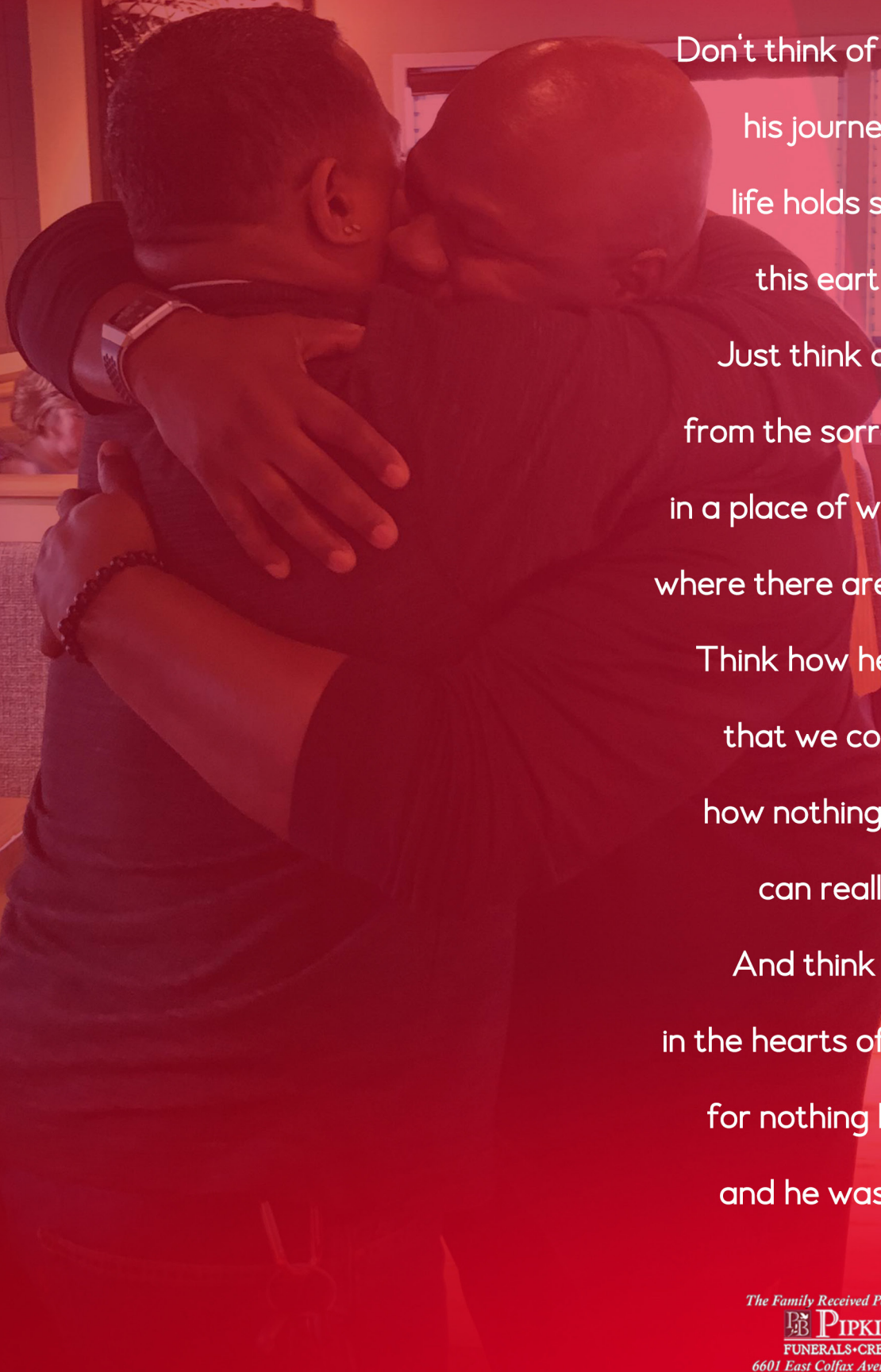




*His Journey's Just Begun*

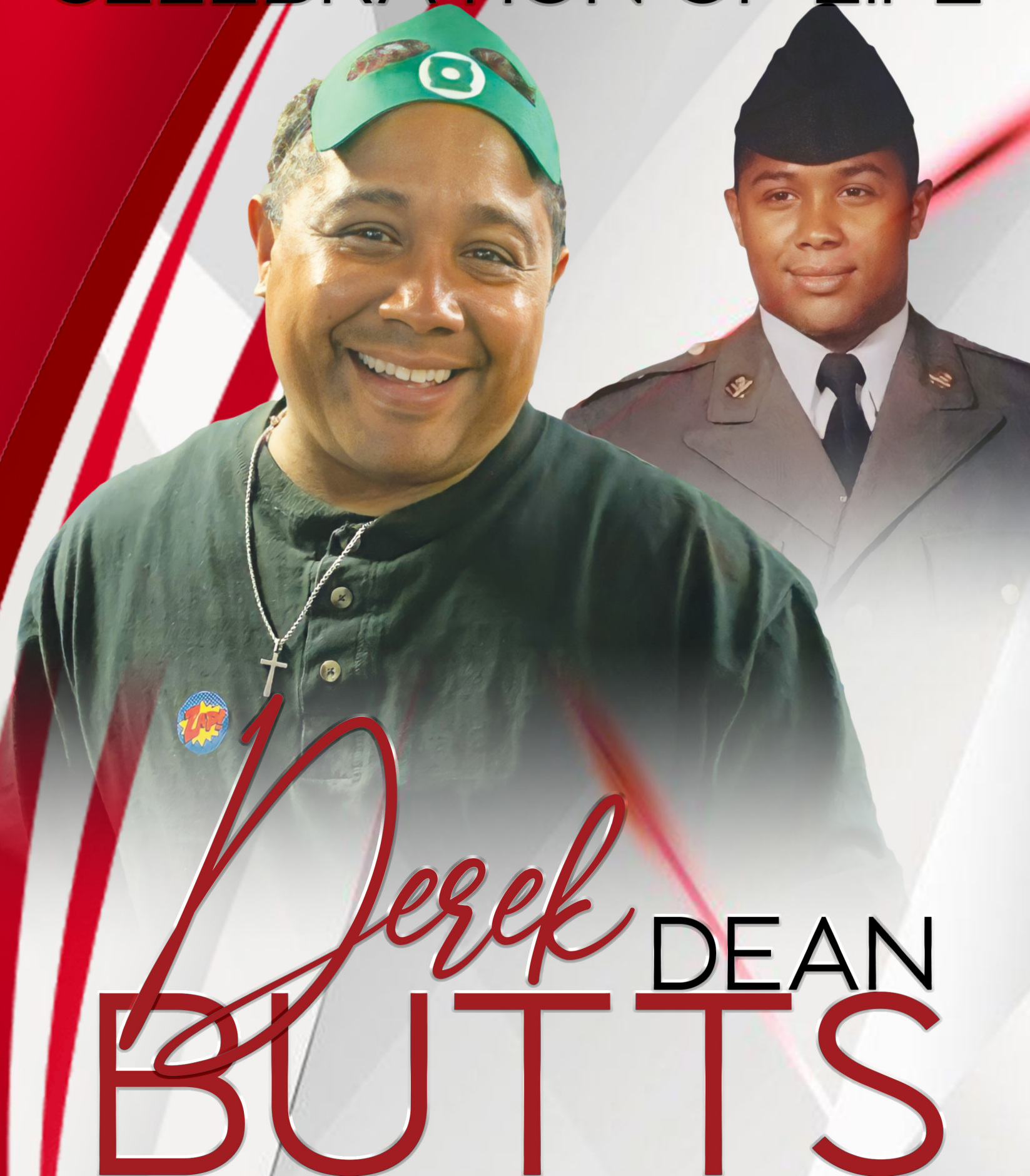


Don't think of him as gone away,  
his journey's just begun,  
life holds so many facets,  
this earth is only one...  
Just think of him as resting  
from the sorrows and the tears  
in a place of warmth and comfort  
where there are no days and years.  
Think how he must be wishing  
that we could know today  
how nothing but our sadness  
can really pass away.  
And think of him as living  
in the hearts of those he touched...  
for nothing loved is ever lost  
and he was loved so much.

The Family Received Personal Care from the Staff of  
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# CELEBRATION OF LIFE



*Derek* DEAN  
**BUTTS**

FEBRUARY 7, 1967 - AUGUST 2, 2022





# Life's Journey

*To plant a seed in one's heart... to root it in love...  
To nourish it with time spent together...  
Yields a blossom that will flourish forever.*



Derek Dean Butts was born on February 7, 1967, in Gainesville, Georgia, to his parents, Linda Joe Thorpe and Jessie Butts. He was raised surrounded by his brothers, Kerry, Gregory, Robert III, Chris, Anthony, and his sisters, Kimberly, Apryl, and Stephanie. As a child, he enjoyed running, playing baseball, and basketball. He received his formal education in Gainesville, Georgia, where he graduated from Gainesville High School. A fond high school memory was that of Derek being part of the basketball team who won the championship. The team agreed to commemorate the win by painting their nails red for fun.

Derek enlisted in the United States Army. He served his country for over twenty years. Some of his tours of duty include being stationed in Korea, the Gulf War, the Iraq War for two tours, and at Fort Carson in Colorado. While serving his country, he earned the Army Commendation Medal (2nd Award), the Army Achievement Medal (4th Award), the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Army Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2nd Award), Global Medal on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Commissioned Officer Professional Development Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Army Component Reserve Ribbon. He served with honor and distinction and was honorably discharged.

On May 4, 1991, Derek married the former Estelle Ealy at New Hope Baptist Church in Denver, Colorado. He was the proud father of two sons, LaVone and Dominick. He was a loving, devoted, and amazing husband and father. Dominick remembers the many nights of playing spades and other card games and enjoying seafood every weekend.

Derek was later blessed with three grandchildren, Khai, London, and Khloe, who all were an additional source of joy and pride in his life. They lovingly called him "Grandpa" and fondly remember the Sunday drives while listening to music, cleaning the car, the many special toys, and all the love he gave and showed them.

By profession, Derek worked as an Aviation Aircraft Refueler while in the Army. After his discharge, he became employed by Integrated Airlines, the Veterans Administration, and United Parcel Service. He was hard-working, dedicated, and loved by his co-workers. He considered them all his family. He is remembered as having a kind heart and a smile that would light any room he entered.

Derek was a fun-loving man who enjoyed life and those he encircled. In his free time, he enjoyed the quality time spent with family.

He loved watching sports, listening to music, driving, and collecting knives. His closest friend, Mike Smith, will miss the many comraderies they shared together and the fact that he was a true and trusted friend who was a team player. He will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known this kind and wonderful man. To know Derek was to love him.

Derek was never one to look for praises. He was never one to boast. He went about life working for those he loved so much.

Derek Dean Butts departed this life on August 2, 2022, in Centennial, Colorado. Those left to cherish his memory and mourn his loss include his 2 sons, LaVone Ealy and Dominick D. Butts-Ealy; his father, Jessie Butts; 5 brothers, Kerry (Cassandra) Butts, Gregory (Christi) Smith, Robert B. (Wendy) Thorpe, III, Christopher (Michelle) Thorpe, Anthony Thorpe; 3 sisters, Kimberly B. Carithers, Apryl (Orenthal) Gates, and Stephanie (Demond) Jones; 3 grandchildren, Khai K Ealy, London L Ealy, and Khloe K. Ealy; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives, and many friends.



# Memorial Service

Wednesday, August 10, 2022 - 3:00pm  
Pipkin Braswell Chapel of Peace  
6601 E. Colfax Avenue Denver, Colorado 80220  
Pastor Russell Jackson, Officiating and Eulogist

Processional.....Kirk Franklin Recording  
"Smile"  
Selection.....Whitney Houston Recording  
"I Look To You"  
Comfort from the Scripture.....Minister  
Old Testament | New Testament  
Prayer of Solace.....Minister  
Selection.....Lauryn Hill and Tanya Blount Recording  
"His Eye Is On The Sparrow"  
Acknowledgements, Condolences, and Obituary  
Pipkin Braswell Director

## All In The Box Presentation Video Tribute

### Honoring Derek (Two-Minute Remarks)

Selection.....Smokey Robinson Recording  
"Really Gonna Miss You"  
Words of Comfort.....Pastor Russell Jackson  
Closing Prayer/Benediction  
Recessional.....Walter Hawkins Recording  
"Going Up Yonder"

## Honorary Pallbearers

Quincy Ealy    Donovan Ealy    Byron Davis  
Patrick Olowu    Thomas Littleton

## Final Resting Place and Committal Service

August 20, 2022  
Alta Vista Cemetery  
521 Jones Street, Gainesville, Georgia 30501

## Acknowledgement

During a time like this, we learn how much our friends really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be treasured. May God richly Bless each of you.  
**The family of Derek Dean Butts**

