

on of Life



Wansley

Sunrise: June 5, 1965
Sunset: July 14, 2025

To Our Village

With Grateful Hearts

We, the **Wansley family**, are deeply humbled and overwhelmingly grateful for the beautiful village that surrounds us. In this moment of both sorrow and celebration, we have felt the embrace of our community—family, friends, clergy, singers, musicians, and prayer warriors alike. Your prayers, your words of comfort, and your presence have been a source of strength and peace. We truly lack nothing, and for that, we thank you.

Today's service is more than a farewell—it is a powerful display of **unity, love, and faith**. It reflects the heart of **God**: people coming together not out of duty or title, but out of a pure desire to serve and honor. This kind of selfless collaboration is rare and sacred. We believe it brings joy to God's heart, just as it has brought light to ours. Even in our grief, we find beauty—because of you.

With all our love,

Frances, Daria, Zaria & Ayan

A Special Thank You To:

Lance Darden - Music Director

New Covenant Believers' Church, and Bishop Tillman



Funeral services entrusted by
Chapel of Peace
Columbus, Ohio

Program Design by
Mark Hill
MarkHillCreative@gmail.com

Celebration



Derrick
Lamarr
Wansley

Obituary

With hearts full of love, we celebrate the life of **Derrick Lamarr Wansley**, born June 5, 1965, in Columbus, Ohio, to **Effie Delores Wansley**. At age 10, life took a new turn when his mother married **Clarence Hill**, and the family moved to Akron, Ohio. There, Derrick thrived—graduating from **Buchtel High School**, in 1983, and excelling in both wrestling and football. His athletic talent earned him a full scholarship to **Virginia Union University**, where he formed lifelong bonds rooted in brotherhood and faith.

Derrick's spiritual journey began early. In Akron, his faith was nurtured at **Shelton Temple COGIC**, later deepening at **New Covenant Believers' Church**, where he served faithfully in the choir and praise team. His love for gospel music led him to sing with groups like Identity and to serve in several ministries, always using his voice and heart to uplift others.

Summers in Columbus with his **Aunt Polly** and **Uncle Bus** were filled with love, music, and life lessons. Even as a boy, Derrick had a gentle spirit, magnetic smile, and a gift for making people feel seen and loved. He was a gentle giant, known for his enormous hugs and even bigger heart. A lifelong **Pittsburgh Steelers** fan, Derrick also loved to sing, dance, and laugh. Despite his size, he moved with surprising rhythm and grace. He brought that same energy and joy to everything he did—including his 24-year career with the **Ohio Department of Juvenile Corrections**. Later, he continued to mentor young people through work at **Briar Patch Ranch for Kids**.

In 1992, Derrick met **Frances L. Fleming** at a wedding. Three years later, they married and built a life centered on love, family, and faith. He became legal guardian to his nephew, **Terrell Lamarr Hill** and together, he and Frances raised two daughters, **Daria Elyce-Juyl** and **Zaria Noel-Jade**. In 2025, they celebrated 30 years of marriage—just as they welcomed their first grandchild, **Ayan ZyAire Jamahl Mozer**, who quickly became Derrick's sunshine and source of strength.

Though health challenges marked his later years, Derrick's faith never wavered. He was preceded in death by his mother **E. Delores Hill**; sisters **Carla Hill** and **DeAna Wansley**; his nephew/son **Terrell**; and stepsister **Carolyn Hill-Sanders**.

He leaves behind a legacy of love and service: his devoted wife **Frances**, daughters **Daria** and **Zaria**, grandson **Ayan**, his cousin, **Toya Kendrick**, step-siblings: **Carlton**, **Lida**, **Darrell**, **Olethus**, **Mark** and **Margetta Hill**, and a large extended family including, cousins, godchildren, and lifelong friends.

Known as **Big Wans**, **Big Daddy**, and **Big D**, Derrick was a man of faith, music, laughter, and fierce love. His life reminds us to show up for others, embrace joy, and lead with compassion.

Rest well, Big Wans. You are deeply loved, and your legacy lives on in every heart you touched.



Order of Service

Dr. Tom Edwards
Officiant

Musical Prelude

Musical Selection

Prayer of Comfort
Darren Thomas

Scripture Readings
Old Testament – Isaiah 40:21–30 (KJV)
New Testament – James 1:2–4 (KJV)

Musical Selection

Obituary and Acknowledgments
Sherrie Young

Reflections - 2 Mins

Musical Selection

Eulogy
Elder Wesley Dunlap
New Covenant Believers' Church

Recessional

Pallbearers
Damon J. Mozer
Joel A. Horton
Christopher Baker
Camp McCreary
Howard Hill
Jerome Henton
Mark Hill

