

Acknowledgements

The family of Jamel Van Lawrence wishes to thank every person who has shown a thoughtful and generous expression of love to us during this difficult time. We are so grateful for any gesture of support that has been offered to us, as it has truly warmed our hearts and lifted our spirits. Your acts of kindness are appreciated and will always be remembered.

Pallbearers

Tyler & Tymaine Williams - Brandon Rutledge - Jazavier Garcia
Marquis Selmon - Dede Boyd & Dre Boyd - Joshua Ray
Rashawn & David Bullock - Sean Lawrence - Kevin McCloud

Honorary Pallbearers

Claudy Garcia - Greg Whitted - Elijah Mackey
Christian Stoner - Tron Logan - Aaron Swift



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



Homegoing Celebration for

Jamel Van Lawrence

April 14, 1978 - August 18, 2024

Sunday, August 25, 2024

Visitation: 10:00am Service: 11:00am

Marlan J. Gary Funeral Home

The Chapel of Peace East

5456 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, OH 43232

" Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination, and life to everything".



Reflections of Life

Jamel Van Lawrence, affectionately known by many as "Mellie Mel," "The Mayor," and "J Pay," passed away on August 18, 2024, at the age of 46. Born on April 14, 1978, in Brooklyn, NY, Jamel was a man whose life was deeply intertwined with the evolution of Hip Hop, a culture he held close to his heart.

Jamel was a man of many passions. His family meant the world to him, and he cherished the bonds he shared with his loved ones. He was the beloved husband of Charlice Gaston and the proud father of seven children: Javon Modix, Salena Lawrence, Micah Fliegel, Jazavier Garcia, Kristofer Poorman, Jalishawn Lawrence, and Janiah Lawrence. He was also a caring stepfather to Kamauri Oliver, Samiya Gaston, Courtney Gaston, and Elijah Mackey.

Educated at Eastmoor Academy, Jamel later pursued a career in plumbing, earning his apprentice certificate. Always eager to explore his interests, he was recently planning to attend the Ohio Media School, driven by his unique ear for music and a deep love for the art form.

Jamel was known for his vibrant personality and distinctive sense of style. He would often say, "I don't wear outfits; I wear garments," reflecting his flair for fashion. He loved to laugh, listen to music, and enjoy life, and he was happiest when surrounded by friends and family, creating memories that will forever be cherished.

He is survived by his parents, Michael Richards and Dawn Renee Richards; his special parents, Betty Hunt Garcia and Luis Garcia; his brothers, Jermaine Richards and Daunte Richards; and his sister, Tresylain Mayers.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Edith and James Lawrence; his uncle, Edgar Skinner; his paternal grandfather, James Richards; and his uncle, Lucien England Sr.

Jamel's legacy is one of love, laughter, and a deep appreciation for life. He will be remembered fondly by those who knew him.

Order of Service

MUSICAL PRELUDE	Sounds of Blackness
PARTING VIEW	Immediate Family
POEM	Janiah Lawrence
MIME SELECTION	Sade & Jessica Gaston "More Than I Can Bear"
PRAYER OF COMFORT	Min. Tyrae Walker
SELECTION	Priscilla Woodson "Deliver Me"
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	Teneka Armstead
REMARKS	(2 Minutes Please).....Dana Brock Robin Skinner James Lawrence Family and Friends
OBITUARY	Michael Richards and Tresylain Mayers
SELECTION	Kelo Dower "Main Line"
THE EULOGY	Min. Tyrae Walker
BENEDICTION	Min. Tyrae Walker
RECESSIONAL	Clergy, Family, and Friends "Sounds of Blackness"