



CELEBRATING THE LIFE
AND LEGACY OF

AARON
MICHAEL HOLLEY
Shumate

DECEMBER 23, 1985 - MARCH 20, 2025

“BIG A”

INTERMENT

Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens
5600 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43232

PALLBEARERS

John Neal ~ Judere Hopson ~ Dwight Allen ~ AC Jackson
Justin Davis ~ Darius Drake ~ Lorenzon Fulio ~ Darren Roscoe

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Glen Shumate ~ Jackson Shumate ~ Chase Shumate
Keith Shumate ~ Walter Lockett ~ Charles Williams Jr
Denim Cook ~ Marquez Colvin ~ JD Weatherspoon

A WORD OF THANKS

The family of Aaron Michael Holley Shumate would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has shown love and support during this difficult time. We are deeply touched by the outpouring of care and sympathy from family, friends, and the community. We extend a special thank you to Bishop Timothy J. Clarke and the congregation of the First Church of God for hosting the funeral service and providing a loving, spiritual environment to celebrate Aaron's life. We also thank Rev. Dr. Keith A. Troy and the New Salem Missionary Baptist Church for their spiritual guidance and support, as well as Rev. Dr. Eugene Gibson and the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church.

To Aaron's cherished circle of friends, who have been a constant presence, lifting him up and sharing in his triumphs and challenges—your love, loyalty, and companionship meant the world to him. We are also grateful for all of Aaron's family, both near and far, who have gathered to honor his memory and legacy. Your presence is a testament to the deep bonds that sustained him.

We are truly grateful for the prayers, kind words, and every act of compassion shown to our family during this time. Aaron's smile, heart, and lasting impact will continue to live on through the many lives he touched. May God bless each of you.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Aaron Shumate Legacy Fund at the Columbus Foundation, 1234 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205. For more information, please contact Steven Moore at smoore@columbusfoundation.org.



MARLAN GARY FUNERAL HOME

NORTH CHAPEL
2500 CLEVELAND AVE.
COLUMBUS, OH 43211

EAST CHAPEL
5456 LIVINGSTON AVE.
COLUMBUS, OH 43232

MANSFIELD CHAPEL
753 MCPHERSON ST.
MANSFIELD, OH 44903

SPRINGFIELD CHAPEL
823 SOUTH YELLOW SPRINGS ST.
SPRINGFIELD OHIO

www.TheChapelOfPeace.com | (614) 267-8310





Obituary

Aaron Michael Holley Shumate, 39, of Columbus, Ohio, transitioned to eternal life on Thursday, March 20, 2025, surrounded by loved ones. Born just two days before Christmas on December 23, 1985, Aaron was a treasured gift to his family. His parents, Alex and Sharon, fondly recall his older brother John telling them that year, "This is the best Christmas ever. My little brother is the best present."

Aaron-lovingly known as Big A-brought an unmistakable energy wherever he went. He graduated from Bishop Hartley High School in 2004, where he played football as a proud Hartley Hawk. He later attended the University of Toledo and remained a passionate sports enthusiast throughout his life, especially cheering on the Ohio State Buckeyes. Ohio State game days were sacred-particularly when shared with his father, son, and brother in the stadium.

Aaron had a larger-than-life personality and a style all his own. A lifelong lover of rap music, fashion, and jewelry, his flair began early-sparked by a childhood encounter with Run of Run DMC. His signature chains and bold fashion sense became his personal brand, one he would later channel into his life's mission: uplifting the next generation.

As Founder and CEO of Building Young Minds (BYM), Aaron created a platform to support the educational, physical, mental, and spiritual health of youth in Central Ohio. Established in 2006, BYM offered after-school programs and mentoring opportunities rooted in empowerment and resilience. Aaron's passion for service left a lasting mark on countless lives.

More than anything, Aaron adored his family. He cherished time spent at Shumate family functions, Holley holiday gatherings, Henson family reunions, Sherrod Sunday dinners, and hanging out with his dad, Alex; mom, Sharon; and brother, John.

His true pride and joy-his heart and soul-was his son, Aaron II. He poured his love and knowledge into him, coaching him in football and mentoring him with the same compassion and enthusiasm he offered so many others.

Aaron also had a brotherhood of friends that remained constant throughout his life-men who laughed with him, stood by him and shared in his triumphs and challenges. He valued these friendships deeply, and his family extends a special message to that circle: Thank you for being a part of Aaron's journey. Your love, loyalty, and presence meant the world to him. Continue to lift one another up and live boldly, just as he did.

Aaron was a man of faith who found spiritual grounding at New Salem Baptist Church. One of his guiding beliefs was simple, yet powerful:

"Believe in God, ourselves, and hard work."

He is survived by his parents, Sharon Louise Holley Shumate and Alex (Renee) Shumate; his son, Aaron Shumate II (and his mother, Ca'Rita Cornute); his brother, John (Shana) Shumate; aunts Zennie Shumate, Valerie (Larry) King, Valita (Walter) Lockett, and Beth (Myron) Cherry; uncle Glen (Elaine) Shumate; nephews Jackson and Chase Shumate; and a host of cousins, extended family, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, John and Annie Shumate and John and Louise Holley.



Order Of Service

Friday, March 28, 2025 | 1:00pm
FIRST CHURCH OF GOD
 3480 Refugee Road , Columbus, OH 43232

CLERGY PROCESSIONAL

HYMN OF FAITH
 "Blessed Assurance"

READING OF THE WORD
 Old Testament Psalms 23 KJV
 New Testament John 14:1-6 KJV

Prayer of Comfort
 Clergy

MINISTRY OF MUSIC
 "Thank You Lord For All You've Done for me"

REMARKS
 Devin Washington
(representative Building Young Minds)
 Shawyn Jones
(Close Friend)
 Valita Lockett
(Aunt from the Holley Family)
 John Shumate
(Brother from the Shumate Family)

**SILENT READING OF THE
 OBITUARY/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

MINISTRY OF MUSIC
 "Total Praise"

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

BENEDICTION
 "Going Up to Yonder"

RECESSIONAL
 Family and Clergy