

Order of Service

Prelude
ProcessionalFamily and Friend
Reception of Friends 12:30 pm -1:00 pm
Opening Hymn.....What A Friend We Have In Jesus
Call to WorshipRev. Dr. Carolyn Dewberry
InvocationRev. Dr. Carolyn Dewberry
Hymn of Faith.....Blessed Assurance
Scripture
The Old TestamentPsalm 27:1-14
Pastor George Floyd
The Affirmation of Faith.....Rev. Dr. Carolyn Dewberry
Gloria Patri
The New TestamentJohn 14:1-6
Pastor George Floyd
Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. Thomas Jackson
Remarks.....Friend, Jerry Clark
Niece, Tausha P. Wright
Niece, Dr. Sonya Gunnings-Moton
Selection.....His Eye Is On the Sparrow
Tina Padgett
Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Carolyn Dewberry
RecessionalWhat Are They Doing in Heaven Today

—INTERMENT—
Rose Hill Cemetery
Gastonia, North Carolina



Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me;
for I am meek and lowly in heart;
and ye shall find rest upon your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
St. Matthew Chapter 11 verses 28-30

Floral Bearers
Friends and Family

Pall Bearers
Friends and Family

In Gratitude

We want to express our heartfelt thanks for your support,
sympathy, and acts of loving care during this difficult time. We truly
appreciate your thoughtfulness and how you have helped our
family. Your kindness will always be remembered.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that
donations be made to:
St. Stephens AME Zion Church
201 W. Franklin Boulevard
Gastonia, North Carolina 28052



2425 West Franklin Boulevard | Gastonia, North Carolina 28052
Telephone: 704-864-6787 Fax: 704-864-6793 |www.costnerfuneralhome.com

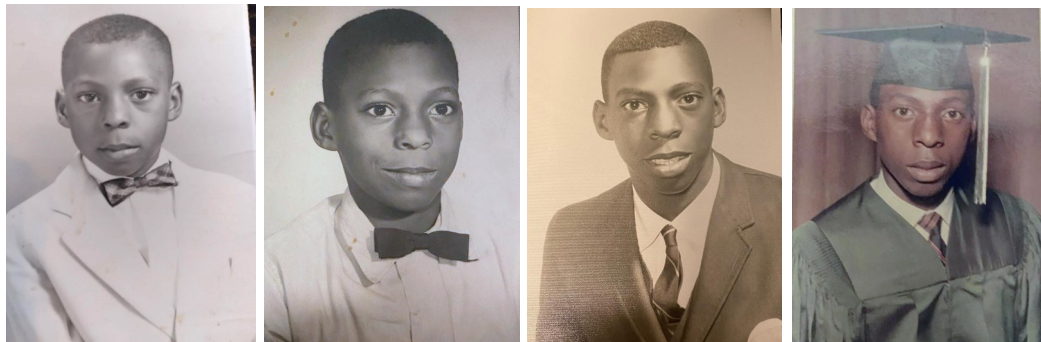
CELEBRATING
THE LIFE OF



Derek Lee Byrd

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2024
1:00 pm

ST. STEPHENS A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
201 WEST FRANKLIN BOULEVARD
GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA 28052
REV. DR. CAROLYN DEWBERRY, OFFICIANT



Derek Lee Byrd

March 28, 1950 – November 20, 2024

Derek Lee Byrd, 74, passed away peacefully on November 20, 2024 at Saber Health and Rehab Center. He was preceded in death by his father (Willie Mitchell Byrd), mother (Marie Floyd Byrd), sisters (Teretha Byrd, Ernestine Byrd, Christine Byrd), and brother (William Jefferson Byrd).

Derek's spiritual journey began in his childhood at New High Springs Baptist Church, where he participated actively in church activities and developed a strong foundation of faith. In later years, he became a member of St. Stephens AME Zion Church.

Derek graduated from Frank L. Ashley Senior High School, where he excelled both academically and extracurricularly. Derek continued his education at North Carolina Central University, demonstrating his commitment to personal growth and lifelong learning.

Derek dedicated his life to serving others. He began his professional journey as a Gastonia Police Officer. His dedication to public safety and his compassionate nature earned him the respect of both colleagues and citizens alike. After several years of honorable service in law enforcement, Derek transitioned to a new role at Sears Department Store. It was there, that he spent most of his career.

In the later years of his career, Derek found renewed purpose as a Gastonia City Bus Driver. In this role, he continued to serve the community by providing safe and reliable transportation for countless residents and he always greeting his passengers with a warm smile and a kind word.

Derek is survived by his loving children D'Ereka Byrd, and Derek Byrd Jr. He had one granddaughter who he adored, Peyton Byrd. He is also survived by two sisters, Dr. Barbara Byrd Gunnings and Joyce Byrd Fisher, and a large extended family, including numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews who cherished his presence and guidance.

Derek's legacy is one of unwavering dedication, kindness, and service. He will be remembered not only for his professional accomplishments but also for his warm heart, steadfast character, and positive impact he had on everyone around him.

Derek's spirit will forever remain in the hearts of his family, friends, and the entire Gastonia community. His memory will be a guiding light and a source of inspiration for all who knew and loved him.

Rest in peace, Derek.

