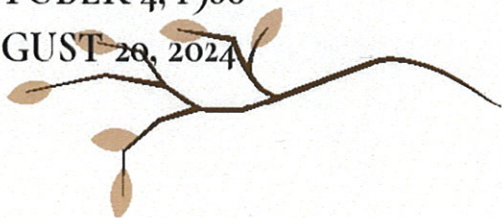


IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Raynard Gaines



SUNRISE: OCTOBER 4, 1960

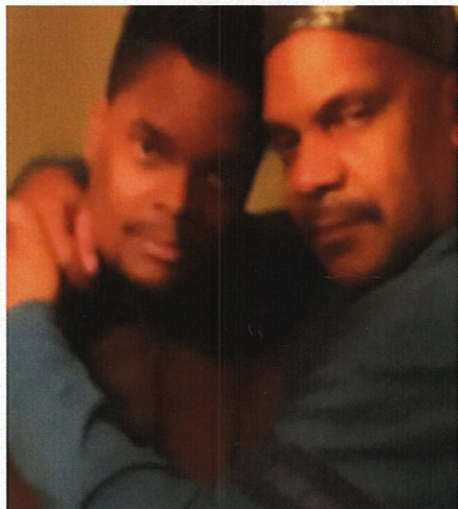
SUNSET: AUGUST 28, 2024



OBITUARY



RAYNARD GAINES, BORN OCTOBER 4, 1960, AT DETROIT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, ENTERED ETERNAL REST ON AUGUST 20, 2024. HE WAS BORN TO ODESSA PHILLIPS AND ROYCE GAINES, WHO MET AT A YOUNG AGE. RAYNARD GREW UP WITH NINE SIBLINGS, INCLUDING THREE SISTERS AND SIX BROTHERS, FORMING A CLOSE-KNIT FAMILY. RAYNARD ATTENDED MCKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL, WHERE HE ENJOYED PLAYING BASKETBALL AND BASEBALL. HE LATER WORKED AT THE AMERICAN RED CROSS BEFORE LEAVING TO PURSUE HIS PASSION FOR LAWN CARE, STARTING HIS OWN BUSINESS, WHICH HE WAS VERY DEDICATED TO. A LOVING FATHER TO HIS CHILDREN VADA, THERON, DEVONTAE, REMI, NEVEAH, AND HIS BONUS SON CJ AND DAUGHTER LAKITA, RAYNARD NOW JOINS HIS BELOVED SON, RAY J, WHO PRECEDED HIM IN PASSING. ALSO LEAVING BEHIND HIS LOVING PARTNER IN LIFE PATRICIA. RAYNARD WAS KNOWN FOR HIS HANDS-ON NATURE AND WAS ALWAYS EAGER TO FIX SOMETHING, OFTEN WITH A TOUCH OF HUMOR. HE MARRIED TWICE AND SHARED DEEP CONNECTIONS WITH HIS LOVED ONES. HIS LOVE FOR FOOTBALL, PARTICULARLY THE DETROIT LIONS, WAS WELL-KNOWN AND CHERISHED. THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, RAYNARD'S WARMTH, STRENGTH, AND SPIRIT OF DETERMINATION WERE FELT BY ALL WHO KNEW HIM. HE REMAINED POSITIVE AND RESILIENT THROUGH EVERY CHALLENGE, SHOWING HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS THE TRUE MEANING OF COURAGE AND DIGNITY. RAYNARD LEAVES BEHIND A LEGACY OF LOVE, LAUGHTER, AND COUNTLESS CHERISHED MEMORIES. HIS FAMILY, INCLUDING HIS CHILDREN, FRIENDS, AND LOVED ONES, WILL FOREVER HOLD HIM IN THEIR HEARTS. THOUGH HE IS NO LONGER WITH US, RAYNARD'S LAUGHTER, WISDOM, AND LOVE WILL CONTINUE TO ECHO IN OUR LIVES. WE CELEBRATE HIS LIFE TODAY, KNOWING HE IS RESTING IN PEACE, REUNITED WITH HIS SON, AND FOREVER CHERISHED. NOW AT PEACE, REUNITED WITH HIS SON, AND WATCHING OVER US WITH THAT SAME VIBRANT SPIRIT WE WILL NEVER FORGET.



“WELCOME HOME, DAD”

FROM RAY J

I'VE WATCHED YOU FROM THE STARS ABOVE,
WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, YOUR ENDLESS LOVE.
NOW HERE YOU ARE, WHERE SKIES DON'T END,
WELCOME HOME, MY DEAREST FRIEND.

NO MORE PAIN, NO MORE FIGHT,
JUST ENDLESS PEACE, ETERNAL LIGHT.
TOGETHER AGAIN, SIDE BY SIDE,
IN HEAVEN'S ARMS, WE'LL NOW ABIDE.

I'VE WAITED, DAD, TO HOLD YOU NEAR,
TO SHARE THE LOVE WE BOTH HOLD DEAR.
REST NOW, FOR YOUR JOURNEY'S THROUGH—
IN HEAVEN, I'M RIGHT HERE WITH YOU.



FAMILY





YOU NEVER SAID I'M LEAVING YOU
NEVER SAID GOODBYE
YOU WERE GONE BEFORE I KNEW IT,
AND ONLY GOD KNEW WHY.
A MILLION TIMES I NEEDED YOU, A
MILLION TIMES I CRIED. IF LOVE
ALONE COULD HAVE SAVED
YOU, YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE DIED.
IN LIFE I LOVED YOU DEARLY, IN
DEATH I LOVE YOU STILL, IN MY
HEART YOU HOLD A PLACE THAT
NO ONE COULD EVER FILL.

PAT



A FATHER'S HANDS

YOUR HANDS WERE ALWAYS STEADY, STRONG,
GUIDING ME THROUGH RIGHT AND WRONG.
FROM FIXING THINGS TO FIXING ME,
YOU TAUGHT ME HOW TO TRULY BE.

YOU SHOWED ME LOVE WITHOUT A WORD,
IN EVERY GESTURE, I CLEARLY HEARD
THE LESSONS THAT YOU LIVED EACH DAY,
IN EVERYTHING YOU DID, YOUR WAY.

FROM FOOTBALL GAMES TO LIFE'S TOUGH CALLS,
YOU CAUGHT ME WHEN I FACED THE FALLS.
A FATHER'S WISDOM IN YOUR EYES,
YOU LIFTED ME TOWARD THE SKIES.

THOUGH NOW YOU REST, YOUR WORK IS DONE,
OUR BOND REMAINS, IT'S NEVER GONE.
IN EVERY LAUGH, IN EVERY TEAR,
YOUR SPIRIT STAYS FOREVER NEAR.

SO, THANK YOU, DAD, FOR ALL YOU'VE BEEN,
MY TEACHER, HERO, AND MY FRIEND.
I'LL CARRY YOU IN ALL I DO,
A PART OF ME THAT'S ALWAYS YOU.



**"LEGACY OF
STRENGTH: A
TRIBUTE TO
DAD"**

FROM VADA AND
REMI

IN YOUR HANDS, WE SAW THE WORLD UNFOLD,
A QUIET STRENGTH, A HEART SO BOLD.
THROUGH EVERY STORM, YOU STOOD SO TALL,
A STEADY ROCK, YOU'D NEVER FALL.

YOUR HANDS COULD BUILD, YOUR HEART COULD HEAL,
YOU TAUGHT US WHAT IT MEANS TO FEEL.
IN EVERY TRIAL, YOU FOUND YOUR WAY,
TURNING DARKNESS INTO DAY.

RESILIENCE WAS YOUR GUIDING LIGHT,
YOU NEVER BACKED DOWN FROM A FIGHT.
WITH EVERY CHALLENGE, BIG OR SMALL,
YOU SHOWED US HOW TO STAND THROUGH IT ALL.

YOUR LAUGHTER ECHOED IN OUR DAYS,
YOUR WISDOM LED US THROUGH LIFE'S MAZE.
NO MATTER HOW HARD LIFE BECAME,
YOU FACED IT WITH STRENGTH, NEVER THE SAME.

NOW, THOUGH YOUR HANDS NO LONGER BUILD,
YOUR LOVE REMAINS, OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED.
IN EVERY STEP, WE CARRY YOU NEAR,
YOUR STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE, FOREVER CLEAR.

FOR ALL YOU WERE AND STILL WILL BE,
YOUR LEGACY LIVES ON IN VADA AND ME.
IN EVERY HEARTBEAT, IN EVERY SMILE,
WE'LL WALK IN YOUR STRENGTH, MILE BY MILE.

REST EASY, DAD, FOR YOU'VE SHOWN US THE WAY,
YOUR SPIRIT GUIDES US, DAY BY DAY.

****"CELEBRATE MY LIFE"**
*FROM RAYNARD TO HIS FAMILY***

**DON'T MOURN FOR ME, FOR I'M AT PEACE,
THE PAIN IS GONE, THE STRUGGLES CEASE.
REMEMBER ME WITH JOY AND LIGHT,
I'M WITH YOU STILL, JUST OUT OF SIGHT.**

**DON'T LET THE TEARS FALL FOR TOO
LONG,
INSTEAD, REMEMBER I WAS STRONG.
CELEBRATE THE LOVE WE SHARED,
THE LAUGHTER, MOMENTS, HOW WE
CARED.**

**I LIVED MY LIFE WITH NO REGRET,
THE MEMORIES MADE, DON'T SOON
FORGET.
HOLD ONTO THOSE, LET THEM BE NEAR,
AND KNOW I'LL ALWAYS BE RIGHT HERE.**

**SO LIFT YOUR HEARTS, AND SMILE FOR ME,
IN EVERY BREEZE, IN EVERY TREE.
I'M NOT GONE, JUST CHANGED MY PLACE,
FOREVER WATCHING, WITH ENDLESS
GRACE.**

**CELEBRATE THE LIFE I LIVED, SO FULL,
AND KNOW MY LOVE IS POWERFUL.
DON'T MOURN FOR ME, JUST LET ME SEE
YOUR SMILES—MY SWEETEST LEGACY.**

