



## Douglas Martin Bentley Jr.

April 26, 1971 - November 7, 2022

### A Life Well Lived

Douglas Martin Bentley Jr. was born on April 26, 1971, to parents Louise Bentley and Douglas Bentley in Pittsburgh, PA. He passed away during the early hours of November 7, 2022.

Douglas attended Penn Hills Senior High School and graduated in 1989. He went on to attend the Air Force Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base in Bexar County, Texas in August of 1989. He went on to graduate from the U.S. Air Force Aerospace ground equipment mechanic course at Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois. Doug's military service spanned 11 years including one tour in Desert Storm.

A lifelong learner and strong proponent of furthering education, Douglas completed his Bachelor of Science at Columbia Southern University where he studied Criminal Justice Administration and graduated Magna Cum Laude in May of 2012. Douglas was a graduate of the 132nd Administrative Officers Course from the Southern Police Institute Department of Justice Administration College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Louisville in 2014. He went on to receive his Master of Science in Organizational Leadership at Columbia Southern University in 2015. His educational pursuits were contiguous with his distinguished career as a DeKalb County Police Officer.

Douglas joined the DeKalb County Police Department in May of 1997 graduating with the 53rd Academy in October 1997. His dedicated career would span over the next 26 years. He started off his career in uniform and eventually joined the community-oriented policing (COP) division in which he worked undercover to apprehend perpetrators of all criminal backgrounds. Douglas progressed through the ranks as Detective, Sergeant, and Lieutenant spending several years in the Special Investigation Section (SIS) responsible for capturing some of the most heinous criminals in DeKalb County as part of the Special Victims Unit. Doug then transitioned into the Uniform Division as Lieutenant and Captain and, most recently, Douglas was promoted to Major and served as the E-911 Director of DeKalb County Police. During his years of service, Douglas received several national technologies and leadership awards for the DeKalb County emergency 911 department and was instrumental in the creation of mobile technology for the DeKalb police to help protect the public. Doug worked to encourage the widespread use of Flock cameras around the county; a system developed to track license plates and traffic activity to protect against property crime and violence in homes, businesses, and neighborhoods. Douglas was a national award winner for Innovation, Leadership, and Technology. Douglas participated in many public symposiums regarding the 911 center to spread his wealth of knowledge to others. In 2021, Douglas received the Large Center Award at the National APCO. Additionally, he received a certificate from the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch and several other prestigious honors and awards. After 26 years of service, Douglas retired on October 2, 2021.

On October 3, 1999, Douglas met Dr. Shanika Bentley at Dobbins Air Reserve and they married on June 14, 2003. Douglas and Shanika were blessed with one son, Xavier Bentley.

During his free time, Douglas spent countless hours taking long early morning

walks, climbing Stone Mountain to watch the sunrise, spending quality time with family and friends, cherishing his relationship with God and sharing it often with others, and volunteering at local community events. Doug coached Xavier's soccer team, and youth football team (which was the most successful ever in Brookwood History). Douglas proudly coached Xavier to be a 7-time Georgia state wrestling champion. Along with his many activities and passions, Douglas was an avid traveler accomplishing his goal of visiting the Seven Wonders of the World with his family. Douglas had a gift for fellowship, telling stories, and being a mentor and positive light to many. The constant smile on his face, his sense of humor, his laugh, and his big heart always drew people to him.

Douglas is survived by his beloved wife Dr. Shanika Bentley, his son Xavier Bentley, loving parents Louise and Douglas Bentley, sister Leslie (John) Blanton, brother Dion (Kim) and nieces Brielle Blanton, Baylee Blanton, Camille Bentley, Erin Bentley, and Morgan Bentley, and a host of uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends.

# Previous Events

## Visitation (Mask Required)

NOV 18. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett and Sons - Gwinnett Chapel  
914 Scenic Hwy  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

## Celebration of Life

NOV 19. 10:00 AM (ET)

Grace Church  
1400 Dogwood Rd SW  
Snellville, GA 30078  
(770) 979-7000

# Tribute Wall



“ Douglas may you rest with God. So sad that you are gone. You will be missed. Bill told me how the two of you had started climbing Stone Mountain early in the morning. I saw such beautiful photos of the sunrise. You lived a full life for a man so young. Many, many accomplishments. My sincere condolences to your entire family. I am so sorry for your loss.

*Willie & Joanne Luck*

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**Joanne Luck** - November 19, 2022 at 01:02 AM



“ My sincere condolences to the Bentley family. ❤️

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**Cheryl (UK)** - November 18, 2022 at 07:11 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Douglas Martin Bentley Jr..



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November 18, 2022 at 02:28 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Douglas Martin Bentley Jr..



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November 18, 2022 at 12:56 PM

HA

“ Heidi Astorino lit a candle in memory of Douglas Martin Bentley Jr.



Heidi Astorino - November 18, 2022 at 12:55 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Douglas Martin Bentley Jr..



November 18, 2022 at 06:48 AM

TF

“ Tiffani Davis and Family purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Douglas Martin Bentley Jr..



Tiffani Davis and Family - November 17, 2022 at 05:43 PM

TF

“ The Luck family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Douglas Martin Bentley Jr..



The Luck family - November 17, 2022 at 05:00 PM

DJ

“ Doug I will truly miss you my brother and your family needs to know that i really enjoyed the times you drove to Pittsburgh to work with the young kids here in Penn Hills and surrounding area .It was also great that you would sit in church with me at Faith Community Church in Penn Hills and we would talk about the goals of getting more kids to know Christ. Even though I am a decade older than you we still had Great memories to share about growing up in Penn Hills! We both went to the same elementary school Lincoln Park in Penn Hills and we both have the same heart for Christ and the same heart for letting young people know about Christ. Your dedication to young people and youth will continue to set a benchmark standard for me, as I continue my work in Younlife and Younglives. Until i see you again my brother and Christ. Christs Kingdom First,  
Donnie Beno Jones

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**Donnie Jones** - November 17, 2022 at 09:03 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Douglas Martin Bentley Jr..



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November 16, 2022 at 10:44 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Douglas Martin Bentley Jr..



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November 16, 2022 at 09:35 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Douglas Martin Bentley Jr..



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November 16, 2022 at 09:21 AM



“ [Share](#) [Share on Facebook](#) [Share on Twitter](#)

MJ

Melody Jones

5 minutes ago

Major Bentley, I'm not quite sure where to start. I want to start by saying thank you for all you did for me in my career at DeKalb 911. I know personally, no matter what I needed, what path I went down throughout my career, you always supported me! Whether it was a listening ear, or a word of advice, you were always there with unwavering support. You taught me a lot! Thank you for ALL of your contributions to DeKalb 911 and thank you for caring about our 911 center and our employees. You always had a smile on your face and you always had a positive outlook on life in general. Your support of me over the years is a key reason why I have gotten so far in my career. You made our 911 center better and I thank you for your dedication and service. So rest easy Major! You did good and I'm sure God is proud of you. May you continue to rest in the arms of the lord forever.

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**Melody Jones** - November 15, 2022 at 11:11 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Douglas Martin Bentley Jr..*



November 15, 2022 at 06:19 PM



“ *Books-A-Million - Dotcom Team purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Douglas Martin Bentley Jr..*



**Books-A-Million - Dotcom Team** - November 15, 2022 at 05:16 PM



“ *Dr. Bentley and Xavier you both have our deepest sympathy and unwavering support during this difficult time.*



*Russell, Tamara, & Denver Moreland*

**Tamara Moreland** - November 15, 2022 at 03:35 PM



*Prayers of comfort and peace 🙏❤️*

**Danita Long** - November 16, 2022 at 01:03 PM

CC

“ Chris Lienhardt CPE05 purchased the Beautiful i  
n Blue for the family of Douglas Martin Bentley  
Jr..



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Chris Lienhardt CPE05 - November 15, 2022 at 03:09 PM

CL

“ I met Douglas at CPE class in 2019 and like all our classmates it  
wasn't a friendship.. we are all family, and our family is heartbroken  
that Douglas is no longer with us.  
All our conversations started with " My brother from another mother"  
and we talked about old school hip-hop and leadership and the  
importance of showing up for those we work with and each other.  
While we feel immense pain and sorrow in this moment; we need to  
also take note of how much better our lives were made because we  
knew Douglas.

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Chris Lienhardt - November 15, 2022 at 03:05 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family  
of Douglas Martin Bentley Jr..



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November 15, 2022 at 02:39 PM

LH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Laverne Howell - November 15, 2022 at 12:11 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Douglas Martin Bentley Jr..



November 15, 2022 at 12:10 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Douglas Martin Bentley Jr..



November 15, 2022 at 11:41 AM

CL

“ I was lucky enough to meet and briefly get to know Douglas over two short weeks at ASM/CCM. He made everyone feel like they knew him for ever in Just moments. Although the time we spent together was brief I know that my life was made better by getting to know this man. Praying for his family.

Chris Loraine - November 15, 2022 at 09:38 AM

MH

“ *Malaika Hall lit a candle in memory of Douglas Martin Bentley Jr.*



Malaika Hall - November 15, 2022 at 08:47 AM

MH

“ *Doug met God on many early mornings and captured the beauty of God's work. I appreciated receiving many pictures that highlighted positivity. Let you're light continue to shine Doug.*



Malaika Hall - November 15, 2022 at 08:44 AM

KB

“ *You are my other brother, I cannot begin to express the grief that I feel with this loss. The original 3 Musketeers...you embraced me as your sister my whole adult life. Me, you and Dion rolled hard together! You've always been one phone call away, ALWAYS. Dion and I will never, ever forget all the laughs, love and memories shared. I knew without a doubt, you always had our backs. My girls look at you as a second father, you have literally been there for everything major in our lives. I pray that you always knew how much we love you and mostly I pray for your peace. We will all continue to honor your great life and your bright light and we will hold each other up and be there for Xavier and Shanika. Prayers to Uncle Doug, Aunt Louise, Leslie and everyone you touched. ....love Liggity*

Kim Bentley - November 15, 2022 at 07:33 AM

AF

*Behalf of the Harris' (Faulkner) please accept our deepest condolences. We will continue to pray for your strength.*

**Anita (Nena) Faulkner** - November 17, 2022 at 10:41 AM

DE

“ *As soon as we met at CCM in Little Rock in 2019, I knew he was a man of God and that he would be our President of the class. His positivity was unmatched. What a life he has had and so many accomplishments. Truly, just a wonderful person. The world will be a little dimmer without him, but what an amazing legacy to have left behind. Dr. Bentley and Xavier, you are in my prayers. Rest easy Douglas.*

**Desiree Easley** - November 15, 2022 at 07:12 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Douglas Martin Bentley Jr..*



November 14, 2022 at 06:02 PM

GM

“ *Can't believe it. Don't want to believe it. Truly one of the most positive person I've had the honor of getting to know. When he & I participated in the 2019 Immersion him getting so much out of it, that I asked him to make remarks for the video recap which he graciously did. His words. "people matter" (<https://youtu.be/QbFtfiv7fv8> at the 2 min. 30 mark) remains profound. Everyone will miss Major.*

**Greg Mason** - November 14, 2022 at 03:48 PM

MJ

*Major Bentley, I'm not quite sure where to start. I want to start by saying thank you for all you did for me in my career at DeKalb 911. I know personally, no matter what I needed, what path I went down throughout my career, you always supported me! Whether it was a listening ear, or a word of advice, you were always there with unwavering support. You taught me a lot! Thank you for ALL of your contributions to DeKalb 911 and thank you for caring about our 911 center and our employees. You always had a smile on your face and you always had a positive outlook on life in general. Your support of me over the years is a key reason why I have gotten so far in my career. You made our 911 center better and I thank you for your dedication and service. So rest easy Major! You did good and I'm sure God is proud of you. May you continue to rest in the arms of the lord forever.*

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**Melody Jones** - November 15, 2022 at 11:03 PM