

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Flower Bearers

Class of 2018
Zeta Psi Sigma

Pallbearers

Class of 2018

Acknowledgments

The family acknowledges, with sincere thanks and appreciation, the many comforting calls, visits, messages, floral tributes, cards, prayers, and other expressions of kindness evidenced at this time in thought and deed. Your thoughtfulness is a testament of God's love and your love. May God bless each one of you!

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Commissioner Ernest M. Johnson, Owner LFD

Programs By: Dr. Tabiyes M. Williams, Ed.D
229-376-1642
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YOU MATTERED TO ME

by Ruth Morris

You lived your life thinking that no one cared. You thought you were all alone, your heart feeling tattered
I am here to tell you that you were wrong
'Cause you see, [RJ], to me you mattered.

I loved you when you were angry and mean. I loved you when you were kind as could be. I loved you not just because I had to

I loved you because you mattered to me.
It hurts to know that now you're gone
And never will your face again I see
I hurt not because I am supposed to
I hurt because you mattered to me.
I have to love on each day without you
It doesn't get easier as it is supposed to be
I feel the loss of you to my very soul
Because you see, [RJ], you mattered to me.

Your touch, your smile, your funny wit,
The times it was just you and me
[We] will miss you, [little brother], with all [our] heart
'Cause you still matter to [us].

Love Brina, Morgan, Quay, Maya,
Jazmyn, Jaylon, Corbin, Jayce, Jaxton,
Indra, and Josiah

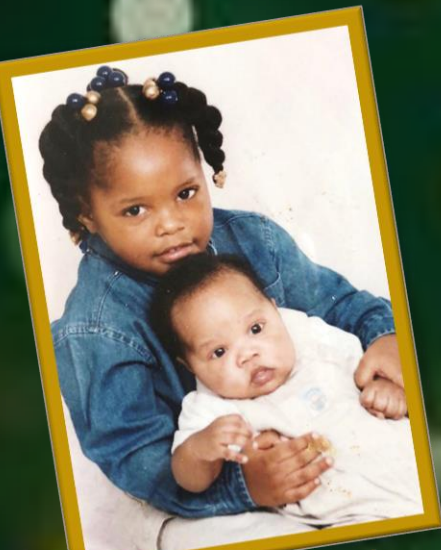
Rodney "RJ"
GARDNER JR.

NOVEMBER 23, 1999 — APRIL 12, 2024

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024
5:00 P.M.

JOHNSON & SON JOE MOORE MEMORIAL CHAPEL
184 CRAWFORD STREET NE
DAWSON, GA

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS



Recollection of Life

Rodney Maurice Gardner Jr. affectionately known as “RJ”, was born to Rodney Sr. & Valencia Gardner. At an early age, he accepted Christ as his Lord & Savior. He first joined Jerusalem Baptist Church and later moved his membership to Second Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Bronwood. He took pride in giving back to others & helping anyone who needed help.

He was educated in the public schools of Terrell County where he graduated in the Class of 2018. His love for sports started at the TC Recreational Dept. under the leadership of Coach Todd Coe where he played football. His love for basketball started at an early age. He became an honorary member of the Terrell High School basketball team while attending Lillie Cooper Primary School. Upon entering Terrell High School, he was coached and led by Coach John Davis, Coach Will “Pop” Weston, Coach Bernard Perkins, Coach Gervin, Coach Chambers, Coach Harris, Coach Cobb, and other coaching staff. Coach Davis and his staff recognized his “gift” and love for basketball and allowed him to start as a freshman. Also included in his basketball career were Coach Heavenly Whitehead and AAU coaches from Columbus, GA.

RJ enjoyed playing basketball, spending time with his nephews, little cousins, family, and the crew.

He is preceded in death by his grandfather, Eddie James “Sonny Pickett” Dority and grandmother, Ella Mae Gardner, who helped reared him and loved him as her own, and his beloved dog, Rocko.

He leaves abundant memories to be cherished by his parents, Rodney Sr. & Valencia Gardner; his sisters, Morgan Gardner and Maya Gardner; special brothers, Carlton and Shane; Godsister, Sebrina Hicks; Godbrother, Micheal Marcus; Godmother, Earea Woodson; nephews, Indra McGowan & Josiah Lewis, grandparents, Bernadine Dority & Robert Gardner (Ruth); aunts, Chandra Dority, DeAndrea Dority, Robyn Perry (Chris), Bernice Meeks (Jeff), and Machelie Gardner; uncles, Tracy Peters, Dennis Scott; cousins, Quay Hallback, Jayce, Jaxton, Corbin, Jaylon, Jazmyn, Khalil, Kimika, Vaquita, Shawn, Valencia, Ellis “Brown Baby” Brown, and Kevon Barnes; his second home/family, Bernard, Tonya, Olivia, and Vernon; his Crew; Class of 2018. A host of aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and cousin-friends (everybody was his cousin).



~Order of Service~

PROCESSIONAL

“Better Day”

Family & Friends

PRAYER

Rev. Willard O. Weston

SCRIPTURES

Old TestamentPastor Christopher Perry

New Testament Minister Clara Costello

REFLECTIONS

Rev. John Davis, Coach

SELECTION

Johnson & Son Funeral Service

EULOGY

Rev. Dr. LeTroy Lewis, Pastor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Johnson & Son Funeral Service

COMMITTAL RITUAL

Rev. Dr. LeTroy Lewis, Pastor

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Interment

Cedar Hill Cemetery

Dawson, GA



“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” Psalm 23:6