

CELEBRATION OF
THE LIFE
OF

Michael
BEARD

MAY 21, 1956 — AUGUST 25, 2025

MUSICIAN EXTRAORDINAIRE

GOLD ALBUM WINNER

DEVOTED FAMILY MAN

CHERISHED FRIEND

Interment

Tuesday, September 2, 2025
Glen Rest Memorial Estates
8029 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Pallbearers

William Belcher ~ Robert DeJarnette ~ Aiden Foley
Scott Freeman ~ Allen Hamilton ~ Donald Winbush

Acknowledgement

The family of the late Michael Beard wishes to express their sincere gratitude for the many acts of kindness, messages of sympathy, floral tributes, and support shown to them during their bereavement. Your comforting words, prayers, and presence have been a source of great strength and consolation.

A special thanks to Pastor Brian Holland, Dr. Charlene Watkins, Pastor Patrick Gamble, the staff at Marlan Gary Funeral Home, and Second Community Church family who have assisted in making the service a fitting tribute to Michael's life.

Though it is impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our heartfelt appreciation.



*M*ARLAN GARY
FUNERAL HOME
1 FUNERAL HOME | 4 LOCATIONS

MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

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

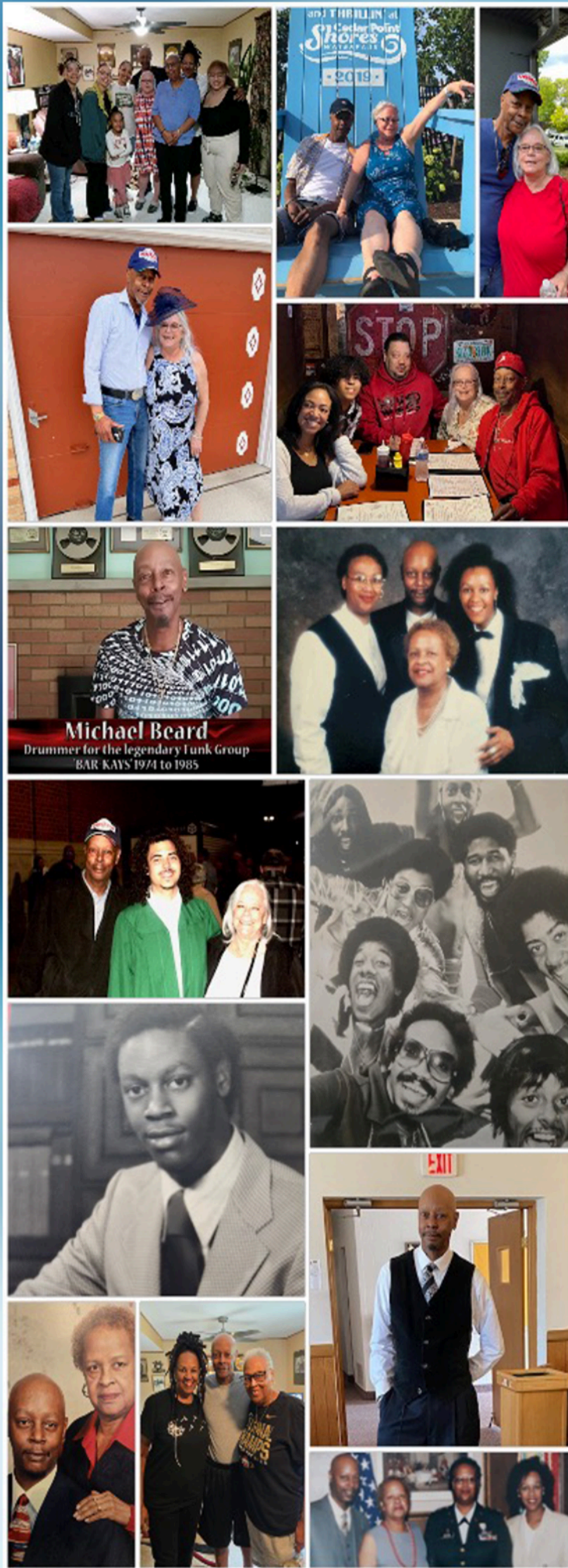
EAST CHAPEL
5456 LIVINGSTON AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43232
614-604-8774

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

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

WWW.THECHAPELOFPEACE.COM





The Obituary

Celebration Of Life Service
 Saturday, August 30, 2025 ~ 10:00am
Second Community Church
 311 S. Highland Ave, Columbus, OH 43223

Musician Extraordinaire | Gold Album Winner | Devoted Family Man | Cherished Friend

Michael Edward Beard, renowned musician and gold album winner, passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of soulful music and deep love for family and friends. From the moment he joined the legendary BarKays soul/rock band right out of high school, Michael captivated audiences around the world with his electrifying talent and powerful performances, thrilling sold-out crowds time and again.

Beyond the stage, Michael was a kind and loving family man who cherished his close bonds with his sisters, Vicki and Lesili. For 27 years, he found his soulmate, Laura Ray, the love of his life. He also served as a dedicated leader at Second Community Church, embodying the spirit of generosity and loyalty that defined him.

A loyal friend to all who knew him Michael was the kind of person who would gladly give you the shirt off his back to help in a time of need. His warmth, talent, and spirit will be deeply missed by everyone fortunate to have known him.

Michael is preceded in death by Father, Leslie Edward Beard, and Mother, Winifred G. Beard. He is survived by wife, Laura Ray; Sister, Vicki Beard (Valerie Nolan); Sister, Lesili Beard-Levine (Iris Levine); Son, William Belcher (April Belcher), Daughters, Dionna Brown and Dehlia Ray. Grandchildren, Aiden, Malakiya, Micalah, Mylia, and Mila; Aunts, Uncles, cousins, and myriad friends from around the globe.

Order Of Service

ORGAN PRELUDE
Samuel Wilder

PARTING VIEW

SCRIPTURE READING
Old Testament
 Deacon Jill Garrison ~ Psalm 23
New Testament
 Minister Calvin Ladd ~ Hebrews 13:15-16

PRAYER
 Pastor Patrick Gamble

SELECTION
 "His Eye is on the Sparrow"
 Samuel Wilder

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/CONDOLENCES
 Sharon Boone / Dawn Clark

REMARKS
 Dr. Charlene Watkins

READING OF OBITUARY
 Silent reading

SELECTION
 "How Great Thou Art"
 Samuel Wilder

THE EULOGY
 Pastor Brian Holland

BENEDICTION
 Pastor Brian Holland

RECESSIONAL