

Acknowledgements

*Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; beloved, all things are become new.
2 Corinthians 5:17*

*The family of Steve Clayborn acknowledges with sincere gratitude all acts of sympathy and love bestowed upon us during this time of loss. We are thankful for your prayers, words of encouragement, flowers, and the many other ways that you have reached out to our family. Please keep us in prayers, and may God grant you abundant blessings. **The Family***

*Speak of me as you have always done.
Remember the good times, laughter, and fun.
Share the happy memories we've made.*

Do not let them wither or fade.

I'll be with you in the summer's sun.

And when the winter's chill has come.

I'll be the voice that whispers in the breeze.

I'm peaceful now, put your mind at ease.

*I've rested my eyes and gone to sleep,
But the memories we've shared are yours to keep.*

Sometimes our final days may be a test,

But remember me when I was at my best.

Although things may not be the same,

Don't be afraid to use my name.

To offer condolences to The Clayborn Family,
visit www.TheChapelofPeace.com



A Celebration of the Life of

Lester S. Clayborn

March 28, 1955 - May 4, 2024

Saturday, May 25, 2024

Visitation: 4:00pm Service: 5:00pm

Marlan J. Gary Funeral Home

The Chapel of Peace East

5456 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, OH 43232

Reflections of Life

This obituary was written with L. Steve Clayborn's personality in mind. We're not allowed to do it any other way. Lester Steve Clayborn was also known as Clayborn. Coach Clayborn, Uncle Stevie, Dad, Daddy, Pops, Da, and Stevie. Basically, anything but Lester. Just to be safe we will call him "Clayborn" today! Even though this is extremely painful to write he taught us to play a lot! He was a kid at heart. Clayborn always had a love for adventure and life, but most importantly, academics and sports was a top priority. He always saw the world as a glass half full and a playground full of opportunity no matter what the odds were that were stacked against him. He was made up of snips, snails, caution tails, money lectures, joy, laughter, sarcasm, generosity, and a heart so full of love that many had a place in it. He will be missed a whole-whole lot!

Clayborn was born on March 28, 1955, to Lester and Kathryn Clayborn, his favorite mother. He passed away unexpectedly at the young age of 69 on May 4, 2024.

He graduated from South High School (Bulldogs) in 1973. After graduation, he went on to become John Osbourn's Assistant Football Coach with aspirations of having his own football, and baseball team, of which he did eventually accomplish. He achieved an Applied Science Associate's Degree in Business Administration and Accounting from Columbus Business University in 1976. He was already on the road to success with his many talents, but his most important quality was Love. The Love that he shared with his family, friends, and his community was the Love of opportunity. He was your biggest cheerleader no matter how many times you failed. His Love would drive you to get back up and keep going! He knew how to be what you needed in your time of need. He was Love!

His best accomplishments included his best moments at being a husband, father, son, uncle, coach, and friend to everyone that he knew. Clayborn was a pillar in this world because he believed that everything needed to be supported by something and he was determined to be that something in his life. We strongly believe that he was a Servant Leader in his career as he was in our lives, but his high level of modesty and humility caused him not to mention any awards, accolades, or career accomplishments to his family and friends. Although we do know that they exist because we heard many rumors about the impact that he made in the Columbus community and the state of Ohio's workforce, as we got older. But, when we asked him for confirmation, he would change the subject. All we know for sure is that he failed at retirement! Now it was rumored that he retired from running a successful grant program for the state of Ohio's ODJFS on Friday and started a new job developing a workforce development program for the Governor at FCJFS the following Monday, but he never told us any details. After that he started a new career in Leadership Development as the COO of Arvis Institute and we don't really know if he ever quit that job. Maybe he was retired, maybe he wasn't! He was everybody's Coach, and a favorite referee. He was an accountant by trade, a tax guru by day, and a superhero by night. That's the job that we did know about-the Superhero one! He saved us all the time! Sometimes probably too much, but we are better for his directions! We are reflections of his Love!

Although a less than average life span, Clayborn did not live an average life. He laughed inappropriately at every chance he could, he updated whatever he wanted to update on his house, he traveled where he wanted to travel, he bought whatever car he wanted to buy, he adopted whomever he wanted to adopt, and he loved whomever he wanted to love. Thus, he was a father, an uncle, a surrogate father, a Godfather, a coach, a mentor, a therapist, a brother, a son, a great friend to many.

He is survived by his 91 year old mother, Kathryn Clayborn; his sister, Stephanie (Bittygirl) Clayborn; his children, Shonna Sowell (Michael Sowell), Stev'n (Tie) Clayborn (Marsha Clayborn), and Shelleya Clayborn; his surrogate children that he stood in place as a father for, his nieces, nephews, and cousins, Lolita (Lee-Lee) Augenstein, Renatta (she's going to be mad but he called her "Ranoochie") Clayborn, Michelle Seward (Jason Seward), Rob (Bobby) Parks (Tawanna Parks), Amman Rose; and God children, Tobias (Toby) Latham, Fred (Man) Fernandez, Nathaniel (Nate) Jones, Amber and Ashley Taylor; his grandchildren, Tarvaris Kayshell Clayborn, Solman Clayborn, Gideon and Joshua Gray, Stev'n (Bo) Clayborn Jr., and Riley-Marie Clayborn, and a whole host of family and friends.

Clayborn was preceded in death by his youngest son, Severen Clayborn, and Damon Jenkins; his father's, Lester Clayborn and Andrew Jackson; brother's Andrew (Diz) Clayborn, and Marcus (Sputnik) Clayborn.

Order of Service

ORGAN PRELUDEChapel of Peace Music Ministry

PARTING VIEW Immediate Family

SCRIPTURE READING Clergy
Old Testament..... Psalm 23
New Testament

PRAYER Jason Seward

SELECTIONChapel of Peace Music Ministry

TRIBUTE..... Sherylette Allen-Caldwell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTSChapel of Peace Staff

REMARKS(2 Minutes Please).....Family and Friends

OBITUARY Read Silently

SELECTIONChapel of Peace Music Ministry

BENEDICTION Clergy

RECESSIONAL Clergy, Family, and Friends

JOURNEY
OF
Faith