



## Mr. Eric Bruce Mance

December 24, 1952 - November 12, 2016

Mr. Eric Bruce Mance (63) of Stone Mountain, GA passed away on November 12, 2016. Funeral service will be held Friday November 18, 2016 1:30 PM at Antioch Lithonia Baptist Church 2152 Rock Chapel Road Lithonia, GA 30058. Interment at Eternal Hills Cemetery 3700 Stone Mountain Hwy. Snellville, GA 30039. Visitation Thursday November 17, 2016 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM at Gregory B. Levett and Sons Funeral Home - Gwinnett Chapel 914 Scenic Hwy. Lawrenceville, GA 30045.

Legendary former high school basketball Coach Eric Bruce Mance passed away on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at his home in Stone Mountain, Georgia. He is survived by his wife, the former Teresa Diann Denton whom he married on August 11, 1972. Together they have three loving children: Kalonji (Danette), Omar-Seli (Rebecca) and Akilah Mance as well one grandson Zion Seli Mance. He is also survived by siblings Angela Whitlock, Sidney Mance (Marilyn) and Julie Faniel (Albert) as well as his uncles Billy Gay (Mattie) and Leon Gay (Sharon) along with many in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, and loved ones. He was preceded in death by his father Melvin Mance and mother Constance (Gay) Mance.

Coach Mance was born in Albany, Georgia on December 24, 1952. He graduated from Albany High School in 1970 where he was a scholar-athlete in basketball at the newly integrated school. Prior to attending Albany High, he

was a student at Monroe High School where he excelled in basketball and football. He then attended Valdosta State University on a full basketball scholarship where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration. He also obtained a Masters of Education in Physical Education from Georgia Southwestern as well as a Masters in Special Education from Columbus College (GA). He was a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. having pledged in Spring 1975. He then established an interest group at Valdosta State in the Fall of 1976 and oversaw the first pledge class initiated on April 28, 1978.

In 2003, the Albany native was inducted into the Albany Sports Hall of Fame for his remarkable career as a player and high school coach. He was proud to be part of the only father-son duo to participate as players in the Georgia North-South Basketball All-star Game (Eric 1970 and Omar-Seli 1998), which he was also selected to lead as Head Coach in 2000. He served as a Head Varsity Basketball Coach for 33 years. He was also a successful teacher in Health/Physical Education and Special Education. He worked as a high school teacher and coach at Irwin Co. (Ocilla, GA); Americus (Americus, GA); Briarcliff and Gordon (Atlanta, GA); Lithonia (Lithonia, GA), where he had the privilege of coaching both of his sons, Kalonji and Omar-Seli. Coach Mance finished his legendary coaching career at M.L. King High School in Decatur, GA.

Known as the "Dean of Basketball Coaches in DeKalb County" Mance was legendary with 547 career wins and fourteen 20 win seasons. He was the first coach in Dekalb County to reach 500 wins, with 286 wins at Lithonia High and 90 wins at MLK High School. During the span of his coaching career, Mance coached the 1994 Lithonia High School team ranked No. 15 in the Nation. He had nine 20 win seasons in 15 years at Lithonia High School. He coached a Sub Region Champion team eleven times, a Region Champion team four times, State Runner-Up in 1994 and 2000. He also coached teams to the

State Final Four in 1993 and 2005 and the State Quarter Finals in 1999.

As a head coach, Mance had over 70 players receive basketball scholarships and over 30 players receive scholarships in other sports as well.

He was a beloved and successful coach, a true father figure to countless players during the span of his career and even beyond his retirement from the game. Eric Mance will be remembered as the steady patriarch of his family, a committed basketball coach, mentor, a loving father to his three children and husband of 44 years to Diann.

# Cemetery Details

## Eternal Hills Memorial Gardens

3700 Stone Mountain Hwy  
Sneville, Ga

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 17. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gwinnett Chapel  
914 Scenic Hwy.  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045  
(770) 338-5558  
[info@levettfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@levettfuneralhome.com)

## Service

NOV 18. 1:30 PM (ET)

Antioch Lithonia Baptist Church  
2152 Rock Chapel Road  
Lithonia, GA 30058  
<http://antiochlithonia.org>

## Interment

NOV 18 (ET)

Eternal Hills Memorial Gardens  
3700 Stone Mountain Hwy  
Sneville, Ga

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fields of Lavender Condolences Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Eric Bruce Mance.*



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March 15, 2017 at 02:43 PM



“ *Fields of Lavender Condolences Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Eric Bruce Mance.*



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March 15, 2017 at 02:40 PM



“ *I am truly SO SORRY to hear about Coach Mance and have thought of little else since I heard this sad news. Know that had I found out earlier about the funeral arrangements, I would have been there. I think about all of the players he helped, the basketball camps that my son attended and how he and his players helped my son Shane when he was showing rebellion. He has a master's degree in social work and works for GA Justice Project in downtown Atlanta now, and I owe Coach Mance for being a part of his success. I had such fun working with the players on SAT prep, meeting the coaches that were recruiting Omar and the other players, going to the games. . . I kept meaning to call him when I came to Atlanta to see Shane, but always thought "next time," and now there is no "next time." Teresa, Kalonji, Omar and Akilah, you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Sharon Dershimer** - November 20, 2016 at 10:40 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Eric Bruce Mance.*



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November 17, 2016 at 07:17 PM



“ *Teresa and family*

*Words seem inadequate to express the sadness I feel for you and your family in this time of sorrow. I will continue to keep you and your family in my daily prayers.*

*Valerie A Stephen*

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**Valerie Stephen** - November 17, 2016 at 01:43 PM



“ *I had the pleasure of working with Eric at both Lithonia High School and Martin Luther King, Jr. High School. He was a dedicated teacher and coach. He really cared about his students, and he wanted his players to be scholars. Coach Mance was a decent, caring person, and it was a joy to work with him. He shall be missed! Rest in peace! You have been faithful over many things, and you have earned your crown!*

*Dr. Dovie Gray*

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**Dr. Dovie Gray** - November 17, 2016 at 01:05 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Eric Bruce Mance.*



November 16, 2016 at 11:37 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Eric Bruce Mance.*



November 16, 2016 at 10:48 PM



“ *Leon & Sharon Gay and Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mr. Eric Bruce Mance.*



**Leon & Sharon Gay and Family** - November 16, 2016 at 08:30 PM



“ *I never will forget those days on the playgrounds in Albany, GA, when Eric, my older brother, Abubakar Fariji (formerly Ronald Gay) and I took on all comers on the basketball courts of south side Albany.*

*That is the of foundation Coach Eric Mance's basketball training and experience!*

**Leon Gay** - November 16, 2016 at 07:53 PM

NJ

“ *Nelson, Cole, Benavides, Rafiee, St. Julian purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. Eric Bruce Mance.*



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**Nelson, Cole, Benavides, Rafiee, St. Julian** - November 15, 2016 at 04:52 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Eric Bruce Mance.*



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November 15, 2016 at 03:22 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Eric Bruce Mance.*



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November 15, 2016 at 02:48 PM

RS

“ I would like to express my deepest sympathy in the loss of your beloved family member. Words of comfort to help with the sadness and grief can be found at Psalm 147:3 which says: He (God) heals the brokenhearted; He binds up their wounds. And the promise at Jeremiah 31:13b “I will change their mourning into exultation. I will comfort them and give them joy instead of their grief.” May these scriptures comfort you at this time of bereavement.

R. Sweatman - November 15, 2016 at 06:17 AM

DS

“ So sorry to hear about the loss of Coach Mance...A great Coach! He inspired a lot of students from the Americus, Sumter County area. Praying for his family. He will truly be missed 😞



Deo Cochran Sherrod - November 15, 2016 at 02:49 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Eric Bruce Mance.



November 14, 2016 at 09:33 PM

Dwight  
Harris

“ Words cannot express the sorrow that I felt when I learned of the late, great Coach Eric Mance death. Coach Mance helped a lot of young men in the world of basketball. He was like a 2nd father to me. I will never forget how he helped me. Rest In Peace Coach. May God strengthen the Mance family during their time of sorry.



Dwight Harris - November 14, 2016 at 08:14 PM

DS

So sorry to hear about the loss of this great coach! Coach Mance inspired a lot of students in Americus, Sumter County area. He was truly a remarkable man. Praying for his family. He will truly be missed. 😭 RIP Coach Mance. Deo Coley Cochran-Sherrod

Deo Cochran Sherrod - November 15, 2016 at 02:41 AM

RM

“ Sending prayers and warm hugs to the Mance family. Lovingly, Coach Robin May and his wife Peggy.

Robin L. May - November 14, 2016 at 07:29 PM