

Pallbearers

Reshawn Autrey
Kabaka Ashe'
Jeremey Crone
Cornelius Oliver
Jason Johnson
Shannon Little
Dewan Martin
Travionne Martin

Honorary Pallbearers

Devyn Coleman
Alonzo R. Dennis
David L. Dennis, Jr.
Fred Dennis
Jack Dennis, Jr.
Savon L. Dennis
Willie Dennis
Noah W. Gude

Flower Bearers

Shayla Autry
Layla Dennis
Mikaya Dennis
Tori Dixon
Shaneice Dowdy
Machelle Lee
Rhonda Major Mack

Acknowledgements

*Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent those beautiful flowers
that we saw sitting there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as
any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all,
just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts we
thank you so much for whatever part.*

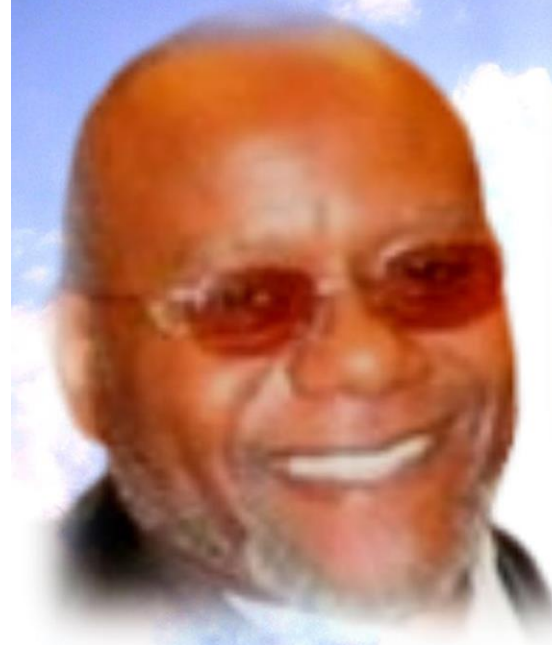
*Marlan Gary Funeral Home
The Chapel of Peace
Pastor William A. Meredith Sr.
& Meredith Temple Church Family
Forest Lawn Cemetery –
Rev John Coates
Brother Rodney Radford &
Friends for Security
E-Flat Band
Pastor Stephanie Meredith
& Agape Ministries Church Family*



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



Celebration OF THE Life OF



David Lee Dennis, Sr.

DECEMBER 28, 1944 ~ FEBRUARY 9, 2022

~Service~

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022 ~ 11:00 AM

Meredith Temple COGIC

1158 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Columbus, Ohio

Pastor Stephanie L. Meredith, Officiating Minister
Pastor William A. Meredith Sr., Eulogizing Minister

Obituary

Deacon David Lee Dennis, Sr., affectionately known as “Chief,” was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, neighborhood dad, business entrepreneur, mentor, hero, man of God, pillar in the community and friend. Departed his earthly vessel on February 9, 2022 at age 77. He was born to Jack and Addie Bell Dennis on December 28, 1944, in Camden, AL. David was the fourth of twelve children: seven boys and five girls all instilled with a strong faith in God and work ethic.

David accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized at St. Francis Baptist Church by Reverend Freeman. He completed his academic scholastics at Camden Academy High School where he was an anchor track star and running back on the football team. He later made the decision to join The United States Air Force in 1963. He completed his basic training in Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX and was later stationed at Rickenbacker Air Force Base in Columbus, OH. David attended a dance on base and met the love of his life Cynthia E. Pratt Dennis in 1964. He reached the notable rank of Staff Sergeant while serving and completed his Air force duty in 1967.

This Southern Gentleman swept the young city girl off her feet, and they wed on May 27, 1967, in Columbus, OH at Faith Tabernacle COGIC where they attended faithfully for more than 32 years. David was ordained as a Deacon in the Lord's church and was elevated to head Deacon under the tutelage of Elder Charles H. Rogers, Sr. He was immersed in the ministry serving on the finance committee, Vacation Bible School bus driver, Captain of The Faith Tabernacle Drill Team and mentor to many young men in the ministry by employing them in his businesses. David and family later transitioned their membership to Meredith Temple COGIC under the Late Pastor Hezekiah Meredith, and then served under Pastor William A. Meredith, Sr. where he continued to serve the Lord for more than 23 years, serving on the Deacon Board and Finance committee.

David and Cynthia were blessed with a loving family of four children, Kimberly, Stacy, David and Angela. They were all raised in the fear and admiration of the Lord; to respect serve in humility and form their own relationship with the Lord. David desired to see all of his children pursue additional education by attending college. All four children graduated with honors from HBCU's and pursued additional education at the graduate level.

David and Cynthia were proud owners of two pizza shops, Long Street Pizza and Main Street Pizza for more than eight years. They were the first pizza delivery service in the Columbus Metropolitan area. David was well known in the community for the delicious ribs, subs, and pizzas thus their home became the neighborhood hangout for many adults and children.

I Am Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard his call,
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of the day.*

*If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My Life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.*

Order of Service

OFFICIANT	Pastor Stephanie L. Meredith
ORGAN PRELUDE	Musicians
PROCESSIONAL	The Dennis Family
PARTING VIEW	The Dennis Family
SCRIPTURE READING	
Old Testament (Isaiah 40:29-31)	Elder Michael Oden Sr.
New Testament (John 14:1-3)	Deacon Kenny Madison
PRAYER OF COMFORT	Elder Terrance Garr
WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT	Rev. Charles E. Pratt, Jr.
SELECTION	E-Flat & Guest
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/CONDOLENCES	Missionary Cheryl Miller
READING OF OBITUARY	Silently
REMARKS (2-minute limit)	Family & Friends
REMARKS	Jack Dennis, Jr. (Brother) Kimberly Dennis (Daughter)
SELECTION	Nayasha Patterson

The Eulogy

PASTOR WILLIAM A. MEREDITH, SR.

BENEDICTION.....Pastor William A. Meredith, Sr.
 RECESSIONAL SELECTIONNayasha Patterson & E-Flat
 RECESSIONAL.....Clergy & Dennis Family

Interment

FOREST LAWN MEMORIAL GARDENS

David and Cynthia's home was burglarized, frustrated with this violation of their home decided to purchase a German Shepard puppy named Bronco. With this one dog he developed and operated the largest K-9 security company in Ohio with over 40 dogs known as Dennis K-9 Security. The business expansion included training dogs in obedience and attack training; some of these skills he obtained from The Columbus All Breed Training Club. There was never a dog that he could not handle no matter how fierce or mean, he handled them all, aka "The Dog Whisper".

David decided to expand further by employing armed and unarmed security guards to work riots, parades, and many businesses throughout the Columbus area. He was an equal opportunity employer he hired men, women, the downtrodden, seniors and many that needed a second chance. Cynthia and children worked in many capacities, there were no limits to the roles in the family business everyone played a part. The visionary and entrepreneur he was, he continued to develop lines of service by adding the infamous "Dog Truck Route" which involved delivering dogs to major car dealerships, construction sites, and private homes throughout Columbus and surrounding areas. They also provided Guard and dog man teams at the Mt Vernon Plaza and various businesses in the community. Dennis K-9 Security was a unique well-known business in the city and throughout the Tri State area. The Dennis K-9 dogs were also featured at The Ohio State Fair "Dog House," showing the obedience and attack training skills receiving several awards in obedience training for many years.

David had a fanatic love of horses and an even greater love for The Ohio State Buckeyes. Once while watching the Triple Crown race, the neighbors called the police for fear of domestic violence. Often you could hear him from the road screaming and hollering O. H. I O. He loved to load up his Happy Time van and travel to his hometown of Camden, AL, Pittsfield, MA, Niagara Falls, NY/Canada, Jamaica Queens, NY, Springfield, MO, Norfolk, VA, Lexington, KY, and across the United States, he loved family road trips.

David gained his wings on February 9, 2022. He was proceeded in death by his parents Jack and Addie Bell Dennis, Brother Jerry Dennis, Sr., Sister Daisy Dennis, Sister Hettie Dennis, and Godson Robert Lane.

He leaves to carry on his legacy his devoted wife of 54 years Cynthia, daughters - Kimberly & Machel Baltimore, MD; Stacy, Angela & Travionne, Son - David, Jr. all of Columbus, OH, Grandsons- Savon, Noah, Granddaughters- MiKaya, Layla, Neyah; Bonus Grandchildren-Dismuke, Lee, West children, Aaliyah, and Leilani Martin. Siblings: Brothers-Willie, Jack Jr., Fred, Curtis, Alonzo, Sisters- Pearlie, Diane, Brenda, Jacqueline(niece); David had a host of Special Nieces, Nephews, Godsons, Goddaughters, Daughters and Sons in Love from all over the United States, Africa, Canada, and Germany. He was loved all over the world, our Hero David L. Dennis, Sr. rest in power King! Your *Wings* were ready, but our *Hearts* were not!



A legend has left his mark...

His legacy...

He graced this world with his presence on December 28, 1944 and in LIFE, he SHOWED UP...

Eagerly he'd part the curtains to greet the sunrise of each new day!

Way down in the red dirt country roads of Camden Alabama he grew his southern ways.

Good ole fashion love and hospitality. A southern gentleman at best.

At a young age he met and married the love of his life Cynthia Elaine Pratt.

Raised in fields of gardens picking string beans, and watermelon. Lush pecan trees, tipping cows, racing wagons, rodeo riding donkeys and canning fruit. We witnessed pig pins, chicken coops and we even secretly tested the salt blocks for cows by giving them a good licking.

On our 12- & 13-hour family road trips we anticipated the mile markers that would lead us into the home stretch.

Born to sharecroppers he gained an entrepreneurial spirit. He gained the wisdom to not only take care of his own, but he birthed a generation of queens and a king that takes pride in the lineage of being "A Dennis"!

She called him David, honey, and another pet name I won't mention (smile)! His children call him Dad, Daddy, Daddy Dennis, and Big Dave. When we added to THE DENNIS FAMILY, he also was called Pa Pa or Paw Paw because the siblings never ended the debate on how it should be spelled. To many he was known as Dad Dennis, Dave Dennis, Big Dave (when he was Blessed with a little Dave) Chief, Mr. Dennis, Deacon & Brother Dennis. Anyway, you called him HE SHOWED UP and was our hero.

From shutting down the streets of Vendome Drive he'd train dogs in the middle of the street. People would stop and watch in awe. He had a natural gift and talent. A special way with dogs and it showed!

All of us, his children, worked in the security business in some way shape or form. We learned how to take business calls as early as kindergarten. I'd proudly answer the phone Dennis K-9 security, how may I help you? Two out of four worked in the kennels as poop scoopers, and all four of us security guards. Being raised in a house of attack trained dogs we never locked our doors!

We were the neighborhood house! Everybody knew "The Dennis's" as a result of being raised by God's best. Our front yard was well groomed with 3 round flower gardens and a flower bed that lined the house. Everything he did, he did with excellence! Homemade pizza and subs were his signature mark. We had an open door unspoken policy, anyone could come any day or time and get a plate with a cold glass of country time lemonade. He taught us the value of taking pride in everything you do. We were black pride. He'd say, "Don't cut corners. If you do it right THE FIRST TIME, you won't have to do it again!"

We hold on to every memory of God doing it again...

God spared his life more times than anyone could ever count or imagine. He was the epitome of his own saying, "God can do ANYTHING but fail!"

He showed up

He left his Mark

And he bowed out gracefully...

God: KX0397 Base to Unit One

Dad: This is Unit One, Go ahead...

God: Well, done thy Good and faithful servant. You've done all you were instructed to do. Your wife, your children, your grandchildren, family and all who cherish you... I will send my guardian angels to comfort them. It is time you receive your crown in glory for being a superhero on earth. Take your rest Sir.

Dad: What's your 20?

God: Heaven Bound

Dad: Copy That, over and out!

Written By:

A heart full of Love, your baby girl, Angela Michelle Martin