

HONORING THE SPIRIT OF



Donald Maurice Bryant

Sunrise: April 2, 1942 - Sunset: December 26, 2025

A Legacy of Music

Donald Maurice Bryant was born on April 2, 1942, to Edward and Margie Bryant. The fifth of ten children, Don carried music in his bones from his earliest days. What began as a childhood love of singing grew into a lifelong calling—one devoted to writing, performing, entertaining, and sharing his voice with the world. His talent was unmistakable, but it was his warmth and spirit that truly set him apart.

Don was a lifelong member of Carnegie Church of God in Christ, where he faithfully worshiped and served under two generations of the McNeal family's leadership. He accepted Christ at a young age and dedicated many years to the church as Minister of Music, using his gift to uplift, inspire, and bring joy to the congregation.

A graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, Don's early years were marked by a deep commitment to music. He was a member of the vocal quartet the Four Kings, whose talents led them to perform with Willie Mitchell's band. These formative experiences opened the door for Don to sign with Willie Mitchell and Hi Records as a solo artist—a pivotal chapter in his life and the season in which he met the love of his life, Ann Peebles.

Don built a beautiful life rooted in devotion, creativity, and family. For more than fifty years, he walked hand-in-hand with Ann, and together they created a home filled with love, laughter, stories, and song.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, his son, a sister, and five brothers.

He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife, Ann; his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; his siblings; nieces and nephews; and a host of family members and friends who will forever feel his melody in their hearts.

Order of Service

Processional

Prayer & Scripture

Reverend Hilda D. Taylor

Selection

Shirley Brown, Recording Artist

Words of Encouragement

Reverend Charles Hodges
New Bethel M.B.C.

Reflections

Scott Bomar, Bo-Keys Band Leader
David Porter, High School Friend
Kermit Moore, Church Member
Bryant Terry, Nephew
Aaliyah Bryant, Granddaughter
Terrance Bryant, Grandson

Resolutions/Acknowledgements

Kelsey Taylor

Selection

Kirk Smothers, Bo-Keys Saxophonist

Eulogy

Pastor Stephen C. McNeal, MDiv
Gloryland Deliverance Temple C.O.G.I.C

“Rest Well (Brave Soldier)”

Donald Maurice Bryant, Recorded 2000

Recessional

HIS NAME REMAINS

To the ones who knew him as **Dad** or **Daddy**,
remember how love sounded—
a playful “knucklehead,”
a tender “sweetheart,”
each name holding
his warmth, his care,
and the safety of being loved.

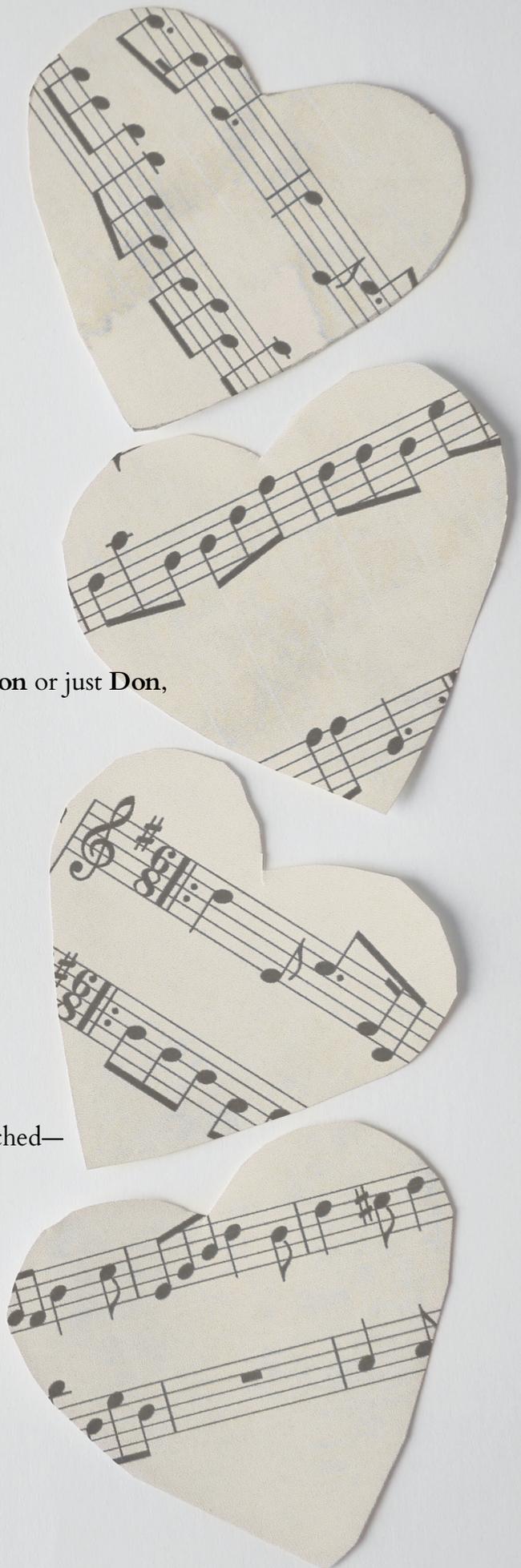
To those who called him **Granddaddy**,
remember the joyful chaos—
tickle marathons, silly songs,
and the kind of laughter that made
even the smallest days feel big.

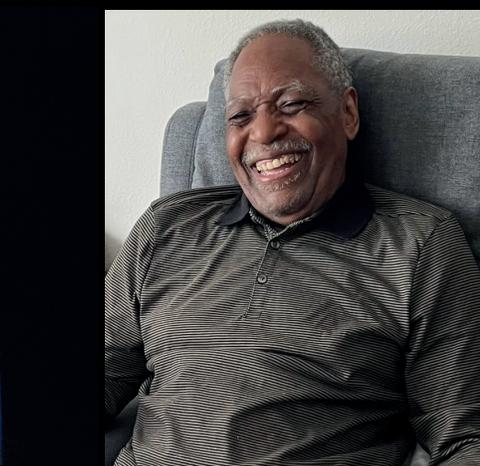
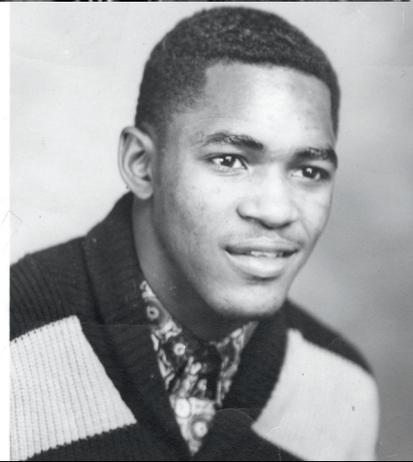
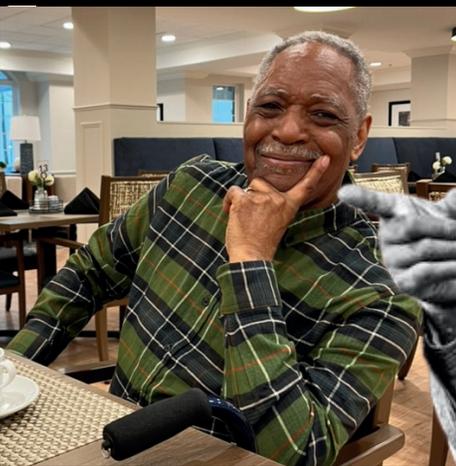
To the little ones who lovingly called him **Grandpa Don** or just **Don**,
hold close the gentle hands, warm hugs,
and stories told with a sparkle in his eye—
a great-grandfather whose kindness
fit perfectly into tiny hearts.

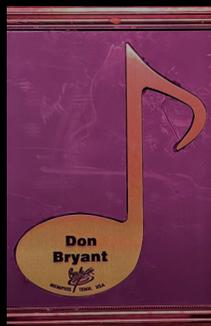
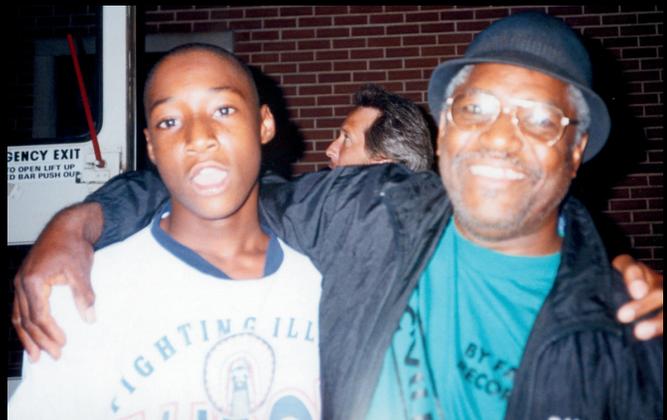
To those who called him **Uncle Don**,
keep the memories of mischief and wisdom,
the way he showed up—
with humor, with heart,
with a presence that made every gathering feel whole.

And for everyone who knew him simply as **Don**—
family, friends, neighbors, fans, and all the lives he touched—
honor the entertainer,
the storyteller, the song in the room,
the man who carried music in his soul
and shared it generously with us all.

These are the names we called him.
These are the pieces of him to keep.
And though he has sung his final earthly note,
his name remains—
spoken, remembered,
and carried forward in love.









Acknowledgements

The family of Don Bryant would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the staff of The Avaline at River Oaks, whose compassion, professionalism, and genuine care made such a meaningful difference during his time there—especially in his final days. Your kindness did not go unnoticed and will always be remembered.

We are deeply thankful for the relatives, church family, and friends who visited, checked in, prayed, called, and surrounded him with love and encouragement. Your presence and support brought comfort not only to him, but to our entire family.

We also wish to thank his friends in the music industry and the many fans whose messages, kind words, and shared memories spoke volumes about the impact he had through his music and his life. Knowing how deeply he was loved and admired has been a great source of comfort.

Finally, we extend our sincere appreciation to N.J. Ford and Sons Funeral Home for their guidance, professionalism, and care during this time.

Honorary Pallbearers

Kenneth Bryant
Terrance Bryant
Paul Brown

Kevin Cathey
David Freeman
Jamond Ware

Arrangements

N.J. Ford and Sons Funeral Home
12 South Parkway | Memphis, TN 38109

Interment & Repast

Memphis Funeral Home and Memorial Gardens
3700 North Germantown Parkway | Bartlett, TN 38133

