



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS



*Rodney Levar*  
**GILBERT, JR.**

SUNRISE  
 October 17, 2003

SUNSET  
 December 24, 2025

*"Gone too soon, but forever loved."*

Saturday, January 10, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.  
**ST. PAUL CME CHURCH**  
 8534 MS 433 - Bentonia, MS 39040  
 Rev. Benjamin Wallace, Pastor  
 Rev. Danny A. Willis, Officiating

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The family of Rodney Levar Gilbert Jr. would like to express our sincere appreciation for the prayers, flowers, kind words, calls, visits, and every act of love shown during this difficult time. Your support has brought us comfort and strength, and we are forever grateful. May God richly bless each of you for standing with us in our time of sorrow.

~ The Family ~

**ACTIVE PALLBEARERS**

- Robert Stiff
- Rodriquez Anderson
- Marquis Anderson
- Armahd Stiff
- Arealus Stiff
- Desmond Tyson
- Charles Noel Jr.
- William Noel
- Victor Cowell
- Josh Anderson
- Octavion Hollins

**FLOWER BEARERS**

Family & Friends

**INTERMENT**

St. Paul CME Church Cemetery  
 8534 MS 433  
 Bentonia, MS 39040

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES  
 ENTRUSTED TO**



*Shaffer-Collins Funeral Home, Inc.*  
 "Our Family Serving Your Community"  
 247 West Sixth Street - Yazoo City, MS 39194  
 662-746-3985

A LIFE REMEMBERED

Rodney Levar Gilbert, Jr.

"To every thing there is a season...A time to be born, and a time to die." | Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

On December 24, 2025, Rodney Levar Gilbert Jr. departed this life at the age of 22. He was born on October 17, 2003, in Yazoo City, Mississippi, to Christie Lee Anderson and Rodney Levar Gilbert, Sr. From the moment he entered this world, Rodney brought light, strength, and quiet joy to all who knew him.

Rodney was truly a gentle giant – strong in stature yet tender in heart. He carried himself with humility, kindness, and respect, always willing to lend a helping hand. He was a natural leader and role model, especially to his siblings and friends. Family meant everything to Rodney. He was deeply devoted to his parents and siblings, and he took pride in being a protector, encourager, and friend to them.

Rodney was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Ella Gilbert and Roger Gilbert.

He leaves to cherish and honor his precious memories his loving parents, Christie Lee Anderson and Rodney Levar Gilbert, Sr.; grandparents, Christine Anderson and Major Lee Anderson, both of Yazoo City, MS; two sisters, Niya J. Gilbert and Trinity Spencer; three brothers, Desmond Anderson, Miles Gilbert, and Rasheem Gilbert; his devoted godmother, Sharon Minniefield; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives, and dear friends.

Though Rodney's life on earth was far too short, his impact was powerful and lasting. He will be remembered for his gentle spirit, his quiet strength, his leadership, and the love he poured into those around him. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know and love him.

WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME

When tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not there to see,
If the sun should rise and find your eyes all filled with tears for me,
I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today,
While thinking of the many things, we didn't get to say.
I know how much you love me, as much as I love you,
and each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too.
So, when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me, I'm right here, in your heart.

ORDER OF SERVICE

- Processional .....Clergy and Family
Musical Selection.....Choir
Scripture Reading ..... Rev. Benjamin Wallace
Prayer of Comfort ..... Rev. Marcus Hudson
Solo..... David Hogan
Expressions ..... Three Minutes ..... Family and Friends
Obituary..... Read Silently ..... Soft Music
Musical Selection.....Choir
Eulogy.....Rev. Danny A. Willis
SHAFFER-COLLINS FUNERAL DIRECTORS IN CHARGE
Recessional ..... Clergy, Family & Friends

The LORD is my Shepherd,
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters,
He restoreth my soul:
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for His name's sake. Yea though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death.
I will fear no evil:
for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies
Thou anointest my head with oil; My cup runneth over
Surely goodness & mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house
of the LORD forever.
- Psalm 23

TRIBUTES OF LOVE

Dear Son Rodney,
Gentle Giant, My Heavy Weight Champion, always my baby.
I'm missing you, going to miss you even more. I'm going to miss
the Roll Calls with you babe. Lol, it was always funny trying
to wake you up. Losing you hurts deep as it feels like a part of
me was snatched away. This seems unreal my Love. You meant everything
to me. I miss those big hugs and kisses when you
pick me up and spin me around. Baby I know that you're in the Kingdom of
God, you're the Heavyweight Champion for the Most High. Lil Rod you
will always be my gentle giant watching over us.
Love Always, Your Mother

Big Daddy,
I never imagined this day would come, but since it's here, know this. From
the moment I first saw you and gave you my name, I knew how special you
were and how deeply you would impact others. You were a leader in every
sense, strong in work ethic, unafraid of difficulty, and committed to seeing
things through. You didn't just demand respect; you modeled it, always
showing integrity and staying true to who you were. That, son, is the mark
of a true man. My heart is breaking, and this pain feels unbearable, but I
raised you with love, stability, and every ounce of support I could give. A
future without you feels heavy, but your memories will carry us and God
will hold our hands even when we struggle to feel Him.
I love you, son, more than you could ever know.
Love, Your Dad

To Our Brother
Rod, we will miss your fun-loving spirit and the strength you showed
in caring for and protecting us as our bigger-than-life brother.
You stepped into that role with patience and love, always making
sure we were okay. We are forever grateful for you and love
you deeply. You will be missed beyond words.
Love Always,
Niya, Desmond, Miles, Raheem, and Trinity

For My Nephew in Heaven
Of all the special gifts in life, however great or small,
To have you as a nephew was the greatest gift of all.
Nephew your time was far too short.
No more tomorrows we can share,
But yesterdays will always be there.
Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same.
But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.
~ Love Your Uncles and Aunts~