

Special Message to Rodney my love you always had my heart from the first day I met you. Who would have thought you and I would last because we were so different, but we did, and I am blessed that we did. You were my Rock, you stood by me and supported me even when I thought I was the "boss." I know that you are my Angel watching over me; I will always remember your voice saying Yolonda get it together your strong you got this.

You said you tried to be the best husband you could; and I am so glad I told you that you were the best husband I could ask for. I could not have asked God to send me anyone else but you. Sweetheart I thank you for loving me and caring for me. You gave me all your flowers while you were here on earth, and I love you for it, and I gave you your flowers as best I could. Love you Honey Bun my Sugar Bear! What a joyous day it will be when we see each other again!



A special thank you to all who helped me with Rodney during his illness. I am so blessed to have you all and that I am truly grateful.
Mrs. Yolonda L. Craig

Acknowledgement

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement. May God Bless and Keep you!
The Craig Family

Repast

Dreamz on the Pike
12117 Princeton Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45246

Active Pallbearers

Albert Jones
Antonio D. Yarbrough, Sr.
Romell Salone
Frank Rhodes, III
Robvia Wheaton
Sam Moore, III
Ryan Lee Simmons
Bryan Keith McWhorter, Jr.

Honorary Pallbearers

Sam Moore
Richard Rollins
Clifford D. Yarbrough, Jr.
Shawn Redd
Bernard Craig
Roy Pennington
William Lamar Craig
Maurice Thomas

Sophisticated Gents of Corryville Brothers

Flower Bearers

Naisha Wheaton
Temika Ferguson
Marquita Thomas
Bianca Jones
Tanesha Chapman
Carrie Mae Rhodes



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Rodney Craig

January 13, 1965 - September 24, 2025



Saturday, October 11, 2025

Visitation: 9:30 am - Funeral Service: 10:30 am

New Mission Missionary Baptist Church

4809 Ravenna Street | Cincinnati, Ohio 45227

Pastor Tracy E. Ventus, Officiating

Rodney's Life Story

Rodney Craig, son of the late Shirley Ann (Red) Craig and John Dukes, was born on January 13, 1965 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Rodney received his heavenly wings at his residence on September 24, 2025.

Rodney attended Cincinnati Public Schools, graduated from Hughes High School in 1983.

Rodney enjoyed doing so many things, he enjoyed watching his sports, gambling, cooking for his family and friends, sitting outside on his front porch on sunny days in the spring and summer talking to his neighbors and sitting with his dog (Beano) by his side until Beano passed away in August 2024.

In his teen years Rodney was a part of group of young men from Corryville called "The Sophiscated Gents," who dressed with success. They would all wear suits and give parties all the time, which today they are still Corryville Brothers.

In the early-mid 1990's he signed his step-son up to play football (Ricky who has preceded him in death) for the Lil Red Machine Youth Football organization where he became an assistant coach for the 7 and 8-year-old. He truly loved coaching all the kids.

Rodney would also help tailgating for the Shroder High School Booster Club, with the school functions, and doing fish fries supporting his stepson, and "yes" the food was delicious!

Rodney worked various jobs during his lifespan from working with his father-in-law and brother-in-law doing custodial work and specializing in floors to doing what he loved most working at various restaurants as a cook. He enjoyed working at McAlister's in Oakley giving the young employees wisdom and knowledge and listening to his music while working. He worked at J&W's BBQ working beside his best friend Sam. He was doing what he loved to do and that was grilling some of the best tender ribs and cooking different foods. He worked for J&W's BBQ for over 20 years as the "BBQ man" of which the customers called him until his health declined. "One thing for sure he always worked more than one job," which also included working for J&W's breakfast trailer.

Rodney was also known to many as Mr. Rodney, Hot Rod, Smooth, Slick, Craig, and to most Unc or Uncle Rodney.

Rodney enjoyed his family time with his sons Woo and Vay, Godson-Frank, his nephews Antonio, Bryan, and all of his nephews when they would come over to see him, talking to them about sports and any and everything in the basement (his man cave), but the thing he loved most was just being with them and seeing them grow and giving them all of the wisdom and knowledge that he could give them as a man, and was always honest with them. Most of all he loved all of them including his God-daughter Carrie who he always greeted her with "Hey lil lady," which is what he would say to any female friend/family member he knew when he saw them.

Rodney had a love for everyone, but if you knew him, he had no problem speaking his mind. He loved all his family and would do anything for them. He loved spending time with his grandkids and his god grand-children. When they walked through the door he would light up and give them the biggest hug.

He had a love for his siblings and all his family whether he showed it or not he loved them, especially when he saw them.

One of the things he would say when someone greeted him with how you doing is "I'm great now that I see you! or I'm great how you doing?"

If you knew Rodney, you knew he truly loved his Pittsburgh Steelers football team so much that he made his man cave black and yellow all Steelers logos and decals.

In 1993 Rodney met the love of his life Yolonda, she was his friend, and best friend who dealt with everything he went through no matter what it was good or bad. After being together for 20 years they married on April 20, 2013. If you saw Rodney you saw Yolonda. He enjoyed cooking for her and always making sure she was first in his life. If she wanted something he made sure she, had it.

Rodney knew the Lord. He would sit in his man cave after a hard day of working listening to his soul music ending his night with his gospel music and close it with "I'm Gonna Be Ready" by Yolanda Adams. He would go to church on some Sunday's by zoom on TV and listen to the sermon with his wife listening to Pastor Ventus, to which he turned his life over to Christ.

Rodney was preceded in death by both parents Shirley Ann Craig and John Dukes; his step-son Larry Ricardo "Ricky" Lee and his dog CamBeano whom all he loved dearly.

He leaves to cherish precious memories of his wife Yolonda; two sons Albert (Biana); Robvia (Naisha); three sisters Jovonah; Deborah; Carolyn (Maurice); two brothers William Lamar; Bernard (Candy); all of Cincinnati, Ohio; one sister-in-law Rotonda (Henry); two brother-in-laws Bryan Keith McWhorter, (preceded in death) and Clifford Demetrius Yarbrough, Jr.; all of Cincinnati, Ohio; 14 grandchildren; 7 great grandchildren; one special god-daughter Carrie Mae (Frank); 2 God-grandchildren; his best friend Sam Moore and his cousin-brother Roy Pennington; and a host of nieces; nephews and a host of extended family and friends.

John 14:1-3

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.



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Order of Service

Organ Prelude	Sister Teresa Teri
Parting View	The Family
Prayer	Pastor Tracy Ventus
Old Testament	Catherine Fant
New Testaments	Kimberley Newman
Selection	Sister Teresa Teri
Acknowledgements	Donna Pennington
Remarks	Catherine Fant Antonio D. Yarbrough Sr. Robvia Wheaton
Obituary	Silently Reading (Video tribute of Rodney Craig)
Selection	Sister Teresa Teri
Eulogy	Rev. Todd Kevin Ingram
Benediction	Rev. Todd Kevin Ingram
Recessional	Clergy, Bearers, Family, and Friends

Final Resting Place

Walnut Hills Cemetery
3117 Victory Parkway - Cincinnati, Ohio 45206