



*Aaron's journey reminds us of the power of perseverance, the importance of community, and the beauty of living life with passion. May his legacy continue to inspire those who knew and loved him. We pray that you rest peacefully, Aaron. You will be deeply missed. WE LOVE YOU!*



**PALLBEARERS**

Larry McDowell Jr.  
Gerrard Garrett  
Terrance Dobbs

Lorenzo Gladney  
Nigel Harris  
Matthew Dillard

**HONORARY PALLBEARERS**

Johnny McDowell  
Lonnie Marks, Jr  
Camron Scott

Harry Thomas  
Michael Craine  
Jovan Malvin

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*The McDowell family wishes to thank each of you for your outpouring of love and support. Perhaps you sent a card or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent flowers; if so, we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words that any friend could say. Perhaps you were not there at all; Just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, We sincerely THANK YOU SO MUCH, whatever the part. May GOD continue to bless and keep each of you!*

Arrangements Entrusted to:  
*Nabors Family Funeral Home*  
Lillie Nabors, L.F.D.E.  
470 W. 172nd St  
Thornton, Illinois 60476  
Office/Cell: 708-704-5023



*Expect Great Service...  
and Receive Greater.*



**OCTOBER 6, 1982 - NOVEMBER 24, 2024**

# THE LIFE REFLECTIONS OF...

## AARON JOHN McDOWELL

*"AJ Fresh"*

Aaron John McDowell, affectionately known as "AJ Fresh" to his friends and fans, was born on October 6, 1982, from the union of Elder Larry (deceased) and Adriane McDowell on the South Side of Chicago. The youngest of six children, Aaron was a source of joy and energy, his childhood marked by early mornings filled with cartoons, playing with action figures, sports, and video games. Although initially quiet and laid back, he would often surprise people by displaying his dancing talent. Aaron's loyalty and warmth cultivated lifelong friendships that stood the test of time. Terrance Dobbs remained his best friend since the 4th grade.

At the age of 19, Aaron's spiritual journey deepened when he was baptized in Jesus' name by his father, Pastor McDowell. Together, father and son spent countless hours discussing scripture, a bond that would leave an indelible mark on Aaron's life. Around this time, Aaron also began to experience his first challenges with mental illness which he faced with courage and resilience. Turning to writing and music therapy, he channeled his struggles into creative outlets, finding solace and purpose through his art.

Aaron's passion for music was the cornerstone of his life. After graduating from high school, he pursued certifications from Berklee College of Music and the Art Institute, refining his skills in music production. In 2009, he co-founded the Copastic Music Group with close friends, performing on stages throughout the Chicagoland area. The group's hard work culminated in a major opportunity in 2012 when they opened for The Man with the Iron Fists tour, headlined by Hip-Hop legend RZA of the Wu-Tang Clan. Under the moniker "Decisive," Aaron expressed his thoughts and experiences through his creative project, Decisive Moments.

In 2012, Aaron's life was forever changed with the birth of his beloved son, Caleb. Determined to be a dedicated father, Aaron shifted his focus to his professional career. He returned to school, earning his Bachelor's in Music Production in 2015 and later his Master's in Instructional Design from Full Sail University in 2016. His academic achievements propelled him into a thriving career as an Instructional Designer, a role he excelled in for the last seven years.

Aaron's professional journey was marked by tenacity and growth from adversity. He began his career as an Office Services Coordinator at Winston & Strawn LLP in 2004 and steadily rose through various roles at Xerox, DTI LLC, and Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney. After receiving his master's degree, Aaron embarked on a new chapter, working with esteemed organizations like Shure Incorporated, the International Code Council, and The Scion Group, where he continued to leave his mark through his innovative instructional designs.

Despite life's challenges, Aaron was resolute in his creative spirit and unyielding focus to define his legacy. On November 24, 2024, Aaron made his transition, leaving behind a life filled with achievements, creativity, and love.

Aaron is survived by his son, Caleb McDowell; his devoted mother, Adriane McDowell; siblings Angela Richards, Larry McDowell Jr. (Shelley), Andrea Craine (Michael), Lesley McKinley, Laura Garrett (Gerrard); and a host of family, friends, and colleagues who will cherish his memory.

# ONEPIECE

Breakfast in the mornings, while watching "OnePiece".

What OnePiece represents for me:

**O** - playing StreetFighter with my dad would have me Overjoyed. Knowing I will never get to speak to him again, leaves a void.

**N** - Noticeably my dad was astonishingly smart, and a Notebook Genius: Lyrically and Educationally.

**E** - the Empathy I have knowing my dad will never come to another basketball game, doctor's appointment nor graduation.

**P** - Peaceful, Passionate, Patient, and Polished. I think the letter P was designed for my dad, Perfectly.

**I** - Idiosyncrasies. A word many of us may never use, but my dad..., he was a human thesaurus. He was that Intelligent. His Idiosyncrasy was saying, "Happy Born Day".

**E** - Everlasting love, through thick or thin, so I'm writing this from within, saying this is not the End.

**C** - Crushed and Confused the feelings of my heart. For all the memories we Created that will never part. 'Caleb', the name given to me by my dad, who was smart.

**E** - Eternal Life. 2 Corinthians 5: 6-8 "We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord".

**E** - my father knew that "The Lord is my God" so he named me Elias.

**E** - Exodus 14:14 "The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace".

OnePiece is more than just an anime show. It represents the OnePiece of me that is forever missing and the OnePiece of my heart that I will hold you in and never let go.

Love Your "Sun",

**Caleb**



Saturday, December 7, 2024  
Visitation: 10:00 AM | Service: 11:00 AM  
**NEW ZION TEMPLE CHURCH**  
926 Morris Street | Hammond, IN 46320

Bishop Brandon A. Jacobs, Sr., Pastor

## ORDER OF SERVICE

Master of Ceremony	Pastor Andre Linton
Musical Prelude	Minister Christian Bishop
Processional	Entrance of Family
Scripture Reading:	Romans 8:38:39 Elder Jason Dixon
Prayer	Evangelist Deborah Delashment
Musical Selection	Dr. Michel Linton
Acknowledgments & Resolutions	Elder Cassandra Giles
Remarks	(Please limit to 2 minutes)
Poetry Reading	Caleb Aiden Elias McDowell
Family Expressions	Members of Family
Life Reflections	Evangelist Jennifer Blair
Musical Selection	New Zion Temple Choir
Words of Comfort	Bishop Brandon A. Jacobs, Sr.

Reviewal

Benediction

Recessional

### INTERMENT

Mt. Glenwood Memory Gardens  
18301 S Glenwood-Thornton Road  
Glenwood, IL 60476