



## For My Father

You were my guide, my steady hand,  
 The quiet strength on which I stand.  
 Through every trail, through joy and pain,  
 Your love was constant, like gentle rain.  
 You taught me courage, taught me grace

I see your wisdom in every place.  
 Through I must walk this road apart,  
 I carry you always within my heart.  
 No farewell word, no last embrace,  
 Could ever dim the love we trace.

For fathers never truly depart,  
 They live forever in the child's heart.  
 Rest in peace, Dad, your work is done,  
 Your light still shines in everyone.

Love Always,

*Cedric, Tira, Rondrick and Taryn*



## Pallbearers

Taylor Oates  
 Christopher Jacobs  
 Jordan Gibson  
 Rondrick Oates  
 Marquell Towns  
 Cedric McLean

## Flower Attendants

Grandchildren & Nieces



## A Note of Gratitude

In times like these we all need a savior. When your hearts are burdened with grief, it's so very warming to the heart for family and friends to show compassion and concern. The family of the late **Theron Wade Oates** is so appreciative to the many acts of kindness, prayers, cards, visits, food, floral tributes to help us sustain during these hours of sorrow.

## Professional Services Entrusted to

**Edwards Small Mortuary**  
 "Committed to Excellence"

1011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive  
 (478) 825-8700

<https://www.edwardssmallmortuary.com>



## Celebrating THE LIFE OF



March 30, 1962-September 13, 2025

## Mr. Theron Wade Oates

A kind soul, a loving father, grandfather, uncle, brother, friend and a man of quiet strength. Your warmth, wisdom, and presence will forever remain in our hearts.



Saturday, September 20, 2025  
 11:00 am

Edwards Small Mortuary Chapel  
 1011 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
 Fort Valley, GA 31030

**Eulogist, Minister Brian Gibson**

# Remembering Theron...

# Memories

# Order of Service

**Theron Wade Oates** also known as “Theo” was born on March 30, 1962, in Fort Valley, Georgia to the late Mary and Lawrence Oates.

Theron was the sixth child of nine siblings (Brenda Oates, Lawrence Oates, Melvin Oates, Terry Oates, Rita Oates, Kimberly Dugger, Amy Oates and Cedric Oates).

In 1980, Theron graduated from Peach County High School with honors where he secured a band scholarship to Bethune Cookman College. Theron expressed great interest in Business Management during his enrollment.

In 1981, Theron joined the United States Airforce where he was trained as a mechanic and demonstrated great pride in leadership. Theron “jack of all trades” held other notable talents such as Master Mechanic, Artist, Comedian, Carpenter, and Contractor.

In 1984, Theron met Tamara Mclean while stationed at Fort Bragg Army base in North Carolina. They later married and had four children. The couple raised their children in Atlanta, Georgia.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Mary Oates; three brothers: Terry, Melvin and Lawrence Oates (Jr.); two sisters: Brenda and Rita Oates.

Theron leaves behind a loving family of: four beautiful children: Cedric Mclean (Decatur, GA), Tira Jacobs (Ellenwood, GA), Rondrick Oates (Decatur, GA) and Taryn Oates (Ellenwood, GA); 10 grandchildren: Cedric Mclean (Jr), Jeremiah Mclean, Aliya Mclean, Ciara Mclean, Christopher Jacobs, Chrislynn Jacobs, Chia’ Jacobs, Cameron Oates, Taylor Oates and Tremir Busby; two loving sisters: Rev. Dr. Kimberly (Jimmy) Dugger and Amy Oates; brother, Cedric (Mekesha) Oates; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He will be remembered for his strength, wisdom, and the unconditional love he gave to his family. His legacy lives on through his four children, who carry forward his values and spirit, as well as a host of grandchildren who will forever cherish his memories.



**Rev. Dr. John Davis, Officiant**

## PRELUDE

## PROCESSIONAL

## MUSICAL SELECTION

Chrislynn Jacobs “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

## PRAYER

Rev. Kimberly Dugger

## SCRIPTURES

### Old & New Testament

Rev. Dr. Donald Williams

## POEM

Christopher Jacobs

## SELECTIONS

Kiel Jackson

“The Battle is Not Yours” by Yolanda Adams  
and “I Won't Complain” by Rev. Paul Jones

## EULOGY

Min. Brian Gibson

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Edwards Small Mortuary Staff

## RECESSIONAL



## INTERMENT

Willow Lake Memorial Gardens  
1854 Willow Lake Road  
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

## REPAST

Agricultural Technology Conference Center  
46 Camp John Hope Road  
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

