



A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE AND GIFT  
OF



# AUGUSTUS GRISSETT, SR.

APRIL 30TH, 1947 - FEBRUARY 28TH, 2026

## SERVICES

**FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH, 2026**

**MEMORIAL SERVICE: 2-4:00 PM**

**REPAST: 4-6:00 PM**

VIOLA G. CHISOLM EAST SIDE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER  
202 S. BEECH STREET SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13205

**INTERMENT: MARCH 31ST, 2026**

**MILITARY HONORS 10:30 AM**

ST. ALBANS NATIONAL CEMETERY

177-33 BAISLEY BLVD., ST. ALBANS, NEW YORK 11434

# Order of Service

*Pastor Vincent Goard, Officiating Minister*

Musical Selection.....		
Prayer of Comfort .....	Pastor Vincent Goard	
Musical Selection "Blessed Assurance" .....	Sequoia Kemp	
Remarks .....	Augustus Grissett, Jr	
Scripture Reading.....	Isaiah 40: 29-31 .....	Mitayah Donerlson
Scripture Reading.....	I Thessalonians 4:13-17 .....	Lona White
Poem.....	"Dancing With Angels".....	Nathaniel Slater
Acknowledgement of Condolences.....	Loved ones/Colleagues	
Reflection of Life.....	Tyrone Saunders, Son	
Obituary Reading .....	Augustus Grissett, Jr., Son	
Musical Tribute .....	Total Praise	
Benediction .....	Pastor Vincent Goard	

## Obituary

Augustus Grissett, Sr. affectionately called "GUS" by many, was born in Conway, South Carolina on April 30, 1947, to Josephine Ford and Roosevelt Grissett. He was the fourth child of six. He was educated in the public schools of New York City and after graduating from Benjamin Franklin High School attended St. Augustine College in Florida. During his first year of college, he was drafted into the United States Army and served in the Vietnam War in 1967. He was actively enlisted until 1971.

Gus went on to continue his military career with the National Guard in Queens, NY for over 18 years achieving the rank of Sergeant First Class, Head of Field Artillery, and Captain of Communications. Throughout those years he helped play an integral role in community relations for the National Guard leading annual parades, organizing health related events, and school based informational forums. During these years he also worked as a substitute math teacher, influencing students all over the city. His achievements reflected the early guidance he received as a prestigious member of the Order of the Feather at Minisink Camps in Harlem, NY.

His central life's work was with the MICA (Medically Ill Chemical Abusers) population. He was the lead substance abuse clinical director at Mary Immaculate Hospital for over 30 years. He led the work at their methadone/substance abuse clinic, transforming lives and assisting in the recovery of hundreds of afflicted adults, ultimately becoming a public fixture of expertise in the field of mental health.

Augustus was led by love from a young age. He longed for the attention of one young lady in particular that grew up living four blocks away from his family she would go on to become his forever love, Julianne Beverly White. He sent financial and moral support to his love while still at war and upon his return they welcomed his only child, a son that would bear his name Augustus Grissett, Jr. Their marriage/love story blessed him with a daughter the late Kimberly "Kimmy" Helene Saunders and son Tyrone "Sandy" Saunders which he raised as his own.

Augustus was led to have a relationship with Jesus Christ through the guidance of his mother and his Aunt Ola. As a young boy he would arrive at their family's church home with his Aunt Ola to clean and prepare the sanctuary for the parishioners every Sunday. The seed of always helping those in need was planted early on and would be sustained throughout his entire life. He became a member of the Resue Mission Church of God in Christ in the Bronx, NY in 1978 under the tutelage of Pastor Harold Ross.

In 2005, Gus and Beverly would relocate from Queens, NY to Syracuse, NY and begin a new chapter in their union. As an extension of his life's work, Augustus would become a family development advocate for the P.E.A.C.E (People's Equal Action and Community Effort) organization. He went from grant funded initiatives to a permanent staff role with the organization after accomplishing great work with both young and older participants from the Syracuse community. He was well respected and known for his experienced assistance and impactful words of wisdom to all that crossed his path. He was a reliable source of information and action for the complex issues that had befallen so many in the town he now called home.

As Gus prepared to honor his wife's life at her memorial Service, he was tragically taken from us in a fire at their home on Saturday, February 28th, 2026. His role as husband was proven tried and true as he loved, cared for and supported his wife for close to 60 years; until her passing, exactly 14 days to the day prior to his own demise. They will now be laid to rest together on what would have been their 57th wedding anniversary on March 31st, 2026. His last conversation hours before that devastating occurrence was with his son "DUKE". He ended it with how proud he was of him and how his mom would be even prouder. He showed his love and admiration until his last day on earth.

Beverly referred to her husband as a "Mighty Man". He was just that to all, especially his family. Many of his family called him "Sugar Bear". A man of few words but showed the love and kindness of a gentleman with a phenomenal persona. He lived to see four generations of his namesake. He lived to see and support his "daughter" Clifettia and son Guy fulfill their academic and family dreams. He lived to be a consummate leader of men, especially with his three grandsons. He lived a life of purpose and served as a living example of manhood, fatherhood, mentorship, leadership, and care for others. A selfless Mighty Man taken from his family tragically too soon.

We are all forever grateful to have had the privilege to have known and loved such a beautiful soul. He was most of all a blessing to everyone.

His legacy will forever live on in the following: Augustus Grissett Jr, and Tyrone Saunders – sons Dr. Clifettia Simone Grissett – daughter in law Rodrick Jackson – brother Justin Grissett, Jahi Grissett, and Jahlil Grissett – grandsons Melanie, Me'Lonie, Adonis, and Jru'Gianni – great grand children

Numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, beloved friends, and complete strangers will tell stories of this extraordinary man.