

# Precious Memories



## His Journey Has Just Begun

Don't think of him as gone away;  
His journey has just begun.  
Life holds many facets;  
The 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 of 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.

By Ellen Brenneman

## Repast

Front Step Kid's Club House

4635 North 16th Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19140

On the corner of 16th & Courtland Street

## In Appreciation

The family of Sebastian V. Rykard would like to offer sincere appreciation to all those that offered condolences, prayers, phone calls, text messages, or just a passing thought for our family. Thank you!

Professional Services Entrusted To



### G. CHOICE

FUNERAL CHAPEL INC.

2530 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19132  
215-227-0100 (Office) | 215-225-1256 (Fax)  
www.gchoicefc.com | Britni' Choice-Cartwright, Supervisor

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF



# Sebastian Von RYKARD

*Sunrise*  
October 24, 1963

*Sunset*  
April 11, 2023

Saturday, April 22, 2023  
3:00 PM

G. CHOICE FUNERAL CHAPEL, INC.  
2530 North Broad Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19132

Reverend Walter Barnes, Officiating

# Life Reflection

God is our refuge and strength,  
A very present help in trouble.  
Psalm 46:1

On Tuesday, April 11, 2023, **SEBASTIAN VON RYKARD** quietly departed this life into eternal peace with the Lord.

Sebastian Von Rykard was born on October 24, 1963, in Chester, Pennsylvania. As a toddler, he was placed in foster care along with his infant brother, Antonio. The two boys were reared by Minnie and Maxwell Spencer, who had three other foster children, Monica, Kevin, and Henry. The five children grew up together as siblings in a green and white rowhouse on Pennell Street and would often visit their adult foster sister, Ruby, who also lived in Chester.

As a child, Sebastian, nicknamed Subby, attended Bethany Baptist Church in Chester and was baptized there at around seven years of age. He participated in several church activities, including Sunday School and the young adult choir, and he was a youth usher. He was educated in the Chester Upland School District, including Benjamin Franklin and Booker T. Elementary Schools, Douglass Middle School, and Chester High School.

He loved to sing, and in addition to church and school choirs, he sang briefly with the Wilmington Chester Mass Choir. Sebastian was also a talented artist and began drawing as a child. He was even recruited to enroll in an art program as a youngster but decided against it. Prior to graduating high school, he left his foster mother's home and relocated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In 1984, Sebastian met his friend, Johnny, and the rest became history. Nana, as she is affectionately called, lovingly invited Sebastian into her fold with a deep

affection as if he was her own. This connection sparked an instant family affair and would last for 40 years. Nana remained a central mother figure in Sebastian's life until his death.

Sebastian had a quiet demeanor and a big heart. He was a great brother, unselfish and always putting others first. He loved his nieces and nephews, and they loved him. Uncle Subby was the one and only uncle who could be counted on when there was a need to be met within the family, like transporting or picking up a niece or nephew from school, or going to the store, or going on a walk to the park, or just spending quality family time. Yup, that was our Uncle Subby!

Sebastian made meaningful and lasting relationships throughout his journey. His admirable qualities made him well-liked and fun-loving. When it came to socializing, his spirit was infectious and drinking a beer or two was one of his favorite past times.

Sebastian's employment history included catering, housekeeping, and the food industry. In 1990, he left the work force due to a work-related injury. During his autumn years, his health began to decline. This coupled with loss, and other challenges brought him a faint recollection of happier times. His family, close friends, and those who had the pleasure of knowing him would characterize him as a giving and caring spirit.

He leaves to cherish his memory: sister, Monica Haynes; brothers, Kevin Dickerson and Henry Collins; biological siblings; extended family mother, Nana; one sister, Imani; life-long friends, Dena Baker, Melvin Williams, and John Vennings; and a host of nieces, great-nieces, nephews, great-nephews, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his foster parents; biological parents; brother, Antonio Rykard; foster sister, Ruby Frazier; three extended family brothers, Glenn Smith, Cleveland German, and John Smith; and one sister, Sheila Finney.

# Order of Service

Opening Prayer ..... Reverend Walter Barnes

Musical Selection ..... Russel Gore

Scripture ..... Reverend Walter Barnes

Selection..... Russel Gore

Remarks ..... *Two Minutes Each, Please*

Guests

Obituary ..... Javonne German

Selection..... Russel Gore

Eulogy ..... Reverend Walter Barnes

Benediction..... Reverend Walter Barnes