

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ON BEHALF OF THE YATES FAMILY, WE WOULD LIKE TO
THANK EACH AND EVERYONE FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE
THIS AFTERNOON, FOR YOUR LOVING SIGNS OF
SUPPORT AND YOUR PERSONAL TRIBUTES. BURIAL WILL
FOLLOW IN NEW PINEGROVE CEMETERY. THANK YOU
FROM ALL OF US AT CASEY'S EASTSIDE MEMORIAL
FUNERAL HOME.



PALLBEARERS

BRIAN TROTMAN
DAMON TROTMAN
DAMIEN MANNING
LASHAUN YATES
PHIL GOODSON
RANDY KEELS
WILLIAM BRYANT SR.

REPAST

REDEEMING LOVE CHURCH
34 BISHOP STREET
WATERBURY, CT 06704

IN LOVING MEMORY



DEREK LAMAR
YATES SR.

DECEMBER 14, 1974 — JULY 19, 2026

OBITUARY

WATERBURY – IT IS WITH HEAVY HEARTS THAT THE FAMILY OF MR. DEREK LAMAR YATES SR., AGE 51, OF WATERBURY, SAY FAREWELL FOR NOW, TO OUR BELOVED FATHER, BROTHER, SON AND UNCLE, FOLLOWING HIS PEACEFUL PASSING ON SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026, AT WATERBURY HOSPITAL, SURROUNDED BY HIS LOVING FAMILY. HE WAS THE BELOVED LIFELONG SOULMATE OF KAREN LEVASSEUR.

DEREK WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 14, 1974, IN WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT, THE SON OF JERRY AND LOUETTA (PARKER) YATES. HE SPENT TWO REMARKABLE DECADES AS AN ENAMEL SPECIALIST AT LUVATA AND PREVIOUSLY WORKED AT UNIMETAL SURFACE FINISHING AS A SHIPPING AND RECEIVING MANAGER IN THE QUALITY ROLLING AND DEBURRING DEPARTMENT. AN AVID SPORTS ENTHUSIAST, HE HAD A PASSION FOR TEAMS LIKE THE DALLAS COWBOYS, NEW YORK YANKEES, AND PHILADELPHIA 76ERS. HE ENJOYED PLAYING SPADES AND BOWLING WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY, PARTICIPATING IN LEAGUES FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS. HIS DEDICATION TO HIS WORK WAS SURPASSED ONLY BY HIS LOVE FOR FAMILY, WHICH WAS HIS GREATEST JOY. A PROTECTOR AND A GENTLE SOUL, DEREK'S FAMILY MEANT EVERYTHING TO HIM, PARTICULARLY HIS CHILDREN, WHO WERE THE LIGHT OF HIS LIFE. MAY HIS MEMORY INSPIRE ALL OF US TO CHERISH OUR LOVED ONES AND CELEBRATE THE MOMENTS WE HAVE TOGETHER.

BESIDES HIS BELOVED PARENTS AND HIS LOVE, KAREN, LEFT TO CHERISH AND HONOR HIS MEMORY ARE HIS CHILDREN: ALAYSIA YATES, DEREK L. YATES JR., AND ALAYNA YATES, KAREN'S CHILDREN THAT WERE LOVED LIKE DEREK'S OWN: WALLACE L. WIGGINS III, JORDAN L. WIGGINS, KAREN'S GRANDCHILD THAT DEREK LOVED LIKE HIS OWN: WALLACE L. WIGGINS IV, HIS BROTHER, GARY D. YATES, AND MANY BELOVED AUNTS, UNCLES, NIECES, NEPHEWS, COUSINS AND OTHER EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS AND BELOVED FRIENDS.

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE - SCARS IN HEAVEN BY CASTING CROWNS

INVOCATION PRAYER OF COMFORT- CLERGY

OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES- CLERGY

MUSICAL SELECTION- SHALAYA PAUL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/ CONDOLENCES- TAWANA DOUGLAS

OBITUARY- READ BY TAWANA DOUGLAS

EULOGY- PASTOR DARREN MCDANIEL

BENEDICTION/ RECESSIONAL- PASTOR DARREN MCDANIEL

POEM: REMEMBER ME

REMEMBER ME WHEN LAUGHTER FILLS THE AIR,
WHEN SOMETHING SMALL TURNS BRIGHTER UNAWARE;

REMEMBER ME WHEN ORDINARY DAYS
ARE WARMED BY QUIET, UNEXPECTED RAYS.

REMEMBER ME-- BUT NOT WITH HEAVY HEART,
NOT AS A SILENCE PULLING YOU APART;
FOR IF YOU SMILE, AND FIND A LIGHTER WAY,
THEN I AM NEARER THAN I WAS YESTERDAY.

IF YOU FORGET ME FOR A MOMENT'S GRACE,
AND JOY SHOULD GENTLY TAKE MY PLACE,
DO NOT HOLD TIGHT TO SORROW'S THREAD--
IT'S BETTER FAR TO LAUGH INSTEAD.

FOR I WAS ONE WHO FOUND THE LIGHT IN THINGS,
IN FLEETING MOMENTS, IN THE JOY LIFE BRINGS;
SO LET THAT BE THE WAY I LINGER STILL--
IN EASY, LAUGHTER, AND IN QUIET WILL.

REMEMBER ME IN BRIGHTNESS, NOT IN GREY,
IN ALL THE GOOD THAT CARRIES ON EACH DAY;
AND IF YOU DO, THEN I AM ALWAYS NEAR--
ALIVE IN EVERY SMILE THAT FINDS YOU HERE.