Order of Service

MUSICAL PRELUDE ..... Patricia Morales

PROCESSIONAL ..... Clergy & Family

HYMN OF COMFORT ..... Patracia Morales

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament ..... Naffessa Paschall
Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

New Testament ..... Shelia Washington-Baylock
John 11:25-26

PRAYER OF COMFORT ..... Teia Starks

SOLO ..... Jazara Morales - Don't Cry for Me

REMARKS (2 MINUTES) ..... Joan Griffin
Alijah Goodwin

FAMILY TRIBUTE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF CONDOLENCES & READING OF THE OBITUARY ..... Tracey Thomas

SOLO ..... Jazara Morales - I won't complain

EULOGY ..... Associate Pastor Michael Wilson
Love Fellowship Church

INTERMENT

Merion Memorial Park
59 Rock Hill Road
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

REPAST

Fellowship Christian Church
6101 W. Oxford St.
Phila, PA 19151

Pall Bearers

Charles Newkirk, Alijah Goodwin
Kenny Griffin, Jr., William Shirley
Antonio Johnson, Charles McCormick

I'm Free

Don t grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard him call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
to laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks undone must stay that away.
I found that peace at close of day.
If my parting has left a void
then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life s been full, I've savored much,
good friends, good times, a loved one 's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all to brief,
don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and share with me
God wanted me now:
He set me free.

Acknowledgments

The family of Mark J. Byrd genuinely expresses their sincere gratitude for prayers, phone calls, words of comfort, and other expressions of support and love. There is comfort in knowing that we are not alone during our grief. May God richly bless you.

Professional Services:
Alfonso Cannon Funeral Chapels
2315-19 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19132
(215) 225-5088
www.alfonsocannonfuneralchapels.com
Florence M. Cannon, Supervisor

Design & Printing by:
Corporate Print Solutions
215-774-1119
www.FuneralPrintShop.com

IT'S SO HARD TO SAY GOODBYE

MARK
Johnathan Byrd, Jr.



Sunrise
JANUARY 21, 1999

Sunset
JUNE 25, 2022

FUNERAL SERVICE

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2022

Viewing: 9:00 am - 11:00 am | Service: 11:00 am

Alfonso Cannon Funeral Chapels, Inc
2317 N Broad Street, Philadelphia PA

Life Story

Mark Johnathan Byrd, Jr., affectionately known as MJ to his family and MB to his close friends, was born on January 21, 1999, in Philadelphia, PA, to Mark Byrd and Vernita Newkirk (Thompson). His parents were overjoyed to welcome the new addition to the family. MJ was a chunky baby who found comfort in his ever-present terry cloth hooded towel. MJ's introduction to the world of academics was at Aunt Rhonda's Day Care; from there, he continued his education at Cornerstone Christian Academy, a segue to Patterson Elementary, where he established lifelong friends that became his extended family. He proceeded on to Richard Allen Preparatory School and concluded his academic career at One Bright Ray Community High School. From there, he worked at Allied Security Company. He worked consistently throughout the height of the Pandemic, which allowed him to purchase his first car, a silver Chevy Impala.

From the age of two, it was apparent that MJ was fond of basketball; it was common for him to take his little basketball court outside. While playing on the court MJ's mom told him to put on a coat. His response was, "A.I. doesn't wear a jacket." They agreed that he would wear a hoodie and he continued playing basketball. MJ developed an extensive knowledge of the sport and spent much of his free time following the NBA and his favorite team, the Sixers. He started playing at CPN (Concerned Parent Network) at the tender age of five and played until he was fourteen. He was a member of two championship teams.

All those that know MJ would agree that he was a kind, sweet, loyal, and cool guy. He was known to say, "I say what I mean, and I mean what I say," If you shared something with MJ, it was under lock and key. Some people may have had the impression that MJ was quiet, but if you were fortunate enough to really know him, he was clever, witty, and hilarious. MJ always had great recommendations for movies, television shows, and a love of video games. MJ also had an eye for current fashion trends and owed an extensive sneaker collection.

MJ always looked forward to memorable family vacations. He enjoyed trips to Disney, Universal Studios, cruises, and especially the beaches where he was in his element. MJ loved being buried in the sand, riding the waves, and eating funnel cake.



Although, as a young teen, MJ faced health challenges, he never complained and "said why me" or "life's not fair" he rolled with the punches. On June 25, 2022, MJ transitioned from earth to glory, where he was greeted by his maternal grandmother Vickie Griffin.

Mark leaves to cherish his memory and rejoice in his life; father, Mark Byrd, mother Vernita Thompson, stepfather, Anthony Thompson, sister Siera Newkirk, stepsisters, Crystal McKnight, Jasmine Thompson, brother Chance DeShields, a cousin who was more like a brother, Alijah Goodwin, paternal grandfather, Emmitt Byrd, paternal grandmother, Evelyn Wallace-Byrd, maternal grandfather, Charles Griffin, uncles Charles Newkirk and Kenny Byrd, godmother, Darnetta Fuller, and a host of great-aunts and great-uncles, cousins and friends.

MJ was loved dearly by his family and his closest friends. MJ had a categorical love for his father, and that love was returned. Without question, MJ shared an undeniable special bond with his mother that few can replicate.

Our wish for MJ

If we could have one lifetime wish, one dream that would come true, we pray to God with all our hearts for yesterday and you. A thousand words couldn't bring you back. We know because we've tried, neither could a thousand tears, we know because we've cried. You left behind a broken heart and happy memories too. But we've never wanted memories we only wanted you.

Everlasting Love, Your Mom, Dad, and Siera