

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

Mr. SAMUEL  
TYRON RUCKER

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Antonio Rowles Maurice Gadson Reginald Gadson  
Leroy Cage Jr. Brian Taylor Sr. Gregory Smith  
Charles Byrd George Ellis Sr.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The family of Samuel Tyron Rucker wishes to express our deepest appreciation for the many acts of kindness, prayers, and words of comfort shared with us during this difficult time. Whether you sent a card, shared a meal, offered a prayer or simply held us in your heart. Your love has been a source of strength. We find peace, knowing that Samuel is with his savior, and we thank you for celebrating his remarkable life with us.

*The Family*

Following the service, the family will greet friends and relatives at a Celebration of Life Dinner at the Diamond Experience Event Center.  
8709 E. 63rd Street, Kansas City MO 64133

Professional Services Entrusted To:  
**SERENITY**  
FUNERAL HOME

1101 E. Bannister Rd. | Kansas City, MO 64131 | SFHKC.com



CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

Mr. SAMUEL  
TYRON RUCKER

JUNE 13, 1968 – FEBRUARY 9, 2026



Sunday, February 22, 2026  
Visitation: 3:00pm – 4:00pm  
Service: 4:00pm

Serenity Funeral Home  
1101 E. Bannister Rd.  
Kansas City, Missouri 64131

## LIFE REFLECTIONS

# Mr. SAMUEL TYRON RUCKER

Samuel Tyrone Rucker passed away on February 9, 2026, at his home in Atlanta, Georgia. He was born on June 13, 1968, in Kansas City, Missouri, to Robert Lee Rucker Sr. and Anita Rucker Burns.

Samuel grew up in the Kansas City, Missouri area and attended the Kansas City, Missouri School District.

Throughout his life, he worked various jobs caring for others, reflecting his giving and compassionate spirit.

In 1989, he married Natalie Davis. That marriage was later dissolved. In 2018, he married Trenina Jones, and that marriage was also later dissolved.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Lee Rucker Sr. and his paternal and maternal grandparents.

He leaves to cherish his memory his mother, Anita Rucker Burns; his children: Morgan Ocey Rucker (Atlanta, Georgia), Latoya Dukes and Uriel (Durham, North Carolina), Nicholas Rucker and Ashley (Atlanta, Georgia), Treyonna "Sevyn" Buffins and Annisaa (Atlanta, Georgia), Christian Rucker (Kansas City, Missouri), Cameren Rucker-Anderson (Kansas City, Missouri), and Anita Rucker (Kansas City, Missouri), bonus daughters, Tamiere Cuthbert and Taija Cuthbert (Atlanta, Georgia). Siblings: Robert L. Rucker Jr. and Asia (Spokane, Washington); Larry Shawn Rucker and Kim (Des Moines, Iowa). His beloved grandchildren: Aden Dukes, Faith Dukes, Ava Dukes, Christian Dukes, Zara Rucker, Nicholas Rucker Jr., Peyton Buffins, and Parker Buffins, along with a host of other relatives and friends.

## TO MY CHILDREN

Morgan, Latoya, Nicholas, Treyonna,  
Christian, Cameren, and Anita  
If you're reading this, it means  
I can't sit in front of you and say it myself —  
and that's the hardest part for me.

I need you to know something first:  
I did not leave you because I wanted to.  
My love for you didn't stop.

It didn't fade.

And it never will.

Even though you can't see me,

I am not gone from you.

I'm in the way you laugh.

I'm in the boldness in your personality.

I'm in your confidence

when you walk into a room.

That spark? That strength? That joy?

That's me living in you.

I know this hurts.

I know there will be days you  
wish you could call me, hug me,  
or hear my voice.

And on those days,

I want you to close your eyes.

Remember the fun.

Remember the music.

Remember how I loved to live out loud.

I don't want you to only remember tears.

I want you to remember the smiles.

Carry me with joy, not just sorrow.

Be strong. Be bold.

Protect each other.

Love hard. Live fully.

And when you accomplish something great —  
become something amazing —  
know that I'm cheering louder than anybody.

I'm proud of you.

I will always be proud of you.

Nothing — not even death —

can erase a father's love.

I'm just in a different place now.

But you are still my babies.

Forever.

Love always,  
Dad



# DEAR MOMMA

I know your heart is heavy.  
I know this is not the order of things.  
And if I could take away your pain, I would  
But please don't let your mind tell you I'm lost  
I'm not lost.  
I'm not alone.  
And I'm not afraid.  
You loved me loud.  
You loved me proud.  
You loved me in a way only a mother can.  
Even when I was flashy.  
Even when I was hard-headed.  
Even when I was doing the most.  
You were always my safe place.  
I can still hear you calling my name.  
Still feel your prayers covering me.  
You never stopped praying for me — not one day.  
Mama, everything you poured into me is still alive.  
Your strength runs through me.  
Your fire runs through me.  
Your love built me.  
Please don't only remember the day I left.  
Remember the life we shared.  
Remember the laughter.  
Remember the noise.  
Remember how I filled up a room.  
And Mama... I need you to breathe.  
I am at peace.  
I know you miss me,  
but don't let grief steal your joy.  
When you think of me, smile first.  
Tell my story with love.  
Say my name without breaking.  
And when your time comes —  
a long time from now —  
I'll be there.  
But until then, live.  
Love.  
Keep being strong like you always have.  
You were my first love.  
You will always be my Mama.  
And I am forever your son.

# TO MY BROS

I know this hit different.  
We grew up side by side.  
Shared blood.  
Shared memories.  
Shared a bond that didn't need a lot of words.  
And now there's a space where I used to stand.  
But listen to me — I'm still your brother.  
You carry me every day.  
In your strength.  
In your laughter.  
In the way you stand up for family.  
We've been through things.  
We've celebrated together.  
We've argued, laughed,  
partied, and showed up for each other.  
That doesn't end because I'm not physically there.  
But I need something from you.  
Take care of Mama.  
Check on her.  
Sit with her.  
Call her even when you don't feel like it.  
Be patient with her grief.  
She carried us before we could carry ourselves —  
now it's your turn.  
Make sure she feels safe.  
Make sure she feels supported.  
Make sure she knows she's not alone.  
Be strong for her, but also be soft with her.  
And be there for each other.  
Don't let pride separate you.  
Don't let distance create silence.  
Stay connected.  
Stay united.  
When one of you wins, celebrate it big.  
When one of you struggles, step in.  
That's what brothers do.  
Live full.  
Laugh loud.  
Don't dim your light.  
And when y'all get together,  
tell the stories.  
Tell the funny ones.  
Play the music.  
Keep my name alive in joy.  
I'm proud to be your brother.  
That never changes.  
Hold it down.  
Protect Mama.  
Protect each other.  
Forever your brother.



# ORDER OF SERVICE

## PROCESSIONAL

### SCRIPTURE

Pastor Eric Ashby Sr.

### PRAYER

Pastor Maurice Gadson

### MUSICAL SELECTION

Mrs. Marquita Jacks

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & CONDOLENCES

Chephan Collins

### VIDEO TRIBUTE

### LIFE REFLECTION

*(To Be Read in Silence)*

### OPEN MEMORIES

One Minute Per Person

5 Person Limit

### MUSICAL SELECTION

Mrs. Denise Smith

### WORDS OF COMFORT

Bishop Lawrence Williams

### FINAL VIEWING

### BENEDICTION



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