

A Letter from Stephen

To my family, my friends, and everyone whose life I was blessed to touch, I know your hearts are carrying a weight that words can't easily lift. If I could ask one thing of you today, it would be this don't let your memories of me be overshadowed by the pain of losing me.

Think of the laughs we shared, the stories we told, the meals we enjoyed, the hugs, the jokes, and the moments that made us family. That's how I hope you'll remember me. Please don't spend your days asking "Why?" Instead, cherish the time God allowed us to have together. Every moment was a gift, and every memory is a treasure no one can ever take away.

To my children, know that my love for you never stopped for a single second. Carry yourselves with strength, kindness, integrity, and faith. Take care of one another, make me proud, and never doubt how deeply you were loved.

To my Mother, Thank you for giving me life, for loving me through every season, and for always being my biggest supporter. I know no parent ever expects to say goodbye to their child, and I wish I could take away your pain. Please don't let your heart be consumed by the way I left this world. Instead, remember the years we shared, the love we had, and the bond that can never be erased. I loved you first, and I love you forever.

To my Sisters, thank you for standing beside me through life's victories and challenges. Hold each other close. Forgive often. Say "I love you" while you have the chance. Life is precious, and tomorrow is never promised. To my Nieces and Nephews, always remember who "Uncle Stevie" was to you. I love you so much, take care of your mothers.

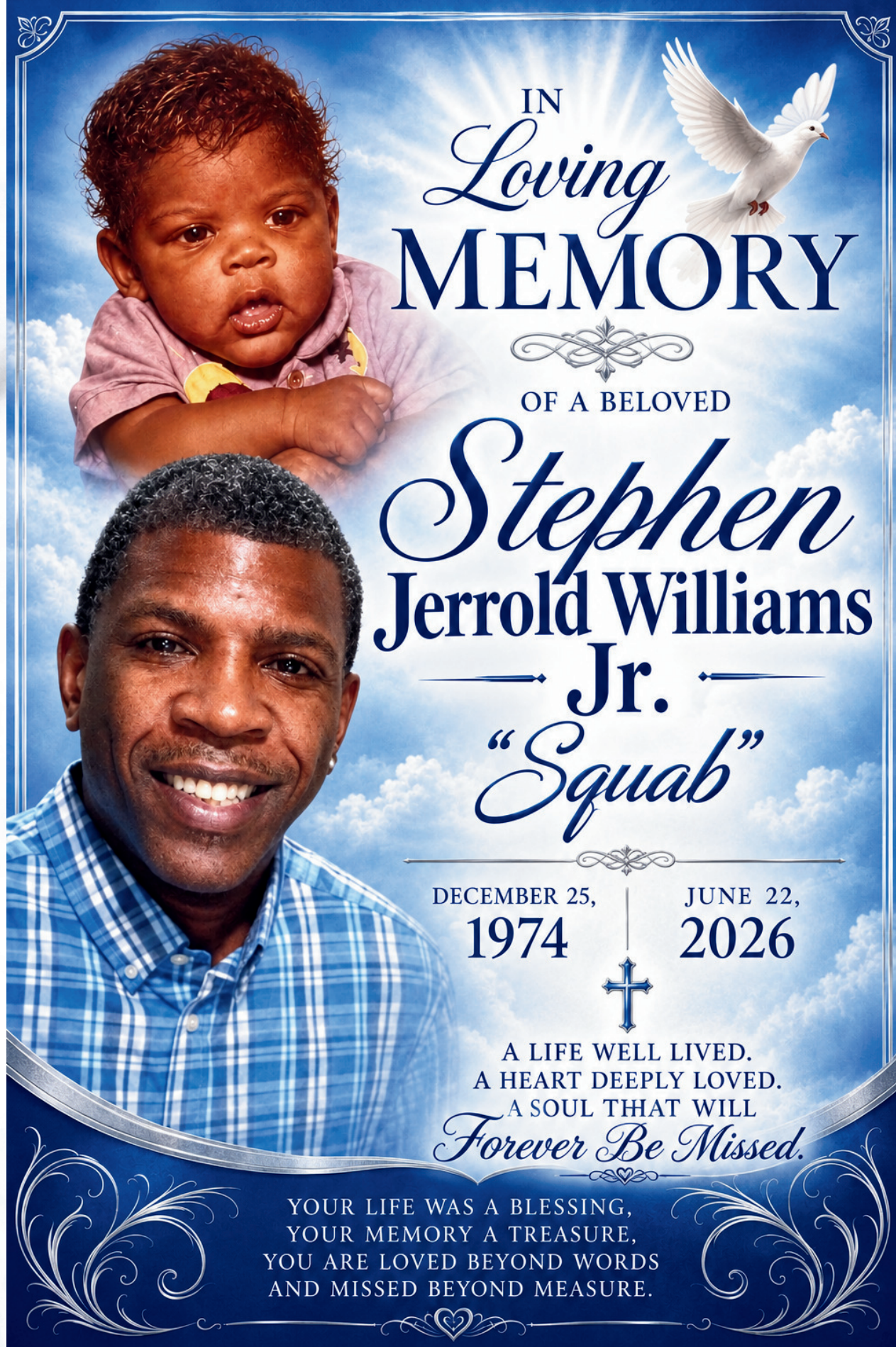
To my friends, thank you for every smile, every conversation, every helping hand, and every memory we created together. You helped make my life richer than words can express.

Though my journey on earth has ended, don't let yours stop here. Keep living. Keep laughing. Keep loving. Celebrate birthdays. Cheer for one another. Tell stories about me that make everyone laugh until they cry. Let my name bring smiles before it brings tears.

And whenever you think of me, don't only remember the day I left. Remember the life I lived, the love I gave, and the people who made that life worth living. The greatest gift I ever received was being loved by all of you. Until we meet again, hold tightly to one another, lean on God's promises, and keep the faith.

With all my love,

Stephen Jerrold Williams "Squab"
December 25, 1974 – June 22, 2026



With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Stephen Jerrold Williams Jr., lovingly known as “Sunny Black” or “Squab,” who departed this life on June 22, 2026, in Knoxville, Tennessee. Stephen was born on December 25, 1974, in Des Moines, Iowa, where his story began, Stephen had a life marked by laughter, creativity, resilience, and an unforgettable personality.

Stephen never met a stranger. He had a gift for making people laugh, whether through his stand-up comedy style, playful teasing, or cracking jokes with family and friends. His smile was contagious, and his sense of humor could brighten even the darkest days.

A talented chef, Stephen enjoyed preparing meals that brought people together. He was also known as the person who could fix just about anything, always willing to lend a helping hand. His artistic abilities reflected his creative spirit, while his later-in-life fascination with conspiracy theories often sparked conversations that left others thinking long after they ended.

Stephen was affectionately known by two nicknames that reflected different parts of his personality. He was lovingly called “Sunny Black” because of his handsome appearance and the bright, sunny smile that could light up any room. He was also known as “Squab” short for ***“Squabble”***a nickname earned for his reputation as a formidable street fighter. Though life shaped him in many ways, those who knew and loved Stephen will remember him most for his unwavering loyalty, infectious laughter, generous heart, and deep love for his family

Stephen was preceded in death by his beloved daughter, Raylena Williams; his father, Stephen Jerrold Williams Sr.,U.S. Army; his maternal grandparents, Frances Mae Morrison and Cleo D. Morrison,U.S. Army; and his paternal grandparents, Lucy Willis and Logan Willis.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory his loving mother, Terry Dobbins; his sons, Deontya of Houston, Texas; Don’ Taevis of Des Moines, Iowa his daughter, Tajah of Norfolk, Virginia; and his treasured grandchildren, Serenity, Dejonte, and Demri McMillan.

Stephen is also survived by his devoted sisters, Sonya, Chasidy, and Tiffany; three nieces; six nephews; his lifelong best friends, Jerry Clark and Jermaine Fristo; his beloved godchild, Demarko Moore; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family members, and friends who will forever cherish his memory.

Stephen’s legacy is one of laughter, love, resilience, and authenticity. Whether he was cooking a meal, creating art, fixing something broken, sharing one of his unforgettable stories, or making everyone around him laugh, he left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

Though he is no longer with us in body, his spirit lives on in the countless memories he created and the love he gave so freely.

“Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.”

