Acknowledgement

The family of the late Donald R. Stratton, Sr. wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of love, support, and sympathy during this difficult time. Your comforting words, kind gestures, and presence have been a great source of strength for us.

WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION,

Professional Services Entrusted to:

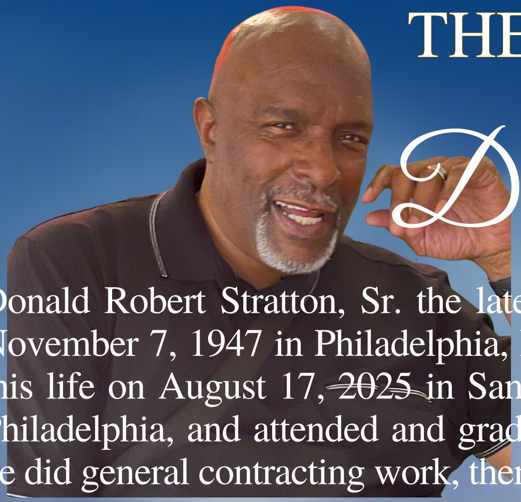
G. CHOICE FUNERAL CHAPEL,INC
2530 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19132
Britni' Choice, Supervisor
www.gchoicefc.com
Office: 215-227-0100

CELEBRATING
The Life Of

Donald R.
STRATTON, SR.

November 7, 1947 — August 17, 2025
FRIDAY, AUGUST 29,2025
SERVICE 1PM
DARE TO IMAGINE CHURCH
6601 Anderson St, Philadelphia, PA 19119

Pastor Michele Lawrence, Grace and Mercy Temple Church Philadelphia,Eulogist



THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF

Donald R. Stratton, Sr.

Donald Robert Stratton, Sr. the late son of Robert Henry and Evelyn Martha Stratton, was born November 7, 1947 in Philadelphia, PA. He was the second eldest of six children. Donald departed this life on August 17, 2025 in San Diego, CA. Donald was raised in the Tioga neighborhood of Philadelphia, and attended and graduated from Simon Gratz High School. Following high school, he did general contracting work, then started with Acme Markets in 1979 until 1995.

At the age of 50, Donald decided to pursue higher education. He graduated from Community College of Philadelphia (2001) with an Associates degree in Applied Science. He then went on to earn his Bachelor's degree in Behavioral Health (2003), and then his Master's degree in Behavioral Health and Human Services (2006) from Alvernia University. For 16 years, Donald worked as an Addiction counselor and Clinical Director for the Wedge Medical Center and Arcadia Healthcare until he retired in 2022.

Donald's professional career mirrored his passion for helping others in his personal life. He was an avid member of Alcoholics Anonymous, having 30 years of sobriety. His passion and drive to help others could be seen through his own AA sponsorship, through his acts of service, and his giving spirit.

Donald gave his life to Christ on March 27, 1994, and never looked back. He was an active member of Dare to Imagine Church in Philadelphia, followed by Bayview Baptist Church in San Diego. His gift of servitude stems from his close relationship to God, and what was instilled in him by his parents. Donald would proclaim that he was a serious Philadelphia sports fan, especially for his beloved Philadelphia Eagles who became the 2024 Superbowl Champions.

On November 15, 1997, Donald married his soulmate Benay Stratton (Mack), and they shared a life together for 47 years.

Affectionately known as "Duck" to many of his friends, he was able to forge beautiful connections with anyone he met. Donald was gentle yet tough, humble but confident, absolutely hilarious, and had an undeniable presence. He was a devoted husband, son, father, brother, grandfather, and friend.

He was preceded in death by his brothers William Billy and Wayne.

He leaves cherish his wife Benay; David (Nikole), Diane (Joseph), and Gerald. Donald's legacy lives on in his children Carmen, Danielle, Donald (Ducky) Jr., Eric (Shanae), Donald, III, and Stephanie (Jocelyn), 21 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, and his dog Sasha,two brother-in-laws and two sister-in-laws and a host of nieces and nephews honorable mention to Donalds first grand Child, Ainyae Sacia Straxkson (Stratton) who was close to Donald and near and dear to his heart.

My Dear Don

You were the kindest soul I have ever known. Loving, humble, funny, and caring—those are just a few of the words that describe you, but they don't come close to capturing the depth of who you were.

You had a way of making life feel lighter. With your humor, you made me laugh when I needed it most. With your gentleness, you made me feel safe. With your love, you filled my heart in ways I didn't even know were possible.

You never needed recognition or praise. The way you lived—quietly, humbly, with steady kindness—was its own kind of greatness. You showed me what it means to truly love, to care deeply, and to put others before yourself.

I miss you every single day. But I carry you with me in everything I do. I see you in small moments, in laughter, in kindness, and in love. You will always be my greatest blessing, my partner, my heart.
Until we meet again, Don, know that you are forever loved.
With all my love,

Benay

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Order of Service

Processional-

Clergy and Family

(CLOSING OF THE BIER)

Opening Selection:

"Blessed Assurance"

Prayer:

Rev. Dr. Tamara Hill, Dare to Imagine Church

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: *Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

Janet McKnight Servant Leader

New Testament: *2 Timothy 4:7-8-*

Herb Smith Servant Leader

Selection:

Pastor Sawanda Sharper

Remarks

Anderson Nash, Band of Brothers,

Ainyae Straxkson

Selection:

Pastor Sawanda Sharper

Message of Hope:

Pastor Michelle Lawrence,

Grace and Mercy Temple Church

Philadelphia

Musical Selection:

Sunday Service Choir

IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR Donald

TRIBUTE FROM DONALD JR., SON

Hey daddy, I love you and I never thought that the last time I saw you would be the last time we would have a face to face conversation. I really love and appreciate the bond that we shared, daddy this really hurts. You were my real life hero, thank you for loving me and helping me with my kids in my absence, thank you. My feelings are hurt and my life is forever changed. First my mother and now you, this is really crazy.

I love you Don Sr,

Don Jr.

TRIBUTE FROM DIANE, SISTER

My Dearest Don, thank you for being my loving, caring, wise and hilarious brother. You kept me laughing and feeling loved. Everyone that knew us understood the big brother and sister closeness you and I shared. I cannot remember a time in my life when you were not there. Even with you being miles away in San Diego, it didn't matter. A phone call, text, Facetime or Zoom, you were right there. You didn't just say you loved me, you showed me and everyone you met.

Don you were a good man. A devoted man. A Godly man. A loving man. A man after God's own heart. You never made a fuss or tried to bring attention to yourself. You were an ordinary man; laid back with extraordinary gifts. You left a legacy behind for others to follow.

Faith, forgiveness, acceptance and grace with your arms wide open to love. God knows I will miss you, but I know you are with our God, and I will see you again.
will love you always,

Your sister, Diane

VAN ACCESSIBLE
ADORABLE
ASE JOIN US
DAY 10:00AM
Keeping it Real Prayer Team without ceasing
Honest
Loyalty
Laughter
Genero
Kindne

YOUR MEMORY IS OUR TREASURE

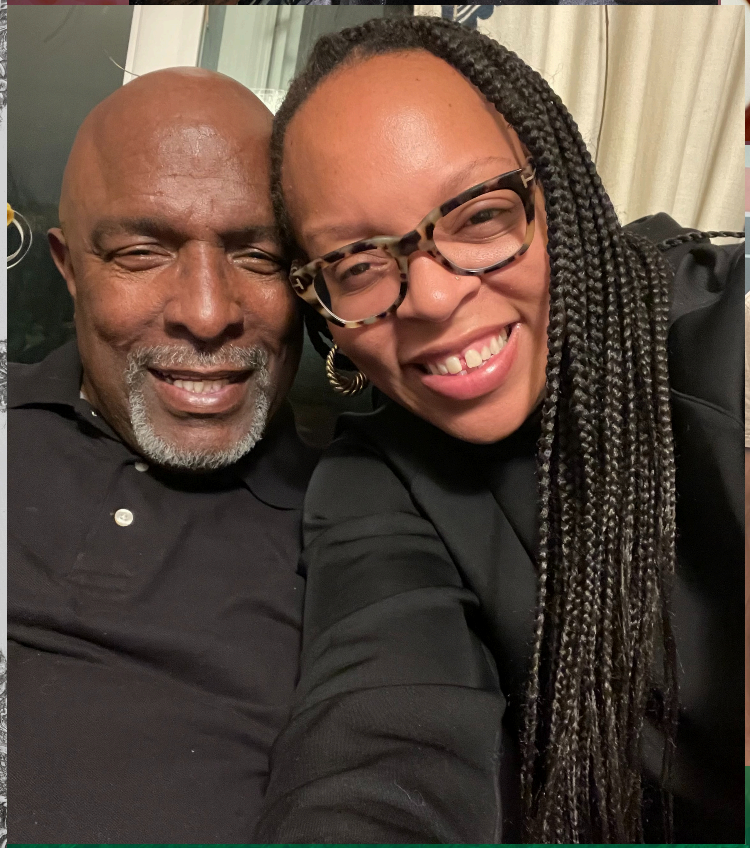
GOT EM
SparkPoint
Philly
NIKE

REMARKABLE MAN

TRIBUTE TO MY DAD

"If tears could build a stairway,and memories a lane, I'd
walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again."
"Although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow,
May looking back in memory help comfort you
tomorrow."

Your daughter,
Stephanie



WE LOVE YOU, DUCK!