

HOME COMING CELEBRATION FOR

Sunrise
MAY 27, 1959

Sunset
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024



Donald RAY
GIBBS SR.

Friday, September 20, 2024

Silverlake Church
1865 Cullen BLVD, Pearland, TX 77581

Pastor Reginald DeVaughn Sr., Officiant

THE LIFE & LEGACY

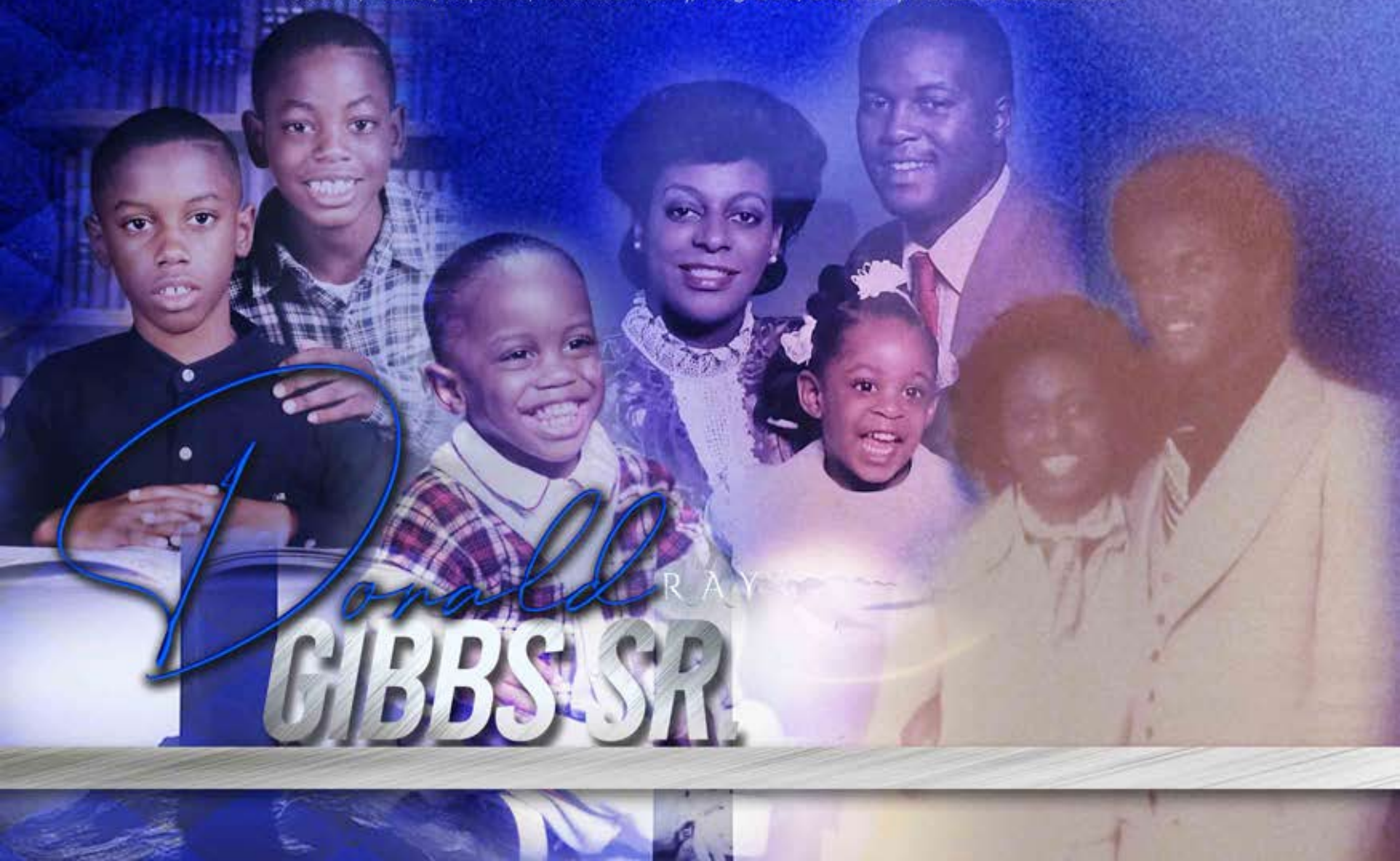
On May 27, 1959, in Houston, TX, a fiery baby boy was born, Mr. Donald Ray Gibbs, Sr. to loving parents, Reverend Ernest Gibbs and Olivia Holiday Gibbs. He lived an adventurous childhood, bringing both joy and aggravation to his siblings. With his spirited personality and charm, Donald made many friends on Zephyr Street and at his elementary school, Southland, who many of which he remained friends with until his recent departure. His relationships continued to grow while attending Ezekiel Cullen Middle School, where his passion and skill for basketball and football also began to flourish. He later attended Evan E. Worthing High School where Donald received his first lessons in architecture and love, both of which carried him on until his sunset.

It was at Worthing H.S. that Donald met his wife, Ophelia Marie Reed, and they continued their courtship while attending Texas Southern University. During the Fall of '79 at TSU, he proudly pledged Phi Beta Sigma, Incorporated, Beta Delta Chapter. Shortly after graduating TSU with a BA in Architectural Engineering and Design in 1984, he and Marie began expanding their family, welcoming into the fold daughter, Kirby Racheall Gibbs (Compton), Alquince James Gibbs and Donald Ray Gibbs Jr.

Donald and Marie set off with their 3 children traveling and exploring the mountains and lands and visiting family and friends, but rarely missed a Sunday morning service or Tuesday night usher board meeting at El Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, where Rev. Rugley Monroe was their shepherd until Donald and his wife became members of Silverlake Church in 2008. Donald's faithfulness extended beyond the church walls and included 34 years of dedicated service to the Port of Houston, ILA Local 28. Furthermore, he left his mark on the great city of Houston, TX and surrounding areas, by designing a number of the city's churches, daycares, strip-malls and business centers; his first project being the planning and designing of his uncle, Rev. Willie E. Gibbs' church, The Greater 1st Missionary Baptist Church, in Houston, TX.

His eye for beauty and attention to detail was appreciated by many in the time and care he put into his yard and decorating for his favorite holiday, Christmas. Having things "decent and in order" wasn't the only thing Donald Ray was passionate about. His love for God and family surpassed his desire for perfection. He was a loving husband, father, brother, uncle, cousin and friend and gave the most of himself until the very end.

On the morning of September 10, 2024, Donald Ray Gibbs Sr. joined in Heaven his mother and father; his first born son, Alquince Gibbs; sister, Loyce Davis; Brothers Wiley Holiday and Lynn Gibbs and a host of other loved ones he held dear. While deeply saddened by and shocked by his homegoing, but believing that they will see him again in Heaven, are his wife, Ophelia Marie and remaining children, Kirby Compton (Jermaine Compton) and Donald Ray Gibbs Jr.; siblings, Debrah Brisco, Ernest Anthony Gibbs, and Gloria Anderson (Cliff Anderson). Also celebrating his life and homegoing are his brother-in-law, Anthony Reed (Joyce Reed), sister-in-laws, Catherine Rose and Verlia Josette Reed-Byrd (Jerome Byrd) along with a multitude of adopted brothers and sisters, cousins, nieces, nephews, his church family, neighbors, and many friends and coworkers.



ORDER OF *Service*

Prelude Music Ministry

Procession Family and Clergy

"The Anchor Holds"

Song of Praise

"Jesus You're the Center of My Joy"

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Minister John Curtis Gibbs

New Testament Chaplain Richard Joseph

Prayer Rev. Samuel Daniels

Resolutions

Expressions (Please limit to 2 minutes)

Musical Solo Kamil Bonner

"So Many times the Lord Made A Way For Me"

Sermon Pastor Reginald DeVaughn

Recessional "Summer Breeze, Isley Brothers"

LOVING Tributes

TO THOSE WHOM I LOVE & THOSE WHO LOVE ME

To those Whom I Love & Those Who Love Me
Although another limb has fallen from the family tree, grieve not for me;
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song, the good life I lived while I was strong.
Continue my heritage; I'm counting on you.
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.
My mind is at ease; my soul is at rest;
Remembering, all in all, how I truly was blessed.
Continue traditions, no matter how small.
Go on with your life, don't worry about the falls.
Although you may miss me dearly, keep up your chin,
Because a glorious day will come when we'll be together again.

TO MY HUSBAND

To my first love, my one and only love; My D, my Don, You left me, you left us far too early, too soon.
Yet, I won't complain. Instead, I'll be grateful for the 48 blessed years we shared from high school sweethearts, to newlyweds, and on to being proud parents of 3 beautiful children. Thank you, Don, for being my rock, my strength, protector, provider, the one who had my back and made sure we lacked for nothing. And to think, I almost let you go due to your sharpness and cool appeal. I thought you were too dignified to know anything about hard work. Would you be able to provide for our family? But God, in His own unique way, showed me that indeed, you were a diligent worker. The very thing you tried to hide from me, your willingness to get dirty and work with your hands, was the very thing that drew me to you. Thank you, my love, for showing the kids and me the finer things of life, the trips, the adventures and for showing me how to step out on faith, in order to live out our hearts' desires, even when our bank account suggested otherwise! Certainly, there were times when I could sell you for a penny... Yet so many other times, you couldn't pay me millions to pry me away from you!
You gave us your all Don, and you loved us well. Thank you for giving me the greatest gift of all, comfort and security in knowing that you gave your life to Christ and are now in the loving arms of our Lord and savior Jesus the Messiah. For that, I am eternally grateful. I have peace, joy, and comfort in the midst of this difficult departure. Take rest, my love. Just know, you will forever be in my heart. Until we meet again, farewell, and much gratitude!

DEAR DAD,

There weren't many words left unspoken our last few conversations, but a forever goodbye wasn't in the equation. I told you how proud I was of the sacrifices you've made and the man you are and reassured you that the example you've lead would take me far. The early mornings and late nights...couldn't slow you down. A locomotive in full speed, wheels never leaving the ground.
On the move for Christ and family, you went above and beyond, giving us so many nuggets and pieces of you to build upon. A big heart as big as your smile. My Daddy, the baddest, coolest, smoothest man in town. Just like the Summer Breeze, bringing good times and a bit of relief when you come through. We knew adventure and blessings were around the corner, something new to look forward to. Standing on your values, putting pride into all the work you do. For creative insight and sound advice, we could depend on you.
This is so incredibly sad, but who am I to get mad? So unreal, but I know my heavy heart, You, LORD, have to heal.
How else am I supposed to move on, if I didn't know my Dad is rejoicing in the midst of Your Holy Throne?
If my dad did not walk me down the aisle and give me one last dance, looks like any longer wait, we would've never had that chance. Those last joyful moments I will always carry in my heart; A testament that our father-daughter bond could never be torn apart.
Eventually, I have to stop writing before this becomes, "The Scrolls of Donald",
Because the legacy you have gifted us is surely a blueprint to be followed.
Although I don't understand these turn of events, I do know it was all done by God's divine design.
The life my Dad lived was indeed, quite fine, but the life he's now living is eternally sublime.
We'll miss you, my Dear Dad.

-Love, Your One and Only Daughter, Kirby



"BROTHER DON"

As long as I can remember, you've always been there
With laughter and joy, with love and with care.
Brother Don, you and Phelia took me to Star Wars one summer night,
At the Majestic Metro, beneath the OST theater light.

You'd bring me sweet treats when I was just so small,
Candies and gifts, you'd shower me with it all.
You loved to dance, to laugh, to be free,
The life of the party, where all smiles should be.

SHARP AS A TACK - with a grin so big, so
bright and a heart full of cheer,
Your energy, Brother Don, was infectious and clear.
You cooked for us all, fed our bodies and souls,
Happily hosting us was one of your goals.

In every gathering, in each Zydeco song,
We'll feel your presence, as life carries on.
As long as I have memories, you'll always be near—
Brother Don, forever cherished, forever dear.

A loyal friend, family first - was always a top priority.
You cherished each moment, and lived your best life, with no apology.
Your faith grew strong, a light in your heart,
To witness that journey was the most beautiful part.

Though now you have journeyed to Heaven above,
You've left us your spirit, your laughter, your love.
So, here we stand, together, to honor your name,
Brother Don, we'll always rekindle your flame.

In family, in fellowship, in faith you remain,
In every celebration, we'll proudly speak your name.
Your legacy's secure and bright, and your spirit will stay—
In our hearts, Brother Don, forever and a day.

Luv your Sister, Josette Reed-Byrd

Don was more than just a brother-in-law; he was definitely a brother-in-love. It was nothing that was in his power that he wouldn't do for those he loved and cared about. Although many of us are that way, willing to give when it comes to our loved ones; however, there's only few and in between, that will give to those who are strangers, to the sick, and to the outcast. In the words of Jesus, according to Matthew 25:40, "when you do this unto one of the least of these my brothers, you do it unto me". His generosity was bar none. He got joy from giving so freely and seeing the gratitude for the gift that he gave from his heart. Don was equally grateful for gifts he received, whether they were in words or deeds. And likewise, he always remembered to show his appreciation to others.
You are going to be truly missed my brother.

Love, your Sister and chocolate cake maker Lol
Cathy, RIP

A TRIBUTE TO OUR BROTHER "DONALD RAY"

In the quiet moments of the dawn,
When the world feels soft and still,
We remember the laughter and the love
That time we could never kill.

Your smile was like a bright star,
That would brighten our darkest night,
Your spirit strong, your heart so kind and very giving,
You were always a beacon of pure light.

Now you rest in peaceful sleep,
Far from the troubles of this world,
Yet in our hearts, your memory stays,
A precious flag unfurled.
Though our hearts are heavy now,
And our tears may freely fall,
We find comfort in the cherished times
We shared, the greatest gift of all.

In every sunrise, in every breeze,
We'll feel your presence near,
A whisper of the love you gave,
A memory that will always be crystal clear.

Rest peacefully, our dear brother,
Your journey's now complete,
Yet in our hearts, you'll always be,
A love that will always be ever so sweet.
Until we all meet again...
Debrah, Anthony and Gloria

"TO MY FAMILY"

Choking back tears! It's so unreal to believe we have to say goodbye to my beautiful hearted brother! I can remember when we first met! Your love for life and those white jeans! All your big dreams that you work hard to achieve, you did! The belief to know that with God, all things are possible! You work at everything to make it perfect! Your will to help and please others will always be remembered! All the good times we all shared will always be remembered! Your love to celebrate with family will truly be missed! You traveled far and near to be with the ones you loved! Your work-ethic was that of a perfectionist! Words can't express the loss we feel! It's a dream we all pray we can wake up from. We were all waiting to see what was next in what you were going to do to the beautiful property in Leonville. Your pride and your perfectionism went hand and hand; Family will love and miss you dearly! Your siblings looked up to you with pride. Your love for Marie was always shown with a beaming heart! Your love for each other was always obvious, especially when Marie wore the dresses you liked! You always wanted her to look perfect and beautiful at no cost too big! We will miss that beautiful smile! Those lil corny jokes! You were a great brother, uncle and friend to our family! Luv Carl, Janice and family! Love you always.

LOVING
Tributes



TREASURED
Memories



TREASURED

Memories

Active Pallbearers

Anthony Gibbs
Jamal Davis
Thaddeus Rose
John Beverly

Allen Mayon Sr.
Zackery Briscoe
Roderick Hearn
Timothy Beverly

Honorary Pallbearers

Anthony Reed
Lewis Collins
Jermaine Compton
Joseph Thomas
Carlton Thomas Sr.
James Ronald Sr.
Carl White Sr.
James Ronald Jr.
Brandon Thomas
Jerald Mayon
Phillip Mayon
Howard Prince
Joe Reed
Arnold Cotton
Chris Dumas
Leonard Pylant Jr.
Joseph Calvin Mayon Jr.

Jerome Byrd
Leland Thomas Sr.
Ulton "June" Mayon Jr.
Henry Gerard Thomas Jr.
Joseph "Mickey" Richard Jr.
Leland Thomas Jr.
Terry Collins
Harold Williams
James Williams
Thomas "Bubble" Lewis
Paul Jhonson
Floyd Johnson
Chris Johnson
Joseph "Cookie" Lewis
Casey Thomas
Jeffery Rose
Corey Briscoe

Family Acknowledgement

Perhaps you sang a song of love or sat reflectively in a chair. Perhaps you sent beautiful flowers or water, if so, we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words a friend would say. Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day. Perhaps you prepared some tasty food or maybe furnished a car, perhaps you rendered a service unseen, near at hand or from afar. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much, whatever was the kindly part. May God forever bless Each of you.

With love

~ THE FAMILY OF DONALD RAY GIBBS SR. ~

Interment

Paradise Cemetery South
2237 Cullen BLVD, Pearland, TX 77581

Repast

Immediately following burial services
Harris County WCID 89 Admin Building
3455 Fellows Rd.
Houston, TX 77047



SCAN ME

Final arrangements entrusted to:

McCoy & Harrison Funeral Home
4918 Martin Luther King BLVD, Houston, TX 77021
713-659-7618