



Donald Gaither

July 4, 1950 - June 26, 2024

His family called him 'Cookie Monster', his friends called him "Baby D", and his co-workers called him Gaither. It did not matter what you called him; everyone knew he was special.....a special son, a special brother, a special husband, a special father, a special friend. He was a very special man of God!

Donald Arnold Gaither was born on July 4, 1950, to the late James, Sr. and Ernestine Gaither. He attended Atlanta Public Schools and graduated from C. L. Harper High School as a member of the class of 1968. He was also a member of the marching band. After high school he enrolled at Atlanta Technical College where he studied automotive collision repair. Following completion of his training he was employed by Beaudry Ford in the automotive repair department. After protests and demonstrations (common during the Civil Rights Era) he obtained a position in the sales division.

Donald started his career in real estate in 1977 as agent with Apollo Associates Realty founded by Mr. T. J. Locke, his former high school teacher and mentor. In 1988 he obtained his real estate broker license and opened Gaither Realty Associates, specializing in property management.

Donald's professional journey was marked by resilience and determination. In addition to his successful career in real estate, he also served as a police officer at Georgia State University. His career as an officer was tragically cut

short in 1993 due to a life-threatening accident. However, through faith, determination and perseverance he overcame his injuries and thrived in the real estate industry. He was a certified Real Estate Manager and Property Manager, and a respected member of Dekalb Association of Realtors, Georgia Association of Realtors, and Georgia MLS.

At an early age he professed his faith attending church with his family at Big Bethel A.M.E. Church. He also attended Central United Methodist Church with his aunt. At Central UMC that he married the love of his life Yvonne

Anderson. Two beautiful daughters were born into this union, which lasted 45 years. Donald was a devoted husband and father. He was committed to making his “girls” happy. He was a fixture at his daughters’ school and their activities. The Gaither home was the gathering spot for their friends - the house where they were welcomed, safe, and mentored. He was truly about God, family, and friends.

A soldier in God’s army, he devoted himself to studying the Word through Discipleship and Experiencing God classes. It was the Christian bond that was formed among the members in these classes that lead to the formation of the “I Ate Bread” Bible study and fellowship group.

After a long journey, the Lord called him home to rest on June 26, 2024. Donald is preceded in death by his parents, James, Sr. and Ernestine Gaither; beloved aunts Helen Mitchell and Rubye Rowe. Those left to cherish and honor his life include a loving and devoted wife, Yvonne; daughters Dawn West (Mike), Candice Sykes (Cedric); grandchildren, Cayden, Carson, Indigo, Rylie, Camdyn, and Cadence; brothers, James, Jr. (Janice), Frank, Sr., sister-in-law Jean Gaither; brother-in-laws, Andrew Anderson, (Carol), Ronald Anderson, and Reginald Anderson; nieces Musette Gaither, Sonya Gaither, Kiah Harper (Brian), and Gail Mayo; nephews, Frank, Jr. (Dee), Brian Gaither,

Dontavious Anderson, Sterling Anderson; and a host of other special relatives and beloved friends.

Cemetery Details

Kennedy Memorial Cemetery

2500 River Road
Ellenwood, Ga 30294

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 7. 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (est)

Gregory B Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory
4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy
Decatur, GA 30034
(404) 241-5656

Celebration of Life Service

JUL 8. 11:00 AM (est)

New Life Church
3592 Flat Shoals Rd.
Decatur, GA 30034

Tribute Wall

LF

“ Sending condolences to the family of bro Donald A. Gaither. We are praying for you that God will comfort your hearts. Also special prayer for Dr. James & Sis. Janice Gaither. We love the entire Gaither family ❤️🙏



Loraine Fields - July 07, 2024 at 11:13 PM

LS

“ We were blessed to grow up with the support of community. Remembering the days and Harper HS and the Trojan band. Lucy Murphy Sharpe

Lucy M Sharpe - July 07, 2024 at 06:23 PM

BK

“ We all grew up together, Frank, James and Donald and all the kids in our small Northwest Atlanta neighborhood in Collier Heights. I will always remember how welcoming Mr & Mrs Gaither always made us kids feel. We played baseball in the yard and road our bikes up and down tge street until the lights came on. I miss tge good Ole days of fun and play with our beloved friends. Ti tge Gaither family may Gid Bless and keep you during this sad time. Know that Dinald has now joined his beloved parents in heaven and is now at peace in the arms of our lord and savior Jesus Christ. My Deepest Sympathy Barbara Keith-Navarino

Barbara Keith-Navarino - July 06, 2024 at 03:23 PM