

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



Darren Vance Washington

Sunrise – October 29, 1961

Sunset – October 4, 2025

Saturday, October 11, 2025
Wake: 10:00AM
Service 11:00AM



Celebration

OF A GENTLE SOUL FOR A LIFE WELL-LIVED AND WELL-LOVED

Darren Vance Washington affectionately known by those who expressed various terms of endearment to describe what he meant to them (Man, Lil Bro, Daddy/Daddy-Mac, Uncle Darren) was born October 29, 1961 to Janet Christmas Washington and Willard Vance Washington on a late Sunday evening at Provident Hospital in Chicago, Illinois at 9:37 P.M. Darren passed away peacefully very early Saturday morning on October 4, 2025 at the splendid age of 63.

Darren's "life-well lived and loved" will be remembered as a great source of joy as a son to his parents; an amazingly strong brother to his sister; a sanctified man of God unto the Lord; an admirably loyal friend, and a caring loving father to his children.

Son of Joy

Darren Vance was born as an 8-pound plus, bountiful baby boy who brought great joy to both of his parents. He was genuinely an obedient son and was most helpful and supportive of them during their lives. His mother would joyfully declare the fact that she was a saved, born-again believer during her pregnancy with Darren Vance. He had a close relationship with his gracious mother, who poured into him the significant value of Father God's love for us. At every stage of Darren's life, until she went home to be with the Lord, she instilled in him a love for God, love of family, and the continuous pursuit of his life's mission as ordained by God. She helped him cultivate his faith walk and he remembered that he was her son of joy. He and his dad both embraced a keen sense of perspective and thought process that was meticulously detailed in their conversations with one another and in their interactions with others. Because of their treasured relationship, Darren Vance was a true son of joy to his father.

Amazingly Strong Brother

Darren was always seen as a quiet person; yet what was unseen was his quiet pain. God anointed Darren Vance with amazing strengths of character in his ability to forgive the unforgivable. He pressed forward in his quest for comfort, and in this search, he heard the account of the man called Jesus and found that the pain which sought to derail his purpose on earth was swallowed up in his surrender to salvation and the beginning of healing. For every blow from the enemy of the human soul, the amazingly strong Darren Vance, remained faithful to his Father God. He may have had questions about the pain, but he never accused his Lord. On September 18, 2025, his body, soul, and spirit were ready to meet his Savior Jesus Christ. After a Holy Spirit prayer, he slightly lifted his hands towards heaven and softly praised Father God with an amazing "hallelujah!" Even when he was no longer able to speak, until the day he left this Earth, he demonstrated that he was and will always be remembered as an amazingly strong brother!

Sanctified Man of God

The term sanctified has been in existence since the beginning of time. Darren Vance never shied away from his identification as a sanctified man of God. He accepted and believed the Holy Bible account of Jesus Christ being the Savior of the world for all humanity. At the tender age of thirteen, Darren Vance desired this salvation experience; therefore, after he prayed the sinner's prayer for salvation found in the Book of Romans, Chapter 10, Verse 9, he rejoiced that he was now saved from his painful past and prepared for life on Earth and in eternity. Although, as any and most humans encounter real temptation, Darren Vance chose to be a sanctified man of God in that he remained committed, dedicated, and unwilling to forfeit his treasured relationship with his God for a few fleeting moments of a selfish lifestyle that would lead to separation from the Father he loved most. Hallelujah was the last praise heard before he went to abide in his eternal home with our loving father. Darren Vance is rejoicing; a sanctified man of God, is now absent from that old body of sickness and present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8). Hallelujah!

Admirably Loyal Friend

Over the years, Darren made friends easily and experienced varying and diverse friendships with many from all walks of life. These friendship encounters were from his "nursery school" days, elementary and high school; even during both his college and work life days. A vast number of his friends were from his foundational church, great people he bonded with from his loyal participation in the Monument of Faith Evangelistic Church's Broadcasting Ministry. Each person who had the privilege and pleasure to call him friend, would always remark that he was an admirably loyal friend to the end. He could always be counted on to carefully listen with

undivided attention and focus, think of an action plan, and be willing and able to come to the rescue if, and when needed. He would rarely say no to his friends. He would even rearrange his schedule to accommodate his friends. Wow, if this is not an example of an admirable loyal friend, we might not truly know what we think one might be.

Caring and Loving Father

Christopher Vance and April Nicole were born to the union of Darren and Audrie Washington who lovingly nurtured them together. Darren absolutely cherished his golden son and precious daughter. From the moment they were born, Darren showed great care in how he gently engaged with them, and lavished never-ending love upon them as only a father can. Not just any father, Darren Vance was a genuine godly Christian father. Darren was viewed as a quintessential standard of and for what fatherhood looks like in action. His children never had to question their Daddy/Daddy-Mac's care and love for them. Even in his sickness, he was always highly interested in and marveling about his children's successes as adults. Darren Vance was exceptionally unmatched in his care and love for his children.

Things He Loved and Enjoyed

Darren loved the color blue, enjoyed grape candy, and all things chocolate! - especially Hershey's Chocolate with Almonds. He was very fond of the game of golf. He also had a love for playing the sport of softball and baseball, of which he was extremely talented at, and even had a desire to play professionally as well. His favorite team was the Chicago White Sox, and he enjoyed watching those games with his son Christopher while they chatted and caught up on their favorite sports teams' latest highlights. He enjoyed spending time bonding with his baby girl April staying up late laughing, talking and catching up on their favorite TV shows. Darren also loved to sing and spend time with his children going to the show to catch the latest Marvel superhero movies.

Darren served faithfully at Monument of Faith Evangelistic Church in several ministries; including the Television Broadcasting ministry, Soul Winners ministry, Breakthrough Choir, Youth Choir, and as a Sunday School teacher. Darren had a love for public speaking and enthusiastically served in Toast Master's International as the Quaker Oats Chapter President from 1991 to 1992. Darren had a special gift to teach and he greatly enjoyed doing it.

Educational Achievements

- Van Vlissingen Elementary, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, IL, Diploma, 1975
- Percy L. Julian High School, first graduating class of brand-new school, Chicago, IL Diploma, 1979
- Chicago State University, Chicago, IL, BS in Marketing, 1983
- DePaul University, Chicago, IL, MBA in Marketing, 1987
- Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL, Secondary Teacher's Certificate, Business Education, 2004

Professional Career Accomplishments and Associated Roles

- Licensed Educator (2002-2012)
- Suburban High School Business Teacher, South Suburbs of Chicago, Districts 227 & 228
- Suburban Elementary Teacher, Western Suburb of Chicago, District 89
- College Adjunct Instructor, Robert Morris College, Orland Park, IL (1999-2005)
- Competent Toast Masters Certificate, (1990)
- Toastmasters International, Quaker Oats Company Chapter President (1991-1992)

1988-2012

- Customer Service Representative, Quaker Oats Company
- Asset Appraiser, Quaker Oats Company
- Managing Agent, Allstate Insurance Agency
- Sales Agent, Insure One
- Account Executive, Midwest Suburban Publishing
- Associate/Independent Contractor, Aflac Insurance
- Sales Associate, Marshall Fields & Company
- Accomplished Sales Consultant, CarMax Superstore

Professional Honors

- Outstanding Young Men of America, 1987

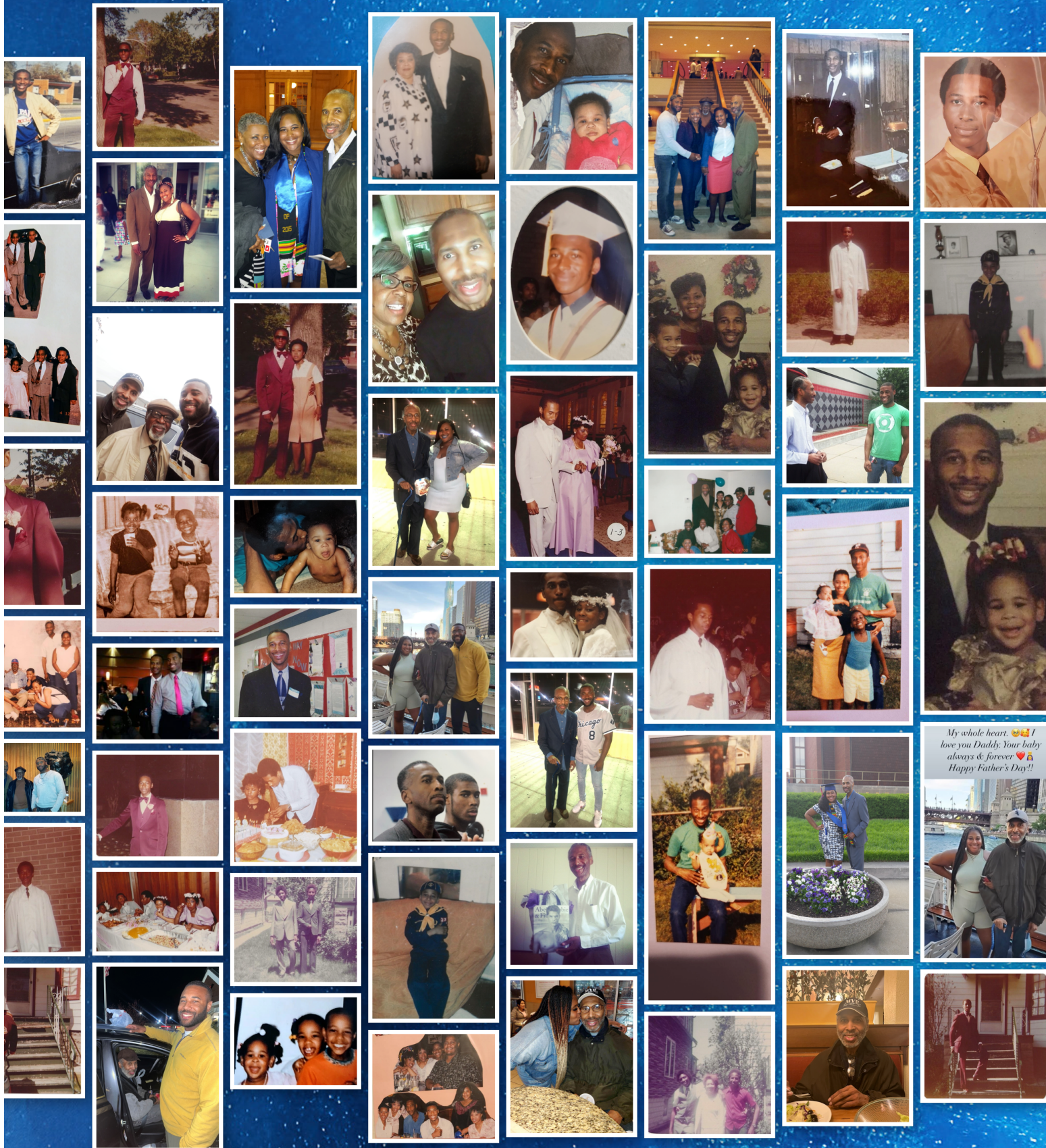
Community Service

- Junior Achievement Coordinator, 1992
- Big Brothers Tutor, 1999-2001

Darren Vance's gentle life, well-lived and well-loved legacy will live on in all of our minds and hearts and as we appropriately mourn the loss of his presence in this physical world, we will celebrate his place on this Earth as the best example of joy, strength, loyalty, caring and love. Darren Vance is preceded in death by his beloved mother Janet Christmas Washington, little brother David Washington. He is survived by his children April Nicole and Christopher Vance, father Elder Willard Vance Washington, big sister Cheryl Lynne Lopez (Brett); niece Laurenne Christiana; nephew Scott Brandon "Scottman," aunt Yvonne Marie Council; maternal cousins Jacqueline Dyer (Lee), Celeste Cooks (Dennis), Debra Lurena McGee (Freddie), Antuan Tyus, Armando Tyus, and Catina Marie Dees.

Psalm 37:23 says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and He delighteth in his way."





My whole heart, 🥰 I
love you Daddy. Your baby
always & forever ❤️ 🥰
Happy Father's Day!!

Forever In Our Hearts



Darren and I used to say to each other, "Baby, only you and I know how it really was." From Banky to Buh'Wheat.

Love your Big Sister, Cheryl Lynne

Hey Man, you know exactly how I felt about you. The cherished memories we shared will always hold a special place in my heart. I will always love and miss you.

Love, Dad

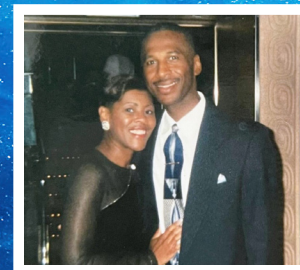


Daddy-Mac, you were an inspiration and a light to so many people. You showed me in ways you didn't even realize. There's a lot of you in me in every step I take. I love you and will miss you very much!

Your loving son, Chris

Darren, the memories we shared I will hold close for the rest of my life. The years we spent together are irreplaceable, and your influence remains with me. I will always honor your legacy with love, enduring gratitude, and sincere respect.

Love Audrie



Daddy,

I miss you more than words can say. While my heart heavily aches in your absence, I still feel your unconditional love all around me. You were my first love, my protector, and my greatest comfort - my steady place, my role model, and one of the truest reflections of Christ's love that I've ever known. Your impeccable character, strength, wisdom, and faith touched everyone who knew you and has everything to do with shaping me into the woman I am today. Your infectious laughter, your wisdom, and the way you ALWAYS made me feel safe will stay with me forever. You were the true epitome of what a father should be. I thank God for blessing me with you — for every hug, every talk, every prayer, and every single memory we shared. Nights we stayed up late on the couch watching all of our favorite shows were some of my favorite times with you. While I will never stop missing you, I have comfort knowing you are free now from all pain, whole, and at peace in the presence of Jesus. Until we meet again, Daddy, I'll keep your spirit alive in all I do. To the greatest man I've ever known - my gentle giant - I'll love you forever and always.

For Eternity,

Your Baby Girl April

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude Music

Processional

Scripture Reading

Brett Lopez, Brother in Love
Old Testament
New Testament

Prayer

Scott Lopez, Nephew

Musical Selection

Kristen Lowe

Tribute & Musical Selection

April Nicole Washington, Daughter

Tribute

Christopher Vance Washington, Son

Acknowledgement of Cards

Gwen Gaston-Gray

Remarks and Memories (2 minutes)

Tribute & Obituary Reading

Cheryl Lynne Lopez, Big Sister

Memorial Video Tribute

Lovingly Prepared by David Franklin, Close Friend

Musical Selection

Shannon Lowe & Kristen Lowe

Eulogy – Randy Glass

Assistant Pastor, Monument of Faith Evangelistic Church

Final Reviewal

Benediction

Recessional

Psalm 23:6 (ESV) "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Pallbearers

Christopher Vance Washington
Joe L. Walthour, Jr.
Scott Brandon Lopez
Brett Lopez
James Barnes, Jr.
Vince Browder

Honorary Pallbearer
David Franklin

Interment

(Immediately following service)
Mount Glenwood Memory Gardens Cemetery
18301 South Glenwood-Thornton Road
Glenwood, IL 60425

Repast

(Immediately following burial)
Nabors Family Funeral Home Banquet Hall
17135 Canal Street, South Holland, IL 60476

Acknowledgement

The family of Darren Vance Washington would like to express their sincere appreciation for every phone call, cards, floral tributes, and all other expressions of love. While it is difficult to let him go, we thank God for the time He blessed us with Darren. Please continue to keep our family in your prayers. May God's blessings be with each of you today and always.

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

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and Receive Greater.*

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