



### "I'M FREE"

Don't grieve for me for now I'm free,  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard him call,  
I turned my back and left it all  
I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work or play  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I've found that peace at the close of day  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah yes, these things I too will miss  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow  
My life's been full, I've savored much,  
Good friends, good times, my loved one's touch  
If my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief  
Lift up your heart, rejoice with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free.

Floral and Pall Bearers

Class of 1990  
Cousin and Friends

### NOTE OF THANKS

We, the family of Deacon Torben Gray, would like to thank everyone for your many acts of kindness given in calls, text, hugs and love shown during the passing of our beloved. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.



### ARRANGEMENTS WERE ENTRUSTED TO:

Gregory Funeral Service, Inc. | 601 North York Street  
Gastonia, North Carolina 28852 | 704-867-4364  
[www.gregoryfuneralservice.com](http://www.gregoryfuneralservice.com)

# Celebration of Life and Legacy of Deacon Torben Gray

"Top"



**COWBOYS**

November 6, 1971 - July 6, 2024

Saturday; July 13, 2024  
1:00 p.m.

Friendship Christian Church  
221 W. Bradley Avenue  
Gastonia, North Carolina

Bishop John A. McCullough II, Senior Pastor  
Reverend Robert O. Setzer, Officiating



## Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Receiving of Family and Friends.....12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

Invocation.....Rev. Robert O. Setzer  
Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church

Musical Selection....."In My Home Over There" .....Maria Howell  
1st Cousin

Scripture Readings

Old Testament.....Elder Curtis Lawrence

New Testament.....Rev. Hurley R. Smith, Jr.

Prayer of Comfort.....Dr. William Bessent  
St. John Missionary Baptist Church

Remarks (2 mins please).....Evangelist Vicky Clinton  
Community, Social, Human, and Civil Rights Activist  
Thomas Washington, *President of Class of 1990*  
Deacon Dean Burris, *Family*  
Mark Howell, *Cousin*  
Kaitlyn Windham, *Fresenius Kidney Care*  
Rev. Dr. Rodney Glover, *Family*  
Chris Magee, Jr., *Nephew*

Acknowledgements.....Maria Howell  
1st cousin

Musical Selection....."My Soul's Been Anchored" .....Pastor Ricky Collins

Words of Comfort.....Rev. Sean Gray

Benediction.....Rev. Sean Gray

Recessional

Committal and Interment  
Rose Hill Cemetery  
Gastonia, North Carolina





## Obituary

Deacon Torben Gray entered into eternal rest on Saturday July 6, 2024 at Caromont Regional Health. He was born on November 6, 1971 to Doris and Perry Gray. Deacon Gray was affectionately called "Top", a name given to him at birth by his Uncle Buddy Howell. Deacon Gray graduated from Hunter Huss High School in the class of 1990. He attended A&T State University and ECPI in Charlotte, NC. He worked at Stabilus, Armtex, and Wine & Design where he was an art instructor. Many of the participants always said that he was so gifted and they really enjoyed his classes. He was always so kind and considerate to everyone. Deacon Gray loved God and he joined the St. Paul Baptist Church in 1983 with his sister, Latoya. He was a man of many talents. He was a choir member, a lay speaker, Deacon, Sunday School teacher, and he taught Bible Study on many occasions.

He was a member of the original Gaston County Mass Choir under the direction of Donald Lawrence and Richard Odom. Deacon Gray was an oratorical contestant and he loved to go to the JJ Johnson campsite. He drove the church van and took members to various outings in the area.

Deacon Gray didn't have a mean bone in his body. There will never be another one like him. People like him only show up once in a lifetime. He never had a cross-word to say about anyone and he would light up any room that he entered. Respectful to all that he encountered and the nurses and doctors at Fresenius Dialysis Center adored him.

Deacon Gray was a loving son, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend. The world lost a jewel on 7/6/2024 and there will never be another "young Torben" as Dr. Prince referred to him. Torben was also an avid Dallas Cowboy and North Carolina Tarheels fan. He loved watching "Friends", "Seinfeld", and "The Golden Girls."

Deacon Gray is survived by his parents: Doris and Perry Gray; his sisters, Latoya Magee, Kia Degree, and Teresa Robbins; two brothers, Tracy Cathcart (Trena) and Tyrone Cathcart (Charlene); aunts, Rhonda Butler (Tom), Annie Gregory, and Willie Cathcart; uncles, Edward Gregory and Alfred Gregory. He is also survived by nieces, Cayla Magee, Kayla Cathcart, Kyndal Cathcart, Skye Smith, and Quantasia Herndon; two nephews, Chris Magee, Jr. and Tyler Cathcart. Top was blessed to grow up surrounded by his special 1st cousins: Maria Howell, Mark Howell, Cynthia Burris, Sandra Jackson, Lisa Brooks, Andrea Setzer, Michele Glover, Kevin Glover, Debra Glover, Sean Gray, Tonya Lawrence, Jada Davis, Dwahn Cathcart, Sharon Lacey, Jameal Moore, Obe Gray, Brian Gregory, Edgar Gregory, Terri Gregory, Elaine Gregory, and Jasmine Hall.

Deacon Gray was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Edward and Ollie Gregory, his paternal grandparents, Viola and J.D. Gray. Great grandparents, Geneva and Alfred Gregory, Roy Johnson and Ophelia Sanders, Alberta and Robert Kendrick, Annie and Columbus Gray. Uncles, William "Buddy" Howell, George Gregory, Thomas Gray, and James Glover. Aunts, Virginia Howell, Barbara Glover, Patricia Cathcart, and Katie Gray. Great Aunts, Clara J. Gregory, Fairy Gregory, Clara Davis, Dorothy Gregory, and Elizabeth Gregory, Jeanne Gregory, Elizabeth Chrisco, Lula Tate. Great Uncles Raymond Gregory, George A. Gregory, Alfred Gregory, Chris Chrisco, and John Wallace.

Such a kind, gentle soul has left the old world and now resides with Jesus. The Lord says, "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8). Take your rest our dear son, grandson, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend, we will see you afterwhile!

Dear Uncle Top,

You have always been the best uncle that a niece could've ever asked for. From the moment I was born, you've always been my best friend. You've taught me things in life that have helped me become the person I am today! Your smile and laugh were always my favorite thing to see and hear. You have healed so many wounds. Top, I love you so so much! Take your well-deserved rest that you deserve. You will always remain my sweet Uncle Top, and my best friend. I'll see you again one day! I love you more than anything! -Cayla

# MEMORIES

