

• OUR MAIN MAN -

Always coming through for us, no matter
the call,
Your kindness and care outshone it all.
Brighter than sunlight, steady and true,
A quiet strength in all that you do.

A man of few words, yet deeply profound,
In humility's grace, your power was
found.

You didn't demand, you simply were ,
A guiding presence, calm and sure.

Gentle, but never mistaken for weak,
You led by example in all that you'd
speak-
Or chose not to say, but showed us instead
Through every small action, the life that
you led.

Teaching lessons not spoken aloud,
Instilling a force both steady and proud.
In patience, in love, in doing what's right,

You showed us how to carry the light.
With a joke up your sleeve (or two... or a
few),
You brought warmth and laughter in all
that you'd do.
When things felt just a little too tight,
You'd crack a dad joke and make it al-
right.

A devoted husband, through thick and
through thin,
A phenomenal dad, our mighty anchor
within.
A loving brother, both steadfast and kind,
A caring uncle, with honest wisdom to
bind.

A loyal friend, the kind so rare to find-
Our Main Man, forever in heart, in spirit
and in mind.

- By Yolanda and Sasha

PALL BEARERS

Khalel Pritchard	Thaddeus Pritchard, III	Jahmir Pritchard
Chuks Ezedi	Dennis Fontes	Xavier Warren
Cortland Cartwright	Lawrence Byrd	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank our family, the Putnam Place Healthcare Team, Myra Pritchard (The Lead Singer of the Group), Maliaka Pritchard, Jahmir Pritchard, Jeffrey Coaston, Susan and Esau Reid, Denise Pritchard, Chuks Ezedi, and the Putnam Place Junior Healthcare Team, Lucia Pritchard, Isla Pritchard, and Quinton Worthy. We would also like to thank the amazing Care Dimensions staff and family and friends who contributed a kind act and/or comforting words. We love and appreciate all of you.



A Celebration of the Life of **JAMES WILLIAM VANDUREA McCOLLUM** ***"BILLY"***

November 28, 1951 - April 1, 2026



Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 11 AM

House of Deliverance Church of God
424 Washington St., Dorchester, Massachusetts

Bishop Kenneth Pritchard, Jr., Officiating

OBITUARY

Mr. James William Vandurea McCollum, known to his family and close friends as Billy, was born on November 28, 1951, in Winston Salem, North Carolina. He was the son of the late John Edward McCollum and Sadie Smith. Billy moved to Boston at an early age with his mother, stepfather, and siblings where he attended Boston Public Schools.

Growing up with a basketball in his hands and running shoes on his feet, Billy was a very gifted athlete. Whether playing with friends, park league football or just running through the Boston neighborhoods, he was always on the move. His basketball game was so phenomenal, he was crowned Billy Bam, for every time he made a shot, the crowd would shout "BAM!"

Billy graduated from Jamaica Plain High School in 1970, earning varsity letters in basketball, football, and track and field. His talents also granted him recognition from the Boston Record American newspaper for his skill in cross-country running. After high school, he continued to pursue his interest in track and field by joining the Greater Boston Track Club. Later that fall, he enrolled in Bryant and Stratton Jr. College in Boston, where he majored in business and was an active member of the basketball team.

When Bryant and Stratton's basketball program was dismantled in 1971, Billy transferred to Lyndon State College in Lyndonville, Vermont. There he became an active member of Lyndon's basketball team, joined the rescue squad, and switched his major to physical education. However, when a job opportunity presented itself, Billy left college in 1973 to work for General Electric Aerospace in Lynn, MA. For 38 years, he worked as a Non-Destructive Testing Specialist where he tested aircraft and turbine engine parts for defects.

In the fall of 1975, he met and married the love of his life, Corrine Pritchard. Together, they raised two daughters, Sasha and Yolanda. Over their 50-year union, they shared countless joys such as traveling, candlepin bowling, playing board games, cheering on their daughters at the United States Youth Games (where Billy served as a track and field coach), visiting casinos, and spending cherished time with family and friends.

After retiring from GE Aerospace in 2011, sports continued to play a major role in Billy's life. He became an official with both Mass Track and Field and USA Track & Field. He stayed active by coaching and officiating middle school, high school, and college track meets, specializing in two of his favorite events, the long jump and the triple jump.

To know Billy is to know that he loved competition as a participant and spectator. He was a Boston Marathon enthusiast and volunteer for over 30 years. In addition to sports, he loved to play board games, especially Scrabble where he kept his opponents stumped for endless hours trying to beat his score. In his leisure time you would find him just relaxing at home watching sports, science fiction and slapstick comedy movies.

He was a kind and gentle soul and brought comfort to everyone around him. He was a loving husband, admiring father, supportive brother, cherished uncle, and loyal friend. He will be missed immensely.

Billy is preceded in death by his parents, John McCollum and Sadie Smith, his sister, Brenda Moore, his brothers, Garfield Smith, Jr., Ivery Smith, and Michael McCollum, and his beloved aunts Ruth Duncan and Madie Long.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife Corrine McCollum, his daughters, Sasha Worthy (Regina) and Yolanda McCollum, his brother John Long (Beverly), his sister Johnetta Wilson, his grandson Quinton Worthy, his sisters-in law Denise Pritchard, Myra Pritchard (Jeffrey), Susan Reid (Esau), his brother-in-law Kenneth Pritchard, Sr. (Beverly), his loving aunt Nancy Pritchard, his dear cousin Sandra "Kube" Long and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude		Adam Littlejohn
Procession		
Invocation		Bishop Kenneth Pritchard, Jr.
Scripture	<i>Old Testament</i> <i>Pslam 149:4</i>	Regina Worthy
	<i>New Testament</i> <i>Matthew 11:28-30</i>	Regina Worthy
Solo Selection	<i>"The Battle is the Lords"</i>	Jurell White
Remark	<i>2 minutes Please</i>	Family & Friends
Acknowledgements		Vanessa Pritchard
Obituary Reading		Sharon Robinson-Byrd
Solo Selection	<i>"I Just Want to Praise You"</i>	Jurell White
Eulogy		Bishop Kenneth Pritchard, Jr.
		Bishop Kenneth Pritchard, Jr.
Benediction		
Organ Postlude		Adam Littlejohn



Internment
Oak Lawn Cemetery
427 Cummins Hwy
Roslindale, MA 02131



Immediately following the service, everyone is cordially invited to join the family at Biff's Lounge for a time of fellowship, reflections and refreshment.

24 Washington St., Dorchester, MA 02121 : 2pm-6pm