alive!

Your personality, your wit, your laugh will be missed. Take your rest, Daddio. You worked so hard for God and others because of your heart and love for people; but now you get the rest you so very well deserve. We'll see you later.

I love you, forever and always, Daddio!

Love, Britainy, a.k.a., "Smokey"

# Precious Memories





# Precious Memories



# Tributes

*I have been heartbroken before!!! I have cried and been sad before, but the pain I'm in right now is not a match for anything I have EVER been through. Dad, you really got me with this one, man. My father, my mentor, my protector, my biggest fan, and now my angel!! Big Head Rabbit, Bug Neck, WooWoo!! I'm most definitely gonna miss you, my dude!!! I WILL NEVER HEAR YOU CALL ME BOY AGAIN!!!! That's what hurts the most!! I will forever cherish the times we had. The times that I came to you because I needed you, the times you came to me because you needed me (nobody knows about that). You made me the man I am today, so, I'm gonna be the man and teach Hayden everything you taught me!! We always said we were gonna learn how to play the bass. Well, Ima pick it back up and make you proud. I love you, Dad!!*

*I got us down here and long as you keep watching us from above!!*

*Love, Your BOY, Eyan*

*God Saw You Getting Tired*

*- Unknown Author*

*God saw you getting tired, and a cure was not to be  
So, He put his arms around you and whispered, "Come to Me"  
With tearful eyes we watched you and saw you pass away,  
And although we love you dearly, we could not make you stay.  
A golden heart stopped beating, hard-working hands at rest.*

*God broke our hearts to prove to us,*

*He only takes the best.*

*We love you, PawPee! Love, Ira Jr., and Caiylin*

*Dear PawPee,*

*I know that you loved me, and I loved you, too! Do you remember those times I stole your food? Lol and I ate it, all right! It's sad that I can't see you anymore, but it's for the best. Now, you get to travel like you always wanted and go wherever you want to go in a millisecond. I love you, PawPee, and I always will.*

*Sincerely, Ashlee May*

*Dear PawPee,*

*I really, really miss you! Do you remember the time that I mocked you playing the piano?!*

*HA! I really miss you and love you!*

*Sincerely, "Your Bodyguard", Marlee*

*My brother, I'll see you again in your Canadian Tuxedo and share laughs with you again.*

*I LOVE YOU ~ Darlene!*

*Pops, you hit me with one. Because I am human, I am hurt! Because I am a God body, I am certain you're in a better place. Thank you for trusting me with your daughter's heart, I promise to protect it. Thank you for welcoming me in as your son, because it was never in-law vibes, I never felt awkward or uncomfortable around you. You were the perfect replacement for my own dad who transitioned. I'll always hold a special place in my heart for you. The last scripture you sent me was, "All sickness is not unto death. We shall be healed and live!"*

*Although you are lost on Earth, you're found in Heaven, LIVING! Rest well, Pops!*

*I love you and will see you again when I get there.*

*Love, Your Son, Jordan*



## *Tributes*

*You are the best PawPee! Never missed a beat!  
We will love you forever!  
Love, RaiLynn, Romeo, and Hailee*

*Pop, I still can't believe you are gone. On the day we first met, you welcomed me with warmth, love, and kindness. And when I officially became a part of your family you treated me as though I was your own flesh and blood. You were such a good man, husband, and father. You knew how to brighten up a room with your charismatic banter, hilarious behavior, and big smile!*

*What I loved most about you was how you served others, often helping out those in need without expecting anything in return. You were a father, a friend, a mentor, and someone I looked up to in many ways. I admired your tolerance, patience, and above all, your faithfulness.*

*I praise God for putting you in my life. While I understand the need to celebrate your life on this earth, it will still be hard no longer hearing your voice or seeing your face in this lifetime. I know you will always be with me in my heart. A part of me. A vital part of my family. Pop, you will forever be missed. Love you much!*

*Your son, Jermaine*

*When daddy died, we comforted each other.*

*While mommy was in the hospital, I held her hand and whispered in her ear, "you taught us everything we need to know about God and me and Dennis will be ok". Then she squeezed my hand a little tighter because she couldn't open her eyes or talk, and I whispered again, "you can go mommy, me and Dennis will always have each other and we will take care of each other", and that's when she made her transition.*

*Now you! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?!! You were my only blood brother. Before I left you at the hospital, we said that we loved each so much and we were going to live to be 80 and 90 years old!*

*This hurts so bad; you were the only one left.*

*You are responsible for my love of music. You were my very first musician. When I was 15, you were the one who introduced me to Chicago as a singer. You are the reason why I even wanted to pursue music in college. You were my first music teacher. You taught me how to harmonize, because just about every other night you wrote a song, and you used me to help figure out the sound.*

*You were truly one of Chicago's finest, and well-seasoned musicians. Man, this hurts!*

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path. I honestly don't see the good in all this, however I will still trust God. Kiss mommy and daddy for me. Until we meet again.*

*Love, Fat-Head*

## *Ode to my Daddy*

*When mommy left for TX I decided to stay because I didn't want you here alone; I'm not sure why but something just didn't feel right about leaving you here, so I stayed. It was always me and you; wherever you went I wanted to go, no matter how many times I got trumped by Brit or Eyan. I just wanted to be with my Daddy. There was never a "No" you meant unless you knew it didn't mean me any good, I mean you're the very reason I'm as spoiled as I really am. But you were like that with all of us, some more than others lol. I feared a lot of things in life and not one of them was losing you. I figured you'd just be "caught up" instead of having to figure out life without you. What's the purpose? You were my reason to keep going, you were my reason to sing; without you I wouldn't be where I am. You taught us everything we NEEDED to know and encouraged us to go beyond what we were comfortable with. Because of your push I got to sing with many world-renowned artists, and one specifically said to me "I KNOW YOUR DAD!!" After being told whose child I was, I've never known so much excitement other than your grandkids!*

*Who would've thought that after 27 years I would lose you? 27 years of laughs, 27 years of tears and 27 years of memories. But nothing compares to the last 3 weeks. Week 1, We had a talk and I let you know I heard you and I was doing what you had been trying to get me to understand. Week 2, we both were busy, but we checked in OFTEN. Mommy even said, "I know Fe happy she has you all to herself, BRAT!" and I was!! The start of week 3 was by far the scariest day for both of us. Your breathing was so bad you collapsed, and it literally scared to me to the point I threatened to take you to the hospital, but you asked for more time and i gave it you. I was so afraid to sleep I stayed up until about 6 am. Then my phone rang telling me to get you to the hospital and I did just that! And I was there with you E V E R Y D A Y!! I wasn't trying to leave you, but I couldn't stand to see you in that bed. Every day you asked for something new; first it was a snickers, then it was chicken nuggets, then a lemon cake and your earpiece charger/case, but the last thing you asked for that you really wanted was a strawberry crush. Each time I forgot it but I knew deep down you didn't need it. Now here we are at week 3.5 and it got to the point where you can barely respond but you could talk enough to say, "HEY FE!!" and "I love you too" but the worse of them all "I'm so scared Fe! I don't know why but I'm scared Fe!" I told you to hold my hand and say "I shall live and not die" then I said "remember after the accident and whenever I got scared you told me to call on Jesus, do that and everything is gonna be ok. I promise! You have to live, you have so much to see!" You responded with "I shall live and not die! I'm gone live! Live live live live!" And no matter how much it hurts you are living; you're living with our Heavenly Father! Congratulations Daddy! You got the greatest reward!*

*I love you so much and there will never be a day I'm not thinking about you!*

*Forever Your Daddy's Girl  
Louise*

*P.s I still don't know why you called me that and I guess I'll never know now lol*