Honorary Pallbearers

Paul Mayfield
Paul Mayfield II
Devon Doss
Donnell Mayfield
Eddy Jose
Tim Fulwood
Darnell Fields

Expressions of Gratitude

The family of Willie Donnell Mayfield would like to express their deepest thanks for the outpouring of love, support and kindness shown during this difficult time. Your presence your presence, prayers, comforting words and every act of compassionhave been great sources of strength to us. Whether you traveled, sent a message, prepared a meal or simply held us in your thoughts, we are truly grateful.

As we celebrate the life of someone who is dear to us, your support had reminded us that we do not grieve alone. Thank you for honoring his memory with us, and for walking besides us in both sorrow and hope.

With heartfelt appreciation, The family of Willie Donnell Mayfield

MSU

Services Entrusted to:
Toombs by Crystal Funeral Services
616-813-8351

Celebrating the Life of



Willie Donnell Mayfield

August 3, 1970 - September 25, 2025

Wednesday October 1, 2025

Visitation 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Toombs by Crystal Funeral Services - Grand Rapids
4257 Kalamazoo Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Memorial 1:00 PM
Common Ground Event Center
1515 Langley St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Order of Service

Welcome & Opening remarks ..... Francis Dalton

Opening Prayer ..... Leroy Tucker

Scripture reading ..... Vennese Chandler

Obituary reading ..... Vennese Chandler

Resolutions ..... Francis Dalton

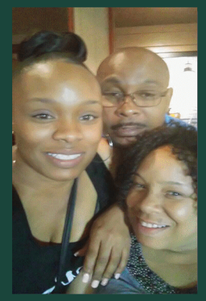
Poem reflection ..... Nakiah Mayfield

Musical selection ..... Monica Moody/ Nakiah Mayfield

Tributes/Remarks

Second musical selection ..... Monica Moody

Closing remarks ..... Mayfield Family









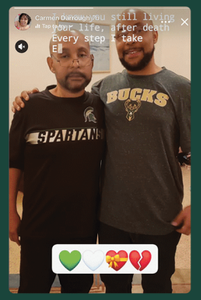




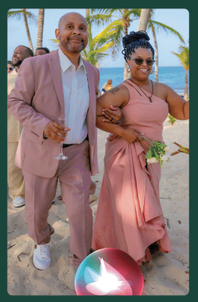














Willie "Don" Mayfield, was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan at Butterworth Hospital to Willie and Audrey Mayfield. He was their first child and the first grandson of Augustine Sanders and Nelson Holmes.

Don was never easy—but always brilliant. Always the main character. Always notably gifted. He grew up between the homes of 906 Lafayette and 2222 Horton, where he and his childhood friends and family created lifelong memories. He was proud of where he came from and cherished the relationships he built along the way.

From an early age, Don was a member of Messiah Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Clifton Rhodes. He wasn't just a Sunday churchgoer—he studied the Word. With his incredible memory, he recited scripture at holidays and special services. His relationship with God and his understanding of scripture were evident even as a child.

Don attended and graduated from Ottawa Hills High School, where he proudly served as Vice President of the Class of 1988. During this time, he met Dionne Mayfield, who would later become his wife and the mother of his two children Nakiah and Donnell. They moved to East Lansing to attend Michigan State University, where Don earned his bachelor's degree in Education and began his family.

Later, Don purchased his first home and returned to Grand Rapids, where he became an educator with Grand Rapids Public Schools, specializing in special education. Dons connection with his students was contagious. During his time with GRPS, he created an innovative before- and after-school program called 21st Century, designed to eliminate barriers for families. The program was later adopted by both GRPS and Kentwood Public Schools and continues today under the names ARCH and LOOP. He also taught family wellness courses, helping families live healthier lifestyles.

Outside of his professional life, Don was creative at heart. He and his brother Paul formed a group called The Defiant Ones, combining Don's impeccable writing and poetry with music produced by his brother and cousin, Christopher Farr. Their work took them as far as California, where they performed their words on stage. Don also wrote children's books, thought-provoking poetry, and unforgettable comedy.

His gift for writing led him to deliver the keynote address at his master's-level graduation from Grand Valley State University—an honor typically reserved for university leaders or distinguished guests. Don nailed it.

Don was a teacher. A provider. A master at marinating and barbecuing with love. A present and consistent father. A writer. A dreamer. A grandson and son. A brother deeply adored.A die hard MSU Spartan and Dallas cowboys fan. No one can have it all, but Don's many gifts made it clear he was one of God's favorites. His gifts, his jokes, his laughter, and his love will live on forever.

Don was preceded in death by his grandparents Augustine Sanders, Nelson Holmes, Elizabeth & John Henry Mayfield; his aunts Geraldine Tillman and Evelyn Doss; Uncle William Mayfield, Harvey Knox, and his beloved grandson, A'Kylin Mayfield.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his parents Willie & Audrey Mayfield; his only brother Paul "Fruit" Mayfield; his children Donnell Mayfield and Nakiah (Eddy) Jose; his sister-in-love Carmen Darrough; niece and nephew Paul and Nyeem Mayfield; granddaughter Alayah Nicks, Fiancé Nichelle Kline, bonus granddaughter Ryleigh (RYRY) Wetzel; his favorite cousins Nova Darrough and Devon Doss, special aunts Conella Knox, Shirly Mayfield, Georgia Farr, and a host of cousins, aunts, uncles, and dear friends who loved him deeply.

Celebration of Life

DADDY, I WASN'T READY.

KIAH SIMONE AND WILLIE D. YOU PLUS ME FOR ETERNITY. YOU MADE IT YOUR BUSINESS TO POUR SO I COULD SOAR. YOU LAID DOWN RULES THAT DISQUALIFIED ME FROM EVER BECOMING ETHICALLY POOR.
NEVER MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE, ALWAYS WALK RIGHT.
I CAN HEAR THE WORDS SO CLEAR, ALMOST LIKE YOU'RE SITTING RIGHT HERE.
EVERY SINGLE GOOD DECISION I MADE,
WAS MADE BECAUSE OF THE PATH YOU PAVED.
EVERY LESSON I'VE LEARNED WAS FIRST A BRIDGE YOU BURNED.
EVERY TEAR I CRIED, I KNEW YOU HAD THE WORDS TO DRY.
EVERY SOUL I TOUCH IS A TESTAMENT OF YOUR LOVE.
I'M YOUR DADDY, YOU WOULD SAY, I'M NEVER LEAVING
EVEN ON THE CLOUDIEST DAY.
NOW YOU'RE GONE, AND ALL I FEEL IS GREY.
I KNOW GOD MAKES NO MISTAKES.
I ALSO KNOW THAT ABOUT ME, YOU DON'T PLAY.. SO LET ME SAY...
AS TOMORROW STARTS A NEW DAY,
I CARRY YOU IN MY SPIRIT AND YOUR LOVE FELT INFINITE.
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR TRUSTING ME FROM DEEP DOWN WITHIN.
WAS I READY? HELL NO!
BUT I HEAR YOU LOUDLY IN MY SPIRIT SAYING GO SIM ONE, GO!
TO MY NUMBER ONE CHEERLEADER AND GHETTO TWIN, I WILL WALK OUT OUR PURPOSE UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.
YOUR BABY GIRL.

Lord of Life

LOVE, WE THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF WILLIE DONNELL MAYFIELD

FOR THE YEARS WE SHARED, THE LOVE WE RECEIVED,

AND THE MEMORIES WE NOW HOLD CLOSE.

THOUGH OUR HEARTS ARE HEAVY WITH LOSS, WE TRUST IN YOUR

PROMISE OF ETERNAL PEACE. COMFORT US IN OUR GRIEF,

STRENGTHEN US WITH HOPE, AND HELP US TO LIVE EACH DAY

WITH THE GRACE AND KINDNESS THAT

WILLIE DONNELL SHOWED.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN YOUR EVERLASTING LIGHT,

AND MAY WE CARRY HIS MEMORY FORWARD WITH LOVE.

Amen