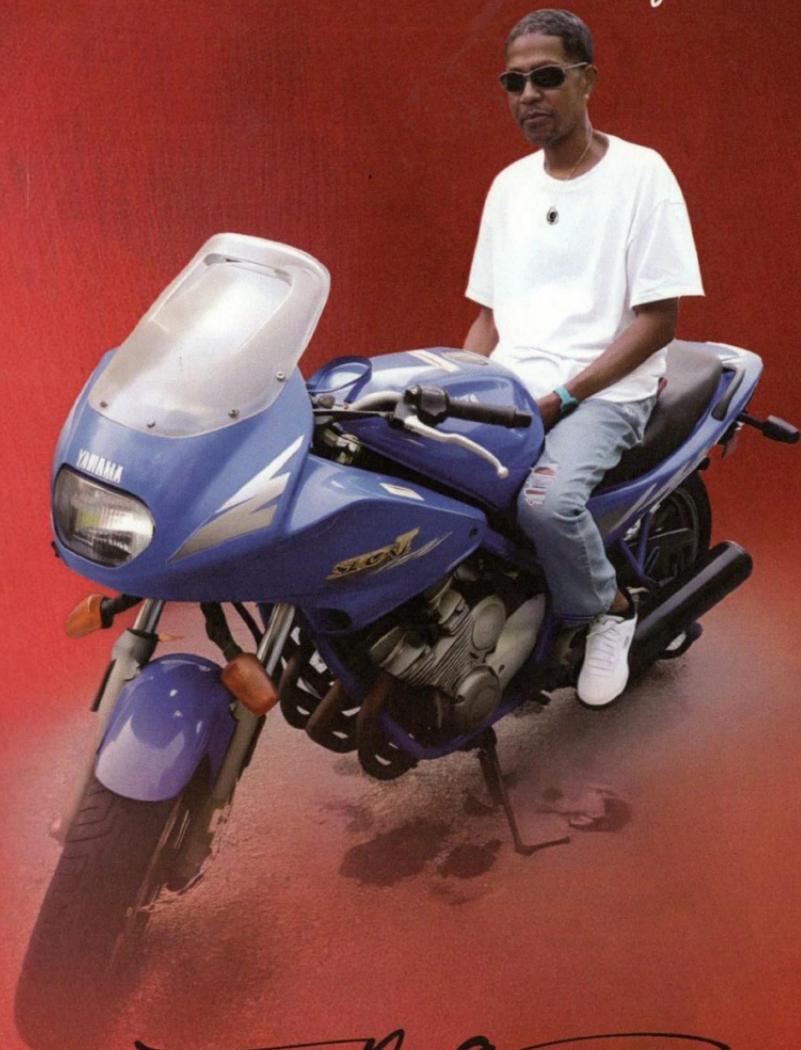


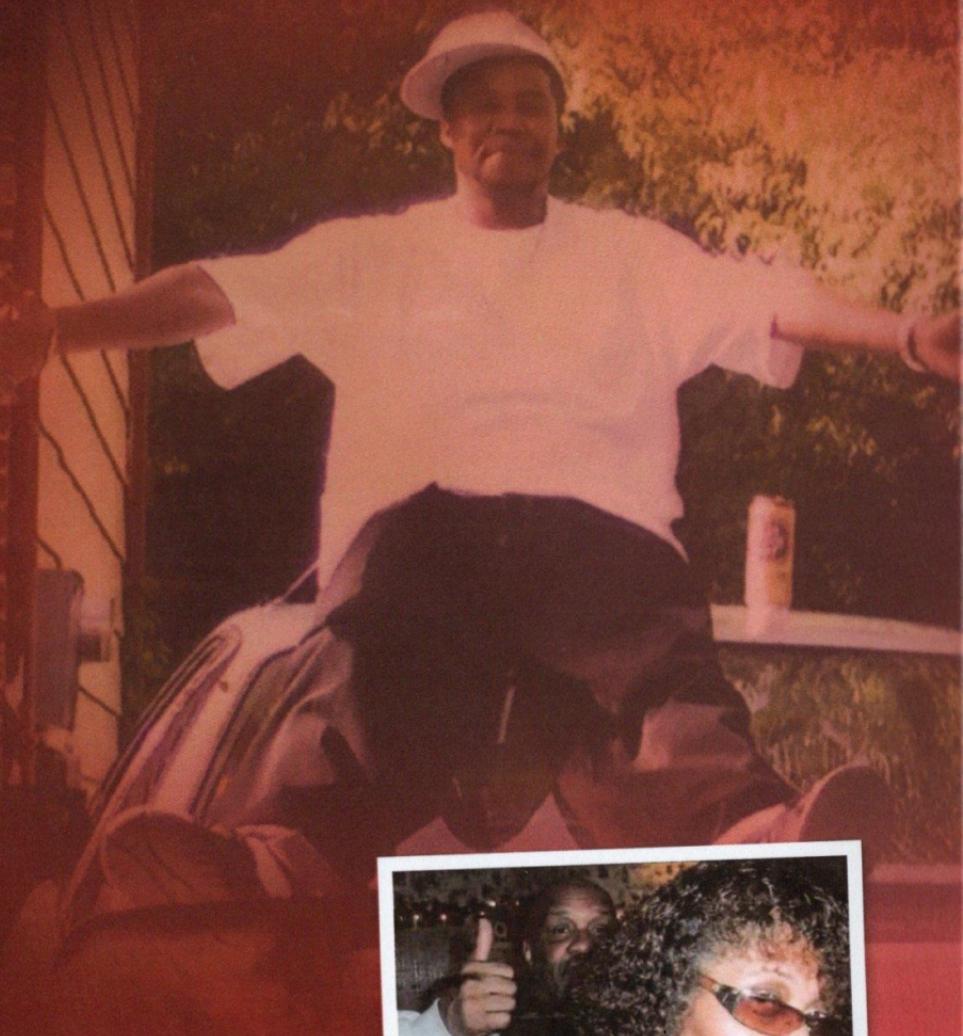
Celebration of Life



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MELVIN JAMES GARDNER
“PONCHO”

NOVEMBER 17, 1977 – DECEMBER 30, 2025



Obituary

Melvin "Poncho" Gardner, 48, of Coatesville, Pennsylvania, was called home unexpectedly on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of love, family, and unforgettable memories.

He was the son of the late Melvin James Anderson III and Debbie Gardner. He was raised by his loving grandparents, the late Samuel L. Rodriguez and Blanche E. Gardner.

Born and raised in Coatesville, Melvin was a proud member of the community and attended Coatesville Area High School. He spent much of his working career at Lukens Steel, where he was known as a dedicated and hardworking man.

Melvin had a deep love for life and the people around him; he cherished every moment spent together. He found joy in family gatherings and laughter.

A true free spirit at heart, Melvin loved motorcycles and dirt bikes, embracing the thrill and freedom they brought him. Melvin also loved fishing and being outdoors. His favorite colors were red and black, reflecting his bold personality. Music was also close to his heart, especially the words of Tupac Shakur.

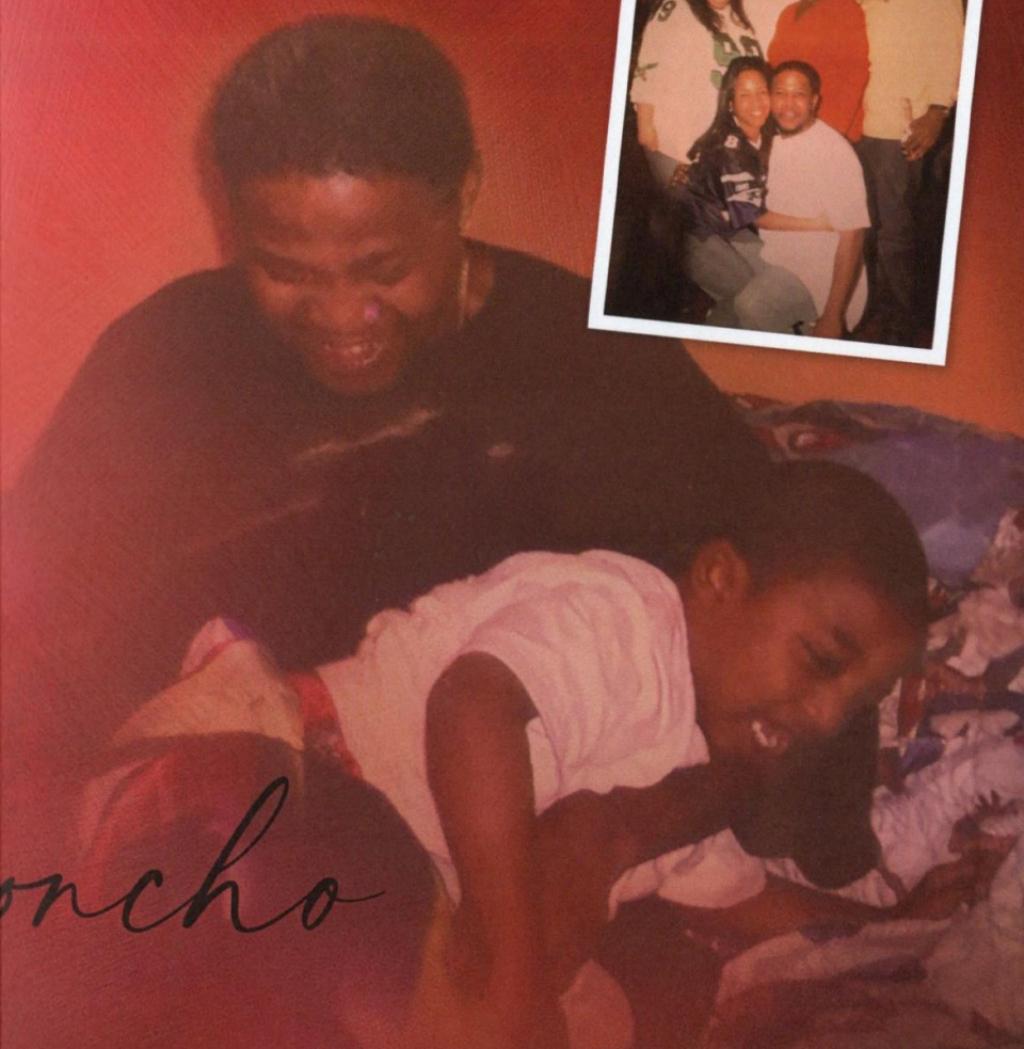
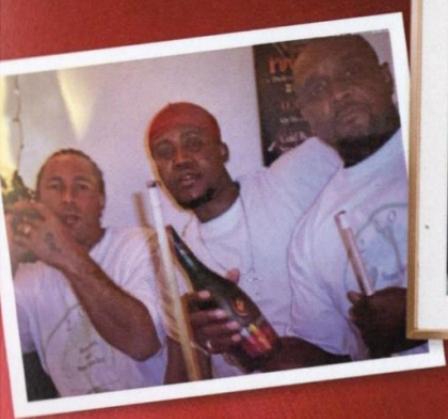
Melvin is survived by his beloved child, Avant Gardner of Coatesville. He also leaves behind his nurturing aunt, Lillian Welch, and good friend Mike Montgomery, as well as siblings: Benjamin Gardner and his wife DeLana Gardner of Arizona, Crystal Gardner-Goode and her husband Lauren Goode of Arizona, Jamia Gardner of Arizona, Terry "TJ" Gardner of Coatesville, Nicole Rorie of Arizona, Byron Rorie-Gardner of Coatesville, Shakeira Talbot-Gardner of Arizona, Marcia Anderson of Delaware, Candace Anderson of Coatesville, and Melvin Twyman of Lincoln University, Addi Noel of Kennett Square, and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends who will forever cherish his memory.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Constance Marie Anderson and Melvin James Anderson II; and four siblings, Tyrone L. Gardner, Frederick L. Gardner, Melvin James Anderson IV, and Charmaine Anderson.

Melvin's presence, laughter, and love will be deeply missed, but his spirit will live on through the many lives he touched.

Rest in peace, Melvin. You will forever remain in our hearts.

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MEMORIAL SERVICE
Monday, January 26, 2026
11:00 AM Visitation | 12 noon Service

Wright Funeral & Cremation Services
725 Merchant Street
Coatesville, Pennsylvania

Order of Service

Officiant	<i>Rev. Dr. Martin T. Williams, Sr.</i>
Opening Song "Blessed Assurance"	<i>Congregation</i>
Scripture Readings	
Old Testament	<i>Psalm 23</i>
New Testament	<i>John 14:1-6</i>
Prayer of Comfort	<i>Rev. Laverne Taylor</i>
Music Selection	<i>Kissme Gardner</i>
Reading of Cards & Expressions	<i>Bashanti Myers</i>
Obituary Reading	<i>Byron Gardner</i>
Reflections (2 minutes)	<i>Family and Friends</i>
Music Selection	<i>Kissme Gardner</i>
Eulogy	<i>Rev. Dr. Martin T. Williams, Sr.</i>
Remarks	<i>Ventnor T. Wright, Funeral Director</i>
Closing Prayer	

INTERMENT
Private Cremation



(W
FS) *Wright*
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES, INC.

725 MERCHANT STREET
COATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
610-384-0341 | wrightfuneralsvs@aol.com
Ventnor T. Wright, Funeral Director, Supervisor