

The "Picture Man"



*Flower Bearers
Friends of the Family*

Acknowledgement

The Michael Jennings Family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to all of you for your prayers, presence, love, telephone calls and all other expressions of concern that you have shown during our time of bereavement. Never more than now was your kindness needed and more appreciated. We would like to express special thanks to Melvin Farmer, Sterling & Becki Armstrong, Stan Maffett, Ralph Riddle, Jr., Abudul and wife, and all the Q's that looked out for Michael.



God Saw the Road

God Saw the road was getting rough,
The hill was hard to climb.
He gently closed those loving eyes
And whispered, "Peace be Thine."
The weary hours, the days of pain,
The sleepless nights have passed.
The ever-patient worn-out frame
Has found sweet rest at last.
God saw that you were weary
So He did what He knows best.
He Came and stood beside you,
And whispered, "Come and rest."
You bid no one a last farewell,
Not even a goodbye.
You were gone before we knew it,
And only God knows why.



Saginaw Area
3100 South Washington Avenue
Saginaw, Michigan 48601
P (989) 754-4826
F (989) 754-3740
pfc-saginaw@paradisefuneralchapel.com
Sharise Steele-Phillips, Manager

South Lansing Area
1107 East Miller Road
Lansing, Michigan 48911
P (517) 299-0300
F (517) 299-0301
pfc-lansing@gmail.com
Nicole Wilson, Manager

North Lansing Area
2900 North Waverly Road
Lansing, Michigan 48906
P (517) 272-1035
F (517) 272-1048
pfc-lansing@gmail.com
Kevin Benke, Manager

Ivan E. Phillips, Founder & President

Celebrating the Life and Legacy

Michael Jennings

Sunrise: September 09, 1949 - Sunset: December 05, 2024

Memorial Service
Friday, April 4, 2025
1:00 p.m.

New Mount Calvary Baptist Church
3800 West Miller Road
Lansing, Michigan 48911

Reverend Dr. Lonnie J. Chipp, Jr
Officiating

Celebrating the Life and Legacy

Michael Jennings

Mr. Michael Jennings “The Picture Man”, our beloved family and friend, transitioned from Earth to Heaven on Thursday, December 5, 2024, in Lansing, Michigan. Michael was born Thursday, September 29, 1949, in Chicago, Illinois to mother, Mary Lee Smith (Redmond) and father, Elisha Miller.

Michael’s family moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan when he was a young child. He matriculated through the public school system there and graduated from South High School where he played basketball; a sport that remained his passion both as a participant and observer. Michael was quite popular with his peers and because of his engaging personality, never met a stranger.

After graduating high school, Michael attended Ferris State University, where he met Carla, who soon became his wife and the mother of his son, Darin. Together they transferred to Michigan State University, graduated and established a village whose friendships endured a lifetime. Michael was a diehard Spartan and founding member of the MSU Black Alumni Association. His professional career began with the Greater Lansing Urban League as a client advocate. After several years, he transferred those skills to the State of Michigan Department of Mental Health where he advanced his advocacy to help numerous mentally challenged and disenfranchised people statewide Michael retired from that position after thirty years of faithful service.

During the interim, Michael was studying to become a photographer in honor of his older brother, Dave, who gifted him with a 35 mm camera. As a self-taught photographer, Michael honed his skills deftly and became one of Lansing’s preeminent professional, freelance photographers for more than forty years. The Greater Lansing community would be hard pressed to find one family whose life has not been enhanced by “The Picture Man’s” keen eye for detail and consummate ability to capture the moment of film.

One of Michael’s most profound achievements was celebrated when he joined the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. It was a dream fulfilled, and he considered himself an esteemed Omega Man (and a “Q-Dog” on occasion). The Annual Q-Boat Ride was Michael’s brainchild as he envisioned a big party from the balcony of his Riverfront townhouse where he was a premier resident as early as 1979.

Michael, now single again, met Christina Long in 1996. They were married on Saturday, September 13, 2003, becoming a new family with her son, Trevor Buckner. Michael and Christina became members of New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Lonnie J. Chipp, Jr. and attending regularly until his health failed.

Michael had a massive array of friends from all walks of life and in every state of the union. He could be loyal to a fault, but his enduring faithfulness was unwavering as he nurtured each friendship personally. Michael Jennings LOVED to dress and smell good, as evidenced by his huge suit and shoe collections.

The grandchildren were the apple of his eye and Michael took great pride in doting on them, especially Mike Jr., who lived with him for a brief period and granddaughter, Makayla, the daughter he never had. He reveled in showcasing his family at the annual Q-Picnic and splurging on expensive gifts.

Michael leaves to cherish his indelible legacy, wife, Christina Jennings; sons, Darin Bradley Jennings, Michael Anthony (Carla) Jennings, and Trevor Buckner; grandchildren, Makayla Pryor-Jennings, Michael A. Jennings, Jr., Jasmine Jennings, Trezdon Totten, and Michael Ray Daniels; 2 great grandchildren; sisters and beloved caregiver, Denise Johnson and Marilyn LaMar; brother, Dave (Sara) Jennings; nieces, Machele Lorf, Eloise Wright, Anita Deans, and Twayna Heggins; nephews, Arthur Lee Wright, Dave Jennings II, James R. Johnson, and Mark Deans; many cousins including special cousins, Wesely Ford, Darnell Ford, Bobby Ford, Velcia Wright, Verna Edwards, and Jackie Pollard; and a multitude of dear friends too numerous to mention but including special friends, Sterling & Becki Armstrong, Stanley Bush, Tam Harmon, Gayle King, Zoe Lattimer, Dr. Paul King, Carlos Parker, Michael Adkins, Lou Stone, Dr. Curtiz Merriweather, Stanley Maffett, Ralph Riddle, Jr., Rodney Singleton, Deborah Sudduth, Betty Thomas-Gilkey, WM Kilgore, JC Bard, Harold & Jennifer Pope, Melvin Farmer, and his fraternity Omega Phi Psi Brothers.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Mary Lee Smith and Elisha Miller; sister, Lucille Deans; brother, Robert Dixon; nephew, Derek L. Dandridge; best friends, Frank Perez, Theophilis Harvey, and Stan Washington.

Order of Service

Prelude

Processional
Family

Prayer
Minister

Scripture
Psalms 23
Minister

Musical Selection
“Precious Lord”
Minister Sharon Lawrence

Acknowledgments of Cards,
Condolences & Obituary
Church Clerk

Expressions
(Please limit to two minutes)
Family and Friends

Musical Selection
“Amazing Grace”
Mr. Phillip Denny

Eulogy
Reverend Dr. Lonnie J. Chipp, Jr.

Committal
Benediction
Recessional

The Chain

by Ron Tranmer

We little knew that morning,
God was calling your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.
You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide
And though we cannot see you,
You are always by our side.
Our family chain is broken
And nothing seems the same
But as God calls us one by one
The chain will link again.