



Mr. Steven Ware Sr

December 15, 1965 - April 23, 2025

The Man Behind the Music

Steven Lamont Ware Sr., also known as “DetroitRed” or “Beware,” a gifted musician and man of quiet strength, entered eternal rest on April 23rd, 2025, at the age of 59.

Born in Detroit, MI, on December 15th, 1965. Steve was the son of the late Diane Arlena Ware. From his earliest years, Steve had an undeniable connection to music and discovered early on that he had perfect pitch, allowing him to be able to play any instrument he laid his hands on. He started playing guitar and piano because of his Uncle Chip who was also a guitar player. Later in his middle and high school years, he played the trumpet, but he was most famous for his keyboard playing and being a music producer. His gifts became a familiar comfort in churches, studios, and all around the world. Over the years, Steve’s gift took him far beyond the church. He brought his unique sound to large entertainment venues, sharing stages with nationally recognized artists and performing for audiences across the country and abroad. Whether playing traditional gospel, soulful R&B, or smooth jazz, Steve

had an instinctive ability to blend genres and move hearts, no matter the setting. His music was more than sound; it was a sanctuary.

Beyond the bright lights and the melodies he crafted, Steve was a man of many passions. One of his greatest joys, apart from music, was cooking. Whether it was a hearty Sunday dinner, a holiday feast, or his famous red velvet cake, Steve approached the kitchen with the same creativity and love that he poured into every song. His signature dishes were made with a musician's flair—full of flavor, soul, and a dash of improvisation. For those lucky enough to gather around his table, every meal felt like an encore. A Life Composed in Love

In 1990, Steve had a beautiful baby girl named Erica Renee Nelson, who grew up to be such a brilliant young woman, graduating from Oakland University in Michigan while bringing in his first grandchild, Kamarri Nelson, who looks just like Erica. Erica always excelled in school and let no distractions stop her from accomplishing her goals. Years later Erica also brought in a baby girl named KaiLani Nelson that shares her spunk and brilliance. He admired her deeply for her strength, her accomplishments, and the grace with which she navigated life.

In 1992, Steven married Rhonda Yelder Ware, a devoted wife of 12 years and lifelong friend. From their union came his namesake and best friend Steven Lamont Ware II, who took the torch his father passed him in their love for music. The two were inseparable. Every time you saw Big Steve, Lil Stevie was right behind him, be it church, nightclubs (he was too young to be in), studios,

arenas etc. Although some people would not agree with Lil Stevie being in nightclubs, it led to him becoming a professional bass player at the young age of 15 and now is quite successful at it. Their father and son dynamic was deeply rooted in love, loyalty, and trust. As Steve's health began to decline, Stevie took the reins and stood faithfully by his father's side—selflessly and without complaint—caring for him with patience, strength, and grace. He became not only his father's caregiver, but his constant companion, greatest comfort and ultimate best friend. Before God called Steve home, he got to witness Stevie get married to Jekarra Ware, who also became a caregiver for Steve and loved him like her own father. Their love grew deep in the 3 years they got to spend together. God also blessed Steve in a divine way by allowing Jekarra to have his 3rd grandchild Harmony Alora Ware, 10 weeks early, allotting him the chance to meet and hold Harmony even though she wasn't due until May 8th, 2025. Steven leaves behind his daughter Erica (son in love Corey), his son Stevie (daughter-in-law Jekarra), 3 grandchildren, Kamarri, KaiLani and Harmony. The Yelder family—his extended family through marriage and countless family members, friends, fellow musicians, and everyone whose lives were touched by his presence.

Special Thanks

The Nephron Snellville Dialysis Center

Davina Hayes Dansby, MD

The Bradberry Family

Acknowledgement

Our family would like to extend our deepest gratitude for the outpouring of love, prayers, and support during this time of bereavement. Your kind words, comforting presence, and thoughtful gestures have brought light to our hearts and strength to our spirits.

Whether through a call, a card, a meal, or a memory shared, your expressions of sympathy have reminded us just how much Steven was loved and how deeply he touched the lives of others.

We are especially grateful to those who stood by Steven during his health journey and those who continue to surround us with compassion in his passing. May God bless every one of you.

With heartfelt thanks,

The Family of Steven Lamont Ware, Sr.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 9. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home - Lawrenceville Location
914 Scenic Highway South
Lawrenceville, GA 30045-6353

Family Hour

MAY 9. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home - Lawrenceville Location
914 Scenic Highway South
Lawrenceville, GA 30045-6353

Celebration of Life

MAY 10. 3:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home - Lawrenceville Location
914 Scenic Highway South
Lawrenceville, GA 30045-6353

Tribute Wall

Jineen
Holmes

“ We grieved together over the loss of our mothers. That made us stronger together. We laughed. We cried. We got mad. But we always remained FRIENDS. Soar high. The heavens has gained an awesome musician



Jineen Holmes - May 04, 2025 at 01:44 AM

Jineen
Holmes

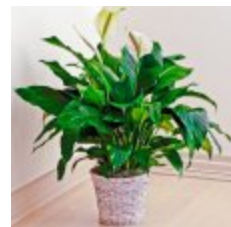
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Jineen Holmes - May 04, 2025 at 01:40 AM

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“ Detroit King Crusader Class of 1984 purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Mr. Steven Ware Sr.



Detroit King Crusader Class of 1984 - May 03, 2025 at 05:14 PM