



- HIS WORDS -

"Keep the main thing the main thing."

"Slow down, calm down, think of the long game."

"It's chess, not checkers."

"...I have witnessed the power of diversity and how it allows all children to achieve, excel and acquire excellence. I truly believe diversity is our strength."



- INTERMENT -
Auburn Memorial Park Cemetery

- ACKNOWLEDGMENT -

The family of the late Dr. Jonathan Ponds acknowledges with grateful appreciation all acts of kindness, prayers, cards, telephone calls, flowers and words of comfort extended to us during our time of bereavement. May God bless each one of you.

- REPAST -
Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church
2255 Wrights Mill Road
Auburn, AL 36830

IN MEMORIAM

May we take this opportunity to express sincere and deep appreciation for allowing us to serve you during this most difficult period. It is our constant aim to afford to the people of this community a service completed in all details and faultlessly executed with sympathy and understanding.



Final Arrangements Entrusted to:

Harris Funeral Home
Sympathetic, Courteous & Professional Service

515 South Sixth Street
Opelika, Alabama 36801
(334) 749-6583 Fax (334) 759-7018
www.harrisfuneralhomeinc.com

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



JONATHAN C.
PONDS, Ed.D.

"Do the right thing, even if it's hard. If you do the wrong thing, Your friends can't save you, but if you do the right thing, Your enemies can't touch you". By Coach Lou Holtz

MEMORIAL SERVICE
FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024 • 11:00 A.M.

HARRIS FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL
515 South Sixth Street • Opelika, AL 36801

REVEREND BERNARD ANDERSON, OFFICIATING

- THE OBITUARY -

Jonathan C. Ponds, the son of Mrs. Betty Smith Ponds and the late Mr. John Ponds, was born on May 22, 1972, in Macon County, Alabama. His life was a testament to love, as he dedicated himself to loving and empowering others to see themselves as Christ sees them - chosen, accomplished heirs destined to make an impact. And, because of this divine mission, the world will never be the same.

Jonathan leaves to cherish his memory: the loves of his life, wife Jenna and sons, Caleb, Ethan, and Jadon Ponds of North Brunswick, NJ; mother, Betty Ponds of Auburn, AL; sisters, Tonya Balaam-Reed of Auburn, AL and Sonya Ponds (David Ngegba) of Silver Spring, MD; father and mother-in-law, Dean and Jennifer Lichtman of Cream Ridge, NJ; brothers-in law, Joseph (Tina) Lichtmann of Ewing, NJ, Zachary (Joanne) Lichtmann of Somerset, NJ; six aunts, Glendia (Huey) Love, Janifur (Michael) Stringer both of Auburn, AL, Janette Ponds of Frankfort, KY, Mary Joyce Dowdell, Jacqueline Ware both of Loachapoka, AL and Earlean Ponds of Opelika, AL; two nephews; three nieces; and a host of other relatives and friends.



THOUGHTS FROM JENNA:

“His love for me and mine for him ran so deep. We admired each other’s strengths and buffed away the edges of our weaknesses.

“Our boys were the absolute highlights of his life. And nothing, nothing came before them. He was the softest person when it came to his boys. They could do no wrong. He guided them on life’s challenges with such care and thought. In the times that he would get upset about whatever the situation was, he was truly mindful to try and turn down those reactions. He would give them some time and then say, “Come on, let’s have a talk.”

“At times when I would fuss about whatever mess in the house or who colored the wall, he would call out from wherever he was in the house and say, “I did it. It was me. Sorry, won’t happen again.” He always took the blame. The kids thought it was hilarious and started saying. “Daddy did it,” even when he was at work!!

He wanted them to understand that he was always on their side. He was our rock, steady and solid. And to our boys, Caleb, Ethan and Jadon, I want you to know that I got you.

“Family always came first. His love for his family and mine too, was paramount. Before his Dad passed seven years ago, he promised him that he would take care of his mom and his family. And Betty Ponds I want you to know that I got you. And to all of his family, I got you too. I love you like I loved him.”

- THE ORDER OF SERVICE -

Processional Clergy and Family

Scripture Readings:
Old Testament Victoria Turner
Psalm 46
New Testament..... Bettina Ponds
1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

Prayer of Comfort..... Congregation

Dear Heavenly Father, we come together in gratitude for Jonathan Ponds’ life and the memories we shared with him. As we remember these moments with joy, we find solace in knowing that he is now with you, stronger than ever, and interceding for us without ceasing. May his legacy unite us in faith, supporting and reassuring all of us who knew and loved him. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Expressions of LoveTwo Minutes Per Person
Anyone Welcomed

Musical SelectionRegina D. Lewis - Kennedy

EulogyReverend Bernard Anderson

Musical Selection Recording of CeCe Winan’s
“Worth of It All”

Recessional