



James Michael Truitt

November 15, 1964 - June 25, 2025

The Celebration of Life Service for James Truitt will be held on Friday, July 11, 2025 at 11:00 AM. This service will be recorded and streamed live. If the event is interrupted at any time due to technical issues, the entire event will be uploaded and available to view later in the day. Please copy and paste the link to share, or simply click on the link to view the event.

<https://vimeo.com/event/5246307>

James Michael Truitt was born on November 15, 1964, in Atlanta, Georgia, to the late Joseph Truitt and Odessa Truitt. Affectionately known as Michael, he was the twelfth and youngest child in a lively and loving household, growing up surrounded by his 9 sisters and 2 brothers. As the baby of the family, he held a special place in the hearts of all who knew him. Michael was raised in the close-knit community of Lynwood Park, where he developed lifelong friendships and a deep sense of pride in his roots. He attended Chamblee High School, where his passion and talent for sports began to shine. His athletic ability earned him the opportunity to play football at West Georgia College before transferring to Florida State University to continue both his education and football career.

On June 8, 1990, Michael married his high school sweetheart, Leonor. Together, they were blessed with three children: Zachary, Alexandria, and

Natasha, who were the pride and joy of his life. Michael dedicated many years to serving the community through his work with the DeKalb County School System. More than just a job, it was a calling, a chance to inspire, guide, and mentor the youth. He began his coaching career in 1989 at Southwest DeKalb High School, marking the start of a remarkable legacy that spanned over three decades, shaping the lives of emerging generations through sports. Working alongside his brother, Stan Truitt, and other respected coaches, such as Venson Elder, Buck Godfrey, Fletcher Salter and many more, he helped build a strong network across DeKalb, Gwinnett, and Rockdale County schools. His passion and leadership opened doors for countless young athletes, many of whom earned college scholarships and were empowered to pursue their dreams.

Michael's legacy is one of love, service, and unwavering faith. He entered into eternal rest on June 25, 2025, surrounded by love and with his personal Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in his heart.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Odessa Truitt, as well as his siblings Joseph Jr., Shirley, Dessa Mae, Dennis, Geraldine, and Helen.

Michael's memory will live on in the hearts of his children: Michael Zachary, Alexandria, and Natasha. He is also lovingly remembered by his partner, Areca, and her children, who became part of his extended family: Asha, Josh, and Armon, along with his chosen children: Kahri, Kamryn, and Matthew.

He leaves behind his beloved sisters: Joanne, Josephine, Voncille, Gloria, Hazel and Virginia; two beloved brothers Stanley and Kevin. Along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, former students, fellow coaches, and dear friends — all of whom were touched by his warmth, generosity, and enduring spirit.

Michael will be deeply missed, but his legacy of love, mentorship, and faith will continue to live on through the many lives he touched.

Cemetery Details

Washington Memorial Gardens

700 Jordan Lane
Decatur, GA 30033

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 10. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rainbow Park Baptist Church
2941 Columbia Dr
Decatur, GA 30034

Celebration of Life

JUL 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

China Grove Missionary First
3187 Osborne Road Northeast
Atlanta, GA 30319-2366

Repast

JUL 11. 2:30 PM (ET)

China Grove Missionary First
3187 Osborne Road Northeast
Atlanta, GA 30319-2366

Tribute Wall

JN

“ Jonathan N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Michael Truitt.

Jonathan N. - July 08, 2025 at 09:22 AM

JO

“ Coach was one of the most loving, thoughtful, intense and great men that had a positive impact in my life. Even 20 years after meeting him, I can still remember my first interaction with him. He leaves behind a wonderful legacy of his children doing great things and all of the kids he coached and impacted over the years. I will always remember coach and cherish the memories I have of him over all the years.

Jonathan - July 08, 2025 at 09:18 AM

TT

I cherish the moment of meeting this gentle giant, Truitt (as I called him) in 1998. He was a dear friend and I will miss the friendship we had. Rest in heavenly peace , my friend . Gone but never forgotten ❤️

Trina Toomer - July 10, 2025 at 11:41 PM