

HOME GOING CELEBRATION OF



# JOSEPH EDWARD DRYER

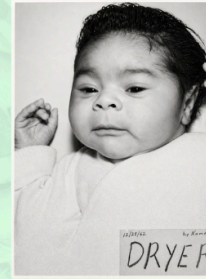
28 DECEMBER, 1962

29 APRIL, 2026

Join us in celebrating the life of a cherished father  
and friend whose life was guided by God, Love and  
Family



## *Obituary: Big Joe's Life and Legacy*



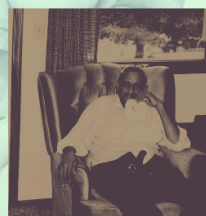
Joseph Edward Dryer was born December 28th, 1962 to Joseph Dryer and Gwendolyn Atkins Dryer in Sharon PA. Joe had a beautiful upbringing surrounded by love and support. He often, fondly spoke of going fishing with his dad and his cousins growing up. At age 13 Joseph's mother was called home to reunite with our Lord and Savior and in the wake of tragedy, Joe lost one mother but gained an army of mothers in his Aunts' Gloria, Thelma, Audrey, Virginia, Ruby, and Bernadine. His family would be the village to usher Joe into adulthood.



Joe graduated from Sharon high school in 1981. He was exceptional in mathematics and sports, particularly basketball and baseball. Joe spent three years at Youngstown University pursuing a degree in topics related to social work and criminal justice. His affinity for wanting to service his community showed in his academic pursuits.



Joe entered the workforce in his early 20s and would play pickup basketball games at the park in his spare time, where he would gain a reputation on the court due to his height and his agility.



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A few years later Joe would meet his sweetheart Earlean Crosby. Through his courtship of Earlean, Joe reaffirmed his faith and grew closer to God. The two wed on July 3rd 1993 and almost a year later would welcome their only child Tyson (Gwendolyn) Dryer on May 29th 1994.



With the responsibility of a new family, Joe would start his 20 plus year career at ABDD. He was a support care staff for people with disabilities. He cared for his clients like family, even inviting them to dinner.



Joe or "Big Joe" as family affectionately called him, was a pillar in his family and community. Big Joe was known in his community as a "giver". He would selflessly give food to his neighbors and transportation when able.

Joe was never too busy to help someone in need or to share a kind word. He would often give spiritual guidance and support to his family and friends. Often he would call his loved ones to provide counsel, and uplift them by sharing a laugh. Once Joe started his signature "snort of laughter" it was impossible not to smile with him.

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Joseph was also an instrument of God in the church. For over a decade, he ran the sound booth for Triumph Christian Center and Word Center Fellowship, while his wife Earlean would often sing.

Everyone who knew Joe, knew that he was an avid sports fan, particularly of the Pittsburgh Pirates and Steelers. He loved to watch wrestling, football and of course basketball, often coordinating with his Aunt Gloria to make sure she could watch the game. He enjoyed playing video games, especially Call of Duty, schooling streamers half his age and younger.

As he got older his health started to take a toll but Joe never stopped smiling and doing what he did best, spreading joy. In the weeks before his passing He was still telling dad jokes, watching his sports, and leading the family in prayer.



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Joseph Edward Dryer departed this life on Wednesday, April 29th at 7:00 p.m. He was preceded in death by his mother Gwendolyn Atkins Dryer, his father Joseph Dryer, his aunts Gertrude Atkins, Virginia Trice, Ruby Agee, Bernadine Barton, Thelma Bankston, and his uncles Kenneth Atkins, Vernon Atkins.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife Earlean Crosby-Dryer of Sharon Pennsylvania, his child Tyson Gwendolyn Dryer of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, his daughter in law Mia Davis-Dryer of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, His aunts Audrey Garrett and Gloria Atkins Askew of Youngstown Pennsylvania. Joe is also survived by his many cousins, extended family, spiritual family, and friends that cherished him. His, kindness, compassion, and love will be shared by all who knew him.



*Our last moments of touch was a heavenly one.  
Rest in Peace Dad*

## *Order of Celebration of Life Service*

Reverend Diane Thomas - **Officiant**

**Prelude**

**Invocation**

Reverend Diane Thomas

**Scripture Reading**

Old Testament: *Psalms 23:4* Minister William Dungee II

New Testament: *Thessalonians 4:13* Minister William Dungee II

**Ministry of Music**

Pastors Stephen and Tracey Mariner

*Jesus Loves Me, I know I've been Changed, Going up Yonder -  
Gospel Medly*

Vocalist: Kimberly Trice and Lori Adams

**A Time of Remembrance**

Family and Friends Expressions (2 min)

**Ministry of Music**

Pastors Stephen and Tracey Mariner

**Eulogy**

Pastor Dr. Sherese Newell

**Closing Prayer/ Benediction**



Number 54 to Number 22: Big Joe was one of many supportive parents of the Sharon Regional Highschool Girls Basketball Team. He passed on his love of sports to his child and would drive them and their teammates back and forth to practice and games. His high school basketball coach Eugene Sarazon, was happy to have another Dryer on the court Number 22, and welcomed Joe's assistance with the team.



*"To me he was my Dad. He was my super hero. He was the person I looked up to. I got most of who I am from him" Tyson Gwendolyn Dryer*

*"Your dad was the most gentle, kindest person I knew. Your dad was kind and did not argue with anyone. He was a wonderful person all the way around as a kid, as he was an adult. He was wonderful. There was nothing bad you could say about Big Joe" - Cousin Tanya*



*"Joe was a giver. He loved helping his neighbor. He was a counselor. He had good advice for people, even me." Aunt (Luchey) Gloria*

*"When I first met you Papa Joe, you told me one of your dad jokes. As we got to know one another over the years, you would affectionately call me your daughter. You welcomed me into your family with love and compassion. I have many fond memories sitting in your living room while you attempted to explain sports to me. You were committed to making me a baseball fan. One of our last days together we watched wrestle mania while I fed you one of your favorite meals. I will love and carry you always" - Mia Davis-Dryer*