



Michael

CHARLES LIGHTFORD

MARCH 14, 1958 - OCTOBER 27, 2024

Saturday, November 16, 2024

Viewing: 11:00 A.M.

Funeral: 12:00 P.M.

Living World Church LV

**976 Hassell Avenue,
Las Vegas, NV 89106**

*To Aunt &
Uncle
with love
Michael*

OBITUARY

Life Story of Michael Charles Lightford

Michael Charles Lightford was born to Calvin & Marie Lightford on March 14, 1958, in Las Vegas, Nevada. He had no problem finding his place amongst his 4 elder brothers and a sister. Michael had a natural talent for music. With an impressive voice, you could always find him singing.

Though strong-willed and quite stubborn at times, Michael had a remarkably big heart. When his two younger brothers arrived he was that big brother that stood up for them, protecting them. Those Lightford boys, were mischievous ...They were definitely boys and got into a lot of trouble doing boyish like things.

Michael grew up all over the Historic West Side, on Bowman St. in Berkley Square, Beth Circle in Valley View and several other neighborhoods prior to settling in Delmonico on Helen St. as a teenager in the 70's, where the neighborhood kids excitedly welcomed the boys by running up & down the street shouting, "The Jackson 5's are moving in, The Jackson 5's are moving in," No denying they were 5 very handsome boys, well dressed sporting Huge Afro's.

Throughout his childhood Michael was an academically strong student attending several schools to include Kit Carson Elementary, Ed Von Tobel Middle school, a stint at Chapparral High School and Sunset Night School from which he graduated in 1976. Even as a student Michael had already started teaching himself to play bass guitar inspired by artist like Larry Graham. Enamored & impressed by Larry Graham & Graham Central Station's song "Hair," in 1974, Michael said, "It totally blew my mind, never done before, Graham's voice and ability to play the base guitar, at the same time on that song, taking the base from the background, making it the lead was unbelievable" and that influenced Michael to do the same thing.

Music was our brother Michael's true passion. He had an incredible amount of musical knowledge and could discuss artists and genres of music while taking you on a musical journey. Michael even performed live with a band managed by his older brother DeMarlo called, "One Way." His performances were so emotionally charged that he would sometimes be physically drained.

After graduating, Michael began working at the Nevada Test Site around 1978, for the Culinary Workers Union Local 226, also worked throughout Vegas as a Construction Laborer with the Local 872 Union, later transitioning to a long career with the Teamsters Union Local 631, where Michael made many friends, took great pride in his work, loved the camaraderie of brotherhood with the Teamsters. Michael never stopped talking about the love he had for that job, in which he retired after 20+ years in 2019, during the pandemic.

OBITUARY

Life Story of Michael Charles Lightford

In the late 1980s, Michael and his then-wife Julia opened a successful business, Julia's Subs and Crab Cakes, which became a local favorite, even attracting celebrity clientele like Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield, whom became personal friends along with the Running Rebels basketball team.

Throughout his life, family was of the utmost importance to Michael. He was a devoted father to his bonus daughters Lynn, Lisa, and his beloved Latrell, with whom he shared a special bond.

In the mid 90's Michael met Charnita Thompson, years later, much to her surprise they reconnected and the two married in 2010, the rest is history and they remained partners until Michael's passing.

Affectionately known as "Spicy Mike," Our brother was beloved for his infectious humor and laughter, storytelling abilities, and his big smile. Even in the face of illness, he remained upbeat and positive, never complaining about his condition.

The Lightford brothers share an unbreakable bond, they stick together, supporting and taking care of one another, and Us girls too. They've matured from "Boys To Men" They understand the assignment, "Family First." Our beloved father Calvin Lightford would have it no other way!

Michael we will always cherish and carry your memory in our ❤️❤️

Michael is reunited in heaven with his parents, Calvin & Marie Lightford, aunt Katherine Joseph, grandmother Dollie Jones, bonus mother Georgia Ealy, brothers Dwayne & Lyle, daughter Latrell, nieces Toi and Felicia & sister Daphne.

Michael's memories will be cherished by wife Charnita Lightford, son Mario Henson (Lorraine) Bonus mother Lorene Roberts, Sisters Denise of Arizona, April of California, Yvette (Rick) of Arizona, Paretta, Cheryl & Lorene a Bonus sister Sheryl Turner, Brothers Randy, Demarlo (Elaine) Darrell (Sherry) Eris, Gregory (kim) Mario (Terri) Tommie, Fred of Texas, Edwin & Armin. Michael had Grand and great grandchildren a host of nieces and nephews and cousins and a bonus cousin Keir Richardson and special friends to the Lightford family James Brown and the Lattimore family.





ORDER OF SERVICE

Life Celebration of Michael Charles Lightford

Musical Prelude

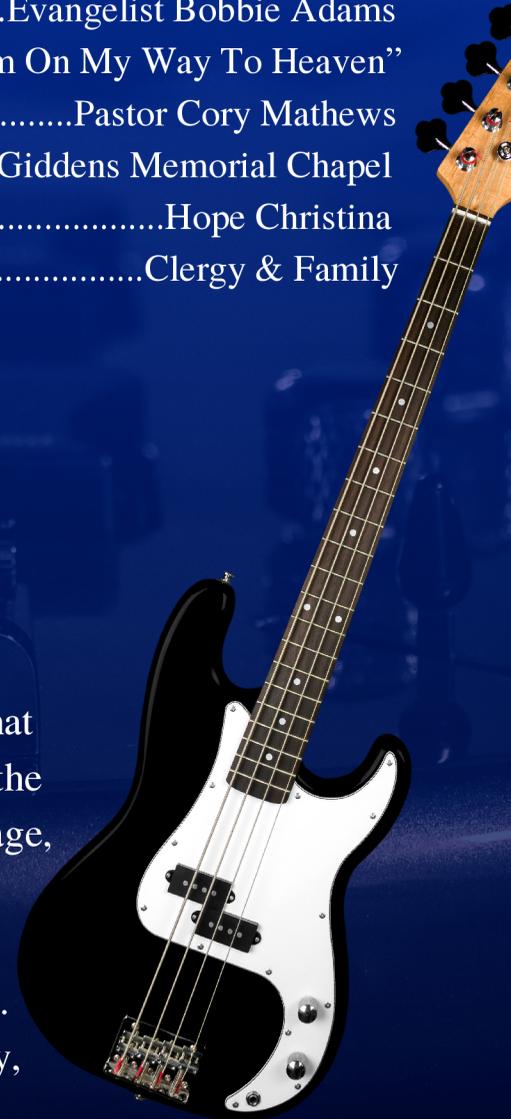
Processional.....	Pastor Cory Mathews
Scripture Reading.....	Minister Shannon Lavoll
Old Testament	
New Testament	
Prayer.....	Pastor Cory Mathews
Solo.....	Hope Christina “Freedom”
Words of Expression.....	2 Minutes Please.....Family & Friends
A Limb Has Fallen From The Family Tree.....	Sheryl Turner
Video Tribute.....	To Our Brother, Michael Lightford
Obituary & Acknowledgements.....	April McCowan
Solo.....	Evangelist Bobbie Adams “I’m On My Way To Heaven”
Eulogy.....	Pastor Cory Mathews
Parting View.....	Giddens Memorial Chapel
Solo.....	Hope Christina
Recessional.....	Clergy & Family

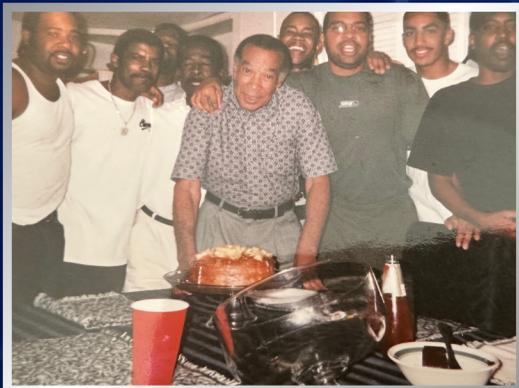
Postlude

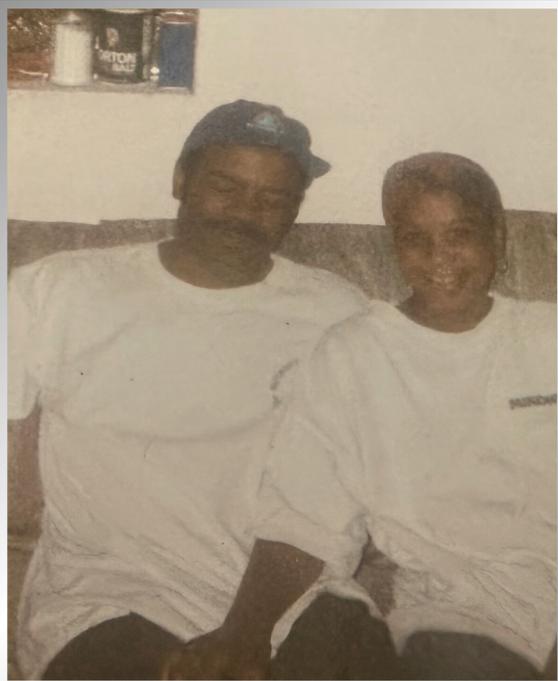
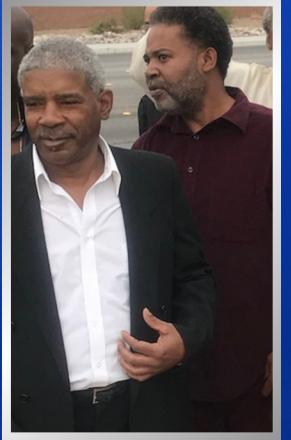
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Doolittle Community Center
1950 J St, Las Vegas, NV 89106

A limb has fallen from the family tree. I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for me. Remember the best times, the laughter, the song. The good life I lived while I was strong. Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you. Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through. My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest. Remembering all, how I truly was blessed. Continue traditions, no matter how small. Go on with your life, don't worry about falls. I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin. Until the day comes we're together again."







PALLBEARERS

**Frank Samuels
Edward Edwards
Donnie Johnson
John Banks
Robert Harris
Ronnie Owens**

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

**Mario Henson
Randy Howerton
Demarlo Lightford
Darrell Lomack Lightford
Eris Winder
Gregory Lightford
Mario Lightford
Tommie Brown
Fred Williams
Edwin Lightford
Armin Lightford
Enre' Chiles Jr.**

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T

The Lightford family is deeply grateful for the prayers, kind words, outpouring of love and support and Hugs we've received during this difficult time.

John 14:2-3

“In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:



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