

CELEBRATING THE LIFE & LEGACY OF

Johnathan Devane Drake

SUNRISE: FEBRUARY 18, 1960

SUNSET: APRIL 26, 2020



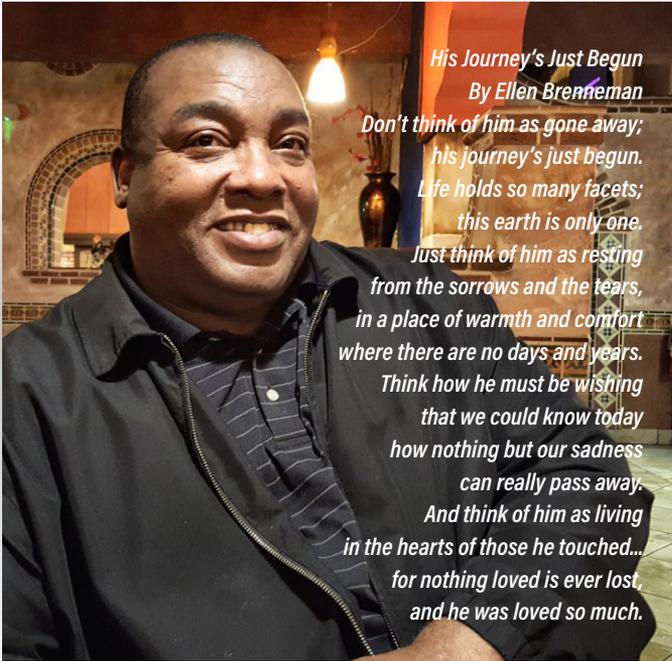
FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2020

FAMILY VIEWING: 10:30 A.M. | FINAL FAREWELL: 11 A.M.

JAMES H. COLE HOME FOR FUNERALS, INC.

NORTHWEST CHAPEL | 16100 SCHAEFER HWY. | DETROIT, MI 48235

EVANGELIST ANITA CAMPBELL, OFFICIATING



*His Journey's Just Begun
By Ellen Brenneeman
Don't think of him as gone away;
his journey's just begun.
Life holds so many facets;
this earth is only one.
Just think of him as resting
from the sorrows and the tears,
in a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days and years.
Think how he must be wishing
that we could know today
how nothing but our sadness
can really pass away.
And think of him as living
in the hearts of those he touched...
for nothing loved is ever lost,
and he was loved so much.*



Order of Service

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

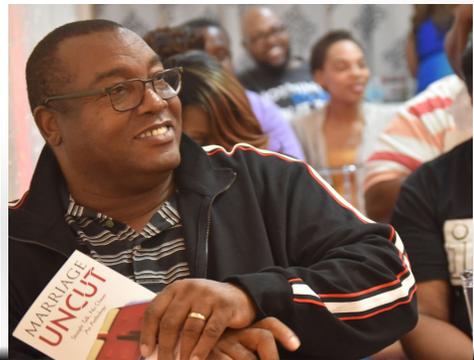
FORMAL READING OF HIS LIFE STORY

BRIEF TRIBUTES/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EULOGY

BENEDICTION





His Life Story

Contrary to popular belief, all men are not created equal. From his vibrant personality and positive attitude, to his signature laugh, encouraging demeanor and love for people of all walks of life, Johnathan Devane Drake was so much more than an ordinary man. Like a fine Picasso painting, he was classic. Debonair. In a class all by himself. To know him was to love him. And those who didn't love him simply didn't know the authentic "Johnny" at all.

He entered into this world on February 18, 1960 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama to Carrie Drake. Raised under humble beginnings with his mother and grandmother, Johnathan and his brother, Tony, relocated to Detroit after the passing of their mother. Under the love and leadership of his aunt and uncle, Izzie and Ollie Carson, Johnathan graduated from Mackenzie High School on Detroit's westside. However, because he had already signed up to enlist in the United States Army, he was unable to walk across the stage with his classmates because he was deployed before graduation. During high school, he had the opportunity to work at The Michigan Inn Hotel, escorting stars, local government officials and celebrities to and from their rooms—a position he was extremely proud of and honored to serve in.

In the Army, Johnathan served as a Communications Specialist from 1978 to 1981, before attending Louisiana State University for two years. Although he did not complete his studies at LSU, he was able to secure a position with The Michigan Cancer Foundation for a couple of years before he transitioned to Detroit Receiving Hospital, where he served as Admitting Representative for many years. After his tenure at Detroit Receiving, he worked for LabCorp shortly before landing at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, where he retired from his Analyst position in 2019.

In 1998, Johnathan was finally able to marry the love of his life and high-school sweetheart, Rose. Even though they met in middle school, and he moved around to various states, he always kept in touch with Rose. On frequent trips to visit family in Alabama, for





years, he was sure to visit Rose whenever he was “in the neighborhood.” That lifelong friendship led to their marriage of 22 years, where he loved and cherished his bride as Christ loves the church. From vacations and excursions, to road trips and many nights of old-school music, Johnny and Rose, affectionately known as his “Honey Girl”, were committed to riding the waves of life together, unapologetically.

Always up for a thrill, it’s no surprise that Johnathan “The Drake Man” loved amusement parks and roller coaster rides. He loved to play around on the piano and sing the two songs that he knew how to play (yes, just two). When he wasn’t playing pool or cards, he was grilling and hosting family and friends at his home for a cookout. As an Alabama football fan, it’s no surprise that he spent many days yelling at the TV with his son, Matthew, like a true football fanatic does. And when he was traveling with his bride, he was adamant about mastering foreign greetings and languages. As a man who “never met a stranger,” Johnathan was bold about witnessing about Jesus Christ and the love of the Lord to anyone who would listen (and even those who wouldn’t). An ordained deacon under Strictly Biblical Ministries, his love and joy of the Lord was contagious—affecting anyone and everyone who crossed his path.

On Sunday, April 26, 2020, Johnathan transitioned from labor to rest and reward at his home surrounded by his wife and his son, Matthew. He was 60 years young. He leaves to celebrate his life and carry on his legacy his loving wife, Rose Drake; his children, Starvel Drake, Johnathan Devane’ Drake II, Alyceia Johnson, Geoffrey Johnson, and Matthew Drake; his cousin, who was more like a brother, Christopher Carson; lifetime friend, Larry Williams; a host of extended family members, friends and loved ones.

Whether you knew him from the times he played Santa Claus for small children, you met him throughout the course of his career, or you came to know Christ because of him witnessing to you personally, Johnathan definitely left a mark on the hearts and minds of people worldwide that cannot easily be erased. Though we mourn the loss, we celebrate his legacy and we rejoice in knowing that we can still carry his spirit of joy in our hearts for decades to come.

"I never imagined you wouldn't be here to wish me a happy 39th birthday. God called you home just one day before. I miss you already, but I'm thankful for all the memories we shared and for the bond we had. I'm so glad I had you for a dad. Your love, your guidance and your presence shaped me into the woman I've become. You were neither an anchor that held me back or a sail that propelled me forward; you were a guiding light that showed me the way. My mind still talks to you. My heart still looks for you, but my soul knows you're at peace. Until we meet again, Dad!" - Star



"No one can prepare you for the loss of a loved one. No child is ever prepared for the loss of a parent. By definition, the children of stepdads have already experienced loss in their life. The presence of a stepdad is a perfect example to show that the loss of someone so dear doesn't diminish the opportunity for others to step in and love you just as much. He did just that." - Kese



"Johnathan Drake was my best friend. I met him in elementary school, and we remained friends throughout high school. When we were growing up in Alabama, Johnathan always told me that, someday, we would live in Detroit. Currently, we live less than three miles apart in Romulus, Michigan. Johnathan was the type of person who did not mind telling the truth, right or wrong. He never met a stranger because he had the gift of greeting people in several different languages. My friend was funny, intelligent and a phenomenal family man. He was a true Christian, believing in the Lord and teaching the Word of God daily. Thank you, my friend, for your vision of our lives in Detroit. Thank you, my friend, for guiding me to the Lord. Thank you, my friend, for standing with me during tough times. I will see you in Heaven, my friend." - Larry Williams



"You will truly be missed! I will miss hearing your infectious laugh and your loud, commanding voice. Thank you for your guidance, love and support over the years!" - Alyceia



"He spent 19 years teaching me everything I needed to keep growing as a person, a man and a Christian. Many of those lessons I had heard ten times before. But, each time, I took away something new that I didn't realize the last time. I wouldn't be where I am, or who I am now, without him. I love you and miss you, man. I can't wait to see you again!" - Matthew





"Today, my cousin, we celebrate your life. You have always been more of a brother to me and, most importantly, my brother in Christ. I thank you for all the crazy times we've had together. From the days in Mackenzie Court in Tuscaloosa, Alabama (the shack in the back) to Sweet Tee's to the halls of Mackenzie High School in Detroit. Ever since you and Tony (T-Bone) moved to Detroit, we grew up as brothers during good times and bad. I can't think of much of my life that you haven't been a part of. From traveling the seas to Honduras and across this great land, we were almost always side by side or not far apart. From ministering in the streets at the donut shop till 2:30 in the morning to sharing the Good News of the Gospel. My brother, you made every effort to rightly divide the Word of truth under Pastor Moss and other theologians that you studied. You checked any pastor's teachings that you felt were in question and, as you put it, "not sound doctrine." You remained on fire for Christ, even until your last breath, no matter what was coming at you. You dodged all the fiery darts of the enemy, be it the job, our families, our marriages, local and national leaders, world events, health issues, politics or religion. Your position was always to take it to the Word of God, even to the point of persecution from those who didn't want to hear the Good News. I could go on forever. From 50 plus greetings in native tongues, to Stevie Wonder and Santa Claus, to say that you will be missed is an understatement. I know I could never repay you for leading me back to my first love: Christ. Thank you for helping me build and maintain my life that is built on the rock, Jesus Christ. You have touched many lives for God's Kingdom. Like the disciple John, your zeal to learn, teach and share the Good News of the Gospel will live on in the lives you've touched. Rest now in the arms of the Most High. I pray that you have received the crown of life. Much love forever, my cousin, my brother." - Your Armor Bearer, Christopher S. Carson

Final Resting Place

HISTORIC ELMWOOD CEMETERY & FOUNDATION

1200 ELMWOOD AVENUE

DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48207

