

HOMEGOING
CELEBRATION FOR

J. RUSSELL
EARLY

MARCH 8, 1942
FEBRUARY 25, 2026

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026
3:00PM
THE CHAPEL OF PEACE, EAST
5456 E. LIVINGSTON AVE.
COLUMBUS, OH 43232

PALLBEARERS

Family and Friends

REPAST

Deb's Event Center
5508 East Livingston Ave, Columbus, Ohio 43232

A WORD OF THANKS

The family of J. Russell Early would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the many acts of kindness shown during this difficult time. Thank you for the visits, calls, texts, food, flowers, and above all, for your love and prayers.

We are blessed to have the support of very special people: Dianna "Nikki" Echols, Lillie Lindsay, Claudia Ward, Keith Taylor, and the entire North 17th Street Neighborhood Family.

In addition, we would like to thank the staff of Wexner Heritage Village and OhioHealth Hospice at Compassus.

Lastly, a special thanks to Selma Dershaw (social worker) at Wexner for her guidance in helping us navigate these difficult and unfamiliar circumstances.

May God bless each and every one of you.



MARLAN GARY
FUNERAL HOME
1 FUNERAL HOME | 5 LOCATIONS

MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

NORTH CHAPEL
2500 CLEVELAND AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43211
614-267-8310

EAST CHAPEL
5456 LIVINGSTON AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43232
614-604-8774

MANSFIELD CHAPEL
753 MCPHERSON ST.,
MANSFIELD, OH 44903
419-524-6999

SPRINGFIELD CHAPEL
823 SOUTH YELLOW SPRINGS ST.,
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45506
937-325-1447

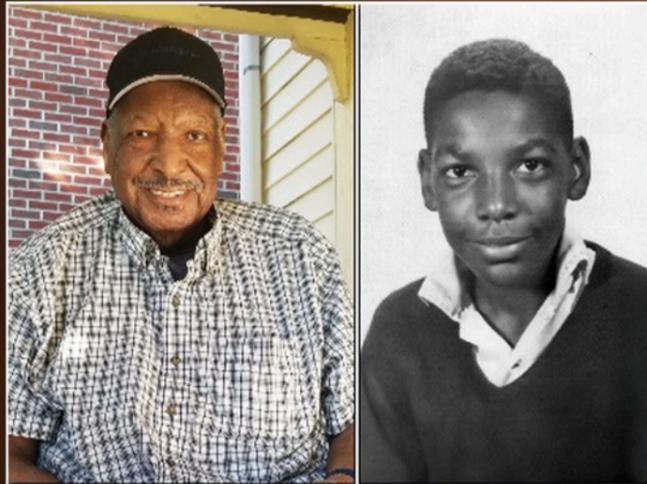
CINCINNATI CHAPEL
647 FOREST AVE.,
CINCINNATI OH 45229
513-221-4812

WWW.THECHAPELOFPEACE.COM



OBITUARY

ORDER OF SERVICE



J. Russell Early (Russell) was born in Columbus, Ohio on March 8, 1942, to Mr. and Mrs. Oscar (Johnnie) Early, Sr.

He was educated in the Columbus Public School System and was a 1960 graduate of East High School. Russell united in marriage with Celestine Guthrie in 1963 and from that union two children were born Angela and John Early, Jr.

Russell worked in a nursing facility and was a Mail carrier prior to beginning a career with The Columbus City School system. He retired from the CCS in 2004 with 31 years of service. He held several positions during his 31 years - Custodian, Food Service Delivery Truck Driver, a plumber's assistant, and he retired as a plumber.

Russell was the youngest of 7 children raised on the near Eastside. He moved back into his childhood home on N. 17th St. in 1986 and has resided on the street for 83 years. (resided at different addresses). Russell was the Patriarch of the Neighborhood and "The Playground Dad". Even though he was Big and Tall in stature he was a loving and caring man who always took the time to look out for everyone. He has touched and molded so many lives. To this day, there are many of our old friends still call him "Dad".

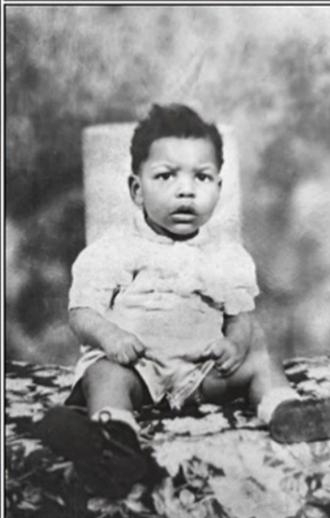
His passion over the years has been photography and videography. He captured beautiful moments and precious memories. Over time this picture taking progressed from a Camera to cell phone and iPad. He probably has a picture of everyone that he has ever met.

Even in his later years, he remained comfortable with technology, regularly using his computer, laptop, or iPhone to conduct business, research topics of interest, or enjoy a game of pool.

Russell departed this earthly life on February 25, 2026, at Wexner Heritage House after a brief illness.

He is preceded in death by his parents Oscar and Johnnie Early, Sr., Brothers James and Robert Early, and Oscar (Esther) Early, Jr.; Sisters Margaret Conrad, Marian Baker and Mildred (Raymond) McKeever; Nieces Suzette Mosley and Debra Evans; Nephews Wayne Early and Wesley Baker, Great Nephew Earl Conrad; Good Friends Charles Clark, Arthur Blunt and Richard Michael.

He is survived by Daughter Angela Early; Sons John (Annette) Early II of Canton, GA, Anthony Page, Sr. of Logan, WV, and Shedrick (Connie) White of Atlanta, GA; Grandchildren John R Early III, Taylor Page, and Anthony "Beanie" Page, Jr.; Special Niece Dianna "Nikki" Echols; Childhood Friends, Billy and Sammy Hopkins; Special Friends, Lillie Lindsay and Claudia Ward, as well as a host of other nieces, nephews, family, and friends.



**Organ Prelude
Chapel of Peace Music Ministry**

**Parting View
Immediate Family**

**Scripture Reading
Old Testament
Psalm 23 - Ashley Evans
New Testament
John 14:1-4 - Kera Conrad Rucker**

**Prayer
Minister Anthony D. McSwain**

**Selection
Chapel of Peace Music Ministry**

**Poems
"A Message to my grandfather" – Taylor Page
"Cornerstone" John R. Early, III (read silently)**

**Remarks
Family and Friends (2 minutes please)**

**Reading of Obituary
(Silently)**

**Selection
Chapel of Peace Music Ministry**

**The Eulogy
Minister Anthony D. McSwain**

**Benediction
Minister Anthony D. McSwain**

**Recessional
Family, and Friends**