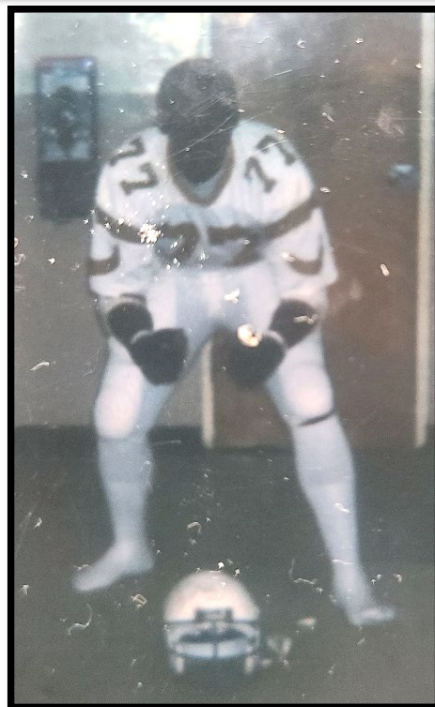
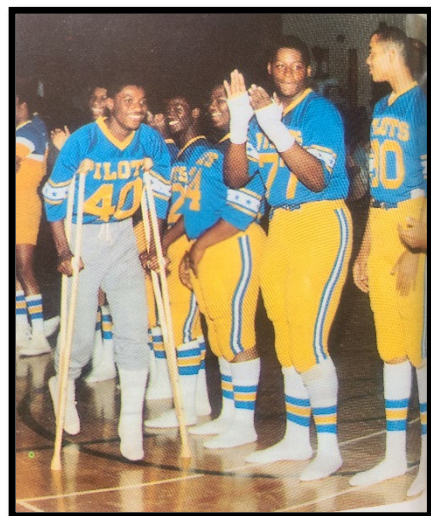
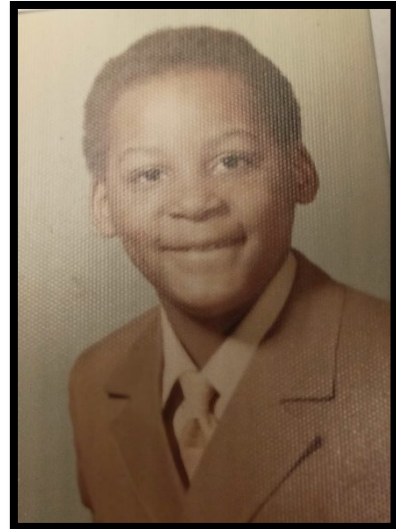


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family wishes to thank you for your expressions of love, concern, and kindness shown during our time of bereavement. Your comforting expressions of sympathy will always be remembered with deep gratitude. We thank you so much.



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A CELEBRATION OF LIFE



SUNRISE:

February 18, 1963

SUNSET:

March 28, 2023

Mr. Orlando Pepeda
GARDNER

"Gone from our presence... Never from our Hearts"

Saturday, April 8, 2023

SCOTT MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

1401 EAST BROADWAY STREET ♦ YAZOO CITY, MS 39194

~ A Life Lived to the Fullest ~

Orlando Cepeda Gardner

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: ~ II Timothy 4:7



Orlando Cepeda Gardner was born on February 18, 1963, in Detroit, MI to his parents Samuel Gardner and Catherine Gardner. Orlando graduated from Murray-Wright High School with the class of 1981. During his time at Murray, Orlando was very active in extracurricular activities. He was a Football Letterman for the Murray-Wright Pilots playing at the Center position. It was there that he met his lifelong friends Connie, Brett, and John and a bond was established that would never end. While Orlando befriended Brett and John on the Grid Iron, Connie and O.C. met as a result of participating in the Radio and TV class together. As noted, he excelled in sports and his love of music and photography led him to participate on the Yearbook Staff as well.

Never one to let the grass grow under his feet, following Orlando's graduation from Murray-Wright it was off to Norfolk State University in Norfolk, VA. Orlando was such a force on the football field at Murray-Wright, he was awarded a scholarship to play football for the Rams. After spending two years there, he was recruited away by the Savannah State University Tigers.

Following his college career, because Orlando excelled in computer technology, he began working with Johnson Controls as a Technician. His passion for solving problems and not taking crap from anyone soon led him to a leadership role with the organization. His team was responsible for ensuring that the systems were up and running correctly otherwise they could lose thousands of dollars in minutes. Never one to be shy, Orlando had a knack for letting you know where you stood with him. He didn't hesitate to let his team know when they needed to improve but just as importantly, he praised them when things were going well. He Got The Job Done!

During the spring of 1996 Orlando became a father as his only child D' Angelo was born whom Orlando gave the nickname DJ. Orlando took great pride in his role as a father. He routinely talked to DJ about life and manhood. He loved his son dearly and touted his birth as one of his greatest accomplishments.

Orlando met the lovely Essie Banks while working at Johnson Controls. They immediately hit it off and began dating only after Orlando literally fell head over heels in love with her (no, he actually tripped over her and almost crushed her by falling on her). The two were married in September 2008. From that day forward they were inseparable.

Orlando had many interests including music, movies, traveling, guns, fishing, cooking, and politics. One of his favorite bands was Parliament Funkadelic (Tear The Roof Off The Mother Sucker, Make My Funk The P-Funk, I Want to Get Funked Up, Maggot Brain) but stay around long enough and he'd be listening to a rock band called The Red Hot Chili Peppers (Give It Away, Give It Away, Give It Away Now). Then to top it off, he'd really throw you for a loop and throw on the Ghetto Boys (My Minds Playing Tricks On Me). Orlando's interest in movies ranged from horror films like "Hell Raiser" to martial arts films, Godzilla, Marvel superhero movies and The Rocky Horror Picture Show (Go Figure!). If you really wanted to get Orlando fired up, all you had to say was that you're a Republican and an hour later he'd still be talking while you wouldn't have said another word.

Orlando is survived by his wife Essie, his son DJ, his nephew Patrick, nieces Sierra, Nicole, Antanija, and Jaliya, sister-in-law Lottie (who was the only person's cooking he loved more than his own), Pets Lou Lou, Mia, and Little Bit and a host of other friends and family members.

Orlando was preceded in death by his parents Samuel and Catherine, sister Evon, brothers Glenn and Dee Dee, nephew Boohkey, niece Chrishy, and pet Butter.

Orlando was a true friend to many. His relationships were long-standing and deep as evidenced by his very best childhood friend, Steve. Their friendship certainly stood the test of time as he and Steve remained the best of friends throughout life. Orlando was also loved by the children because he had the heart of an innocent child filled with kindness and love. He was a gentle giant. Orlando will most certainly be missed but NEVER forgotten.

~ Tributes ~

"Can't Explain"

*I can't explain what has happened to my heart.
Missing the sound of your voice, it's been torn all apart.*

I don't know rather to smile or cry.

You're not in pain anymore and that's probably the reason why.

And even though you're not here,

my love will get stronger from year to year.

Can't explain why you had to go, but it wasn't up to me, God said so.

*I can already hear you calling my name and losing you,
my life will never be the same. I am your wife or like you say, "My
baby with duck feet". I am forever yours and only yours to keep.*

My heart is heavy now and full of pain.

I knew you had to go, but why so soon, I can't explain.

~ Your Loving Wife, Essie ~



Brother-in-law

*You were the brother-in-law everyone adored, full of laughter and
advice. Who could have asked for more? When I was doing wrong by
my doctors, you made me do right. Not hearing your fussing now,
well that's gonna be a fight. You were always there when I needed
anything, but looking at your wife, my sister, I know it's not a dream.
You made my sister the lady she is today and you will remain in my
heart each and every day.*

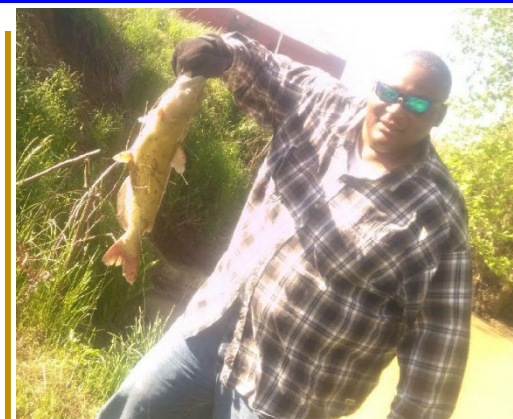
Your Sister-in-law, Chilottie



BLESSINGS

*Most are blessed with circumstance, others blessed by choice,
To hear a child's calling before he has a voice.
To build upon a family to add to man and wife,
To build a home together and make a happy life.
So much hope and promise a dream I had to share,
There's so much to look forward to even though I am not there.
I so enjoyed the beginning, I will truly miss the end,
But know I'll still be watching with lots of love to send.*

~ Love Orlando ~



Millennium Memories!

