



Acknowledgements

There are a few people I would personally like to thank on my brother's behalf—and for having my back while I cared for him. First, my mother: thank you for enduring this journey with me and always keeping me on my toes.

Anthony (Dud), thank you for everything you have done—for sitting through chemotherapy and radiation treatments with us, going to the grocery store, cleaning his space, serving as a nurse's aide, giving Mom and me a break, and simply being my right hand. I love you.

Mike B, thank you for driving him to appointments when I had to work and for stepping in when I could not. Thank you for getting him out of the house and giving him a little freedom and companionship. I love you.

Gregory, thank you for answering my calls and supporting us in every way you could. I love you the most, little bubby. Shelle, Terri, Ash, and Bink, thank you for the calls and texts, for checking on my well-being, and for talking me through the difficult days. Thank you also for the much-needed getaways to Arizona and Vegas.

To my husband, thank you for giving me the time and space to care for my family. To all my cousins and Willie's friends, thank you for your love and for showing up. These past few months, filled with hospital stays and so much more, have been hectic and overwhelming. Thank you for coming whenever I called. You know who you are, and I will always be grateful.



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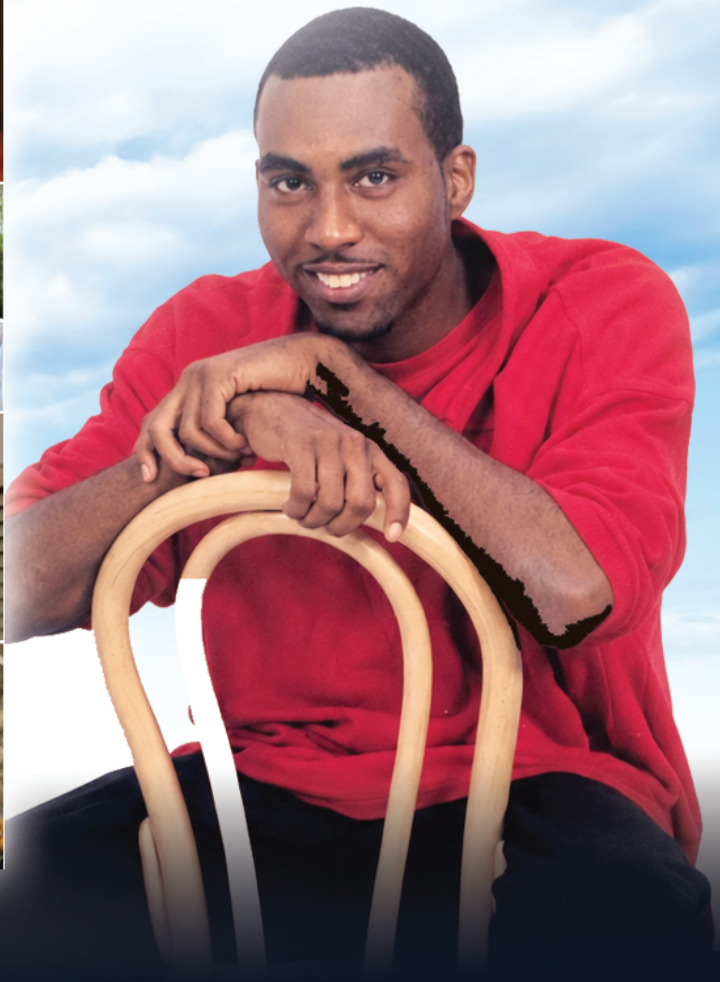
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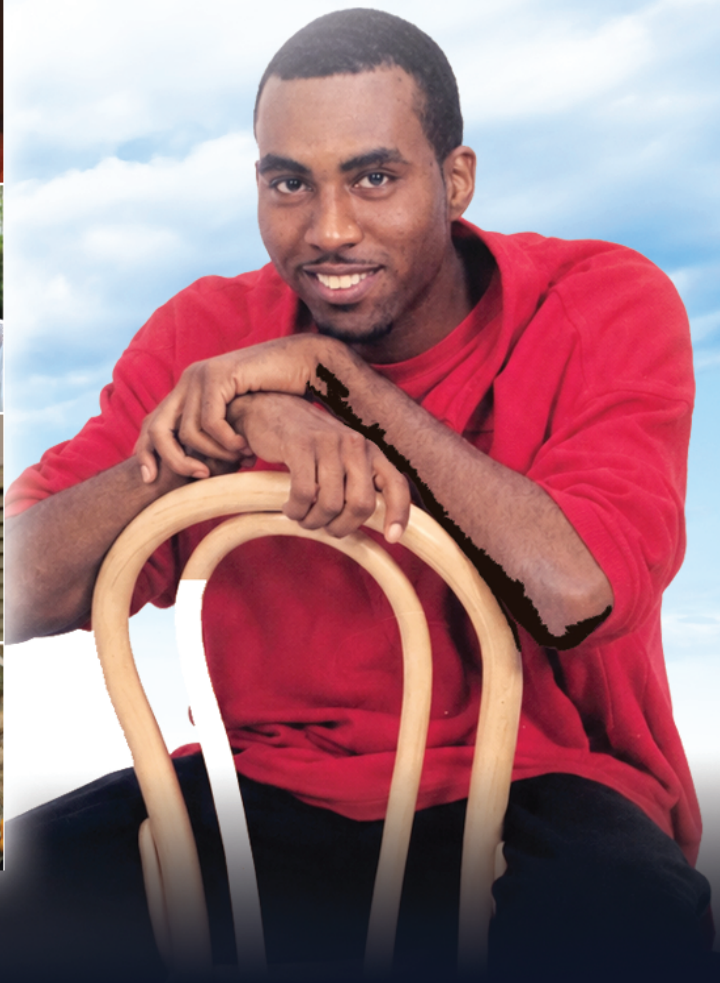
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Beloved Son, Father, Brother, Uncle, Cousin & Friend
FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS



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Obituary

Willie Absalom Clarke, 47, was born at Christ Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. The second child of Dawn Clarke and the fifth child of Herbert Bess Jr., Willie was a devoted father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend. After a three-year battle with lung cancer, he passed away peacefully in his sleep.

Willie attended Pleasant Hill Elementary, the Woodward CAMAS program, Bramble Middle School, and Withrow High School before earning his GED. He began cutting hair as a teenager and later formalized his craft by attending Cincinnati Barber College. Willie also worked in factories as a forklift driver and studied to become an electrician at Gateway Community College.

Willie will be remembered for the care he showed his family, the skill he developed as a barber, and the lasting place he holds in the lives of those who loved him.

Willie was preceded in death by his father, Herbert Bess Jr. He leaves to mourn and cherish his memory his mother, Dawn Clarke (Renie); his sons, Willie Clarke Jr., Alfred Johnson (AJ), and Gyovani Brown-Clarke (G); his daughters, Alania Johnson (Willita) and September Rogers (Tember); his sisters, Angela Covington, Lakeisha Bhoolai-Norman (Quentin), and Jannie Bess Wright; and his brothers, Herbert Bishop, LaDawn Clark, Javon Covington, and Gregory Ciers (Martina). He is also remembered by a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

My Brother's Keeper

Brother, I pray that you are no longer suffering. Rest now and watch over those left behind, for we are the ones who must endure your absence. You will be deeply missed. Tell Bean, Granny, Granny, Granprix, Auntie Face, Lori, and Vic that we say hello. It comforts me to know that you are not alone and loved in the great by and by. Say your goodbyes, do not linger, be at peace, and do not worry, I will never let anyone forget you. You will remain forever in my heart.

Love you always,
Keisha

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Love you always,
Keisha

Order of Service

Opening prayer Glenn Glenn

Scripture Reading Angela Covington

Poem: *The Next Phase* Shelle Clarke

Moment of reflection / Reading of obituary /
Musical selection (Stand- Bebe Winans)

From Son to Father Willie Clarke Jr.

Scripture Reading Javon Covington

Eulogy: So Many Questions:

Did you know that? Lakeisha Bhoolai-Norman

Benediction Gregory Ciers



A memorial service following cremation will be held at 3:30 p.m. at
Walker Funeral Home
7272 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

A Celebration of Life repast will follow at 5:00 p.m. at
The Vue Event Center
8790 Colerain Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45251

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