



## Terry Collier

September 26, 1953 - June 9, 2022

Brother Terry Collier passed away on June 9, 2022. Celebration of Life Services will be held on Saturday, June 18, 2022 at 11:00 AM at Mt Oliver Baptist Church, 2174 MLK Dr SW Atlanta, Ga 30310. Visitation will be held on Friday, June 19, 2022 from 12-8pm at our South Dekalb Chapel. Due to COVID-19, a mask will be required to enter our building. Please express your condolences here on our website. Services entrusted to Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home, South DeKalb Chapel located at 4347 Flat Shoals Parkway, GA 30034. 404-241-5656.

Livestream: <https://vimeo.com/720472115>

Terry A. Collier was born in Swainsboro, GA on September 26, 1953 to both the late Christena Wright and John Collier. Terry was one of 11 children born to Ms. Christena Wright of Wrens, Ga. Terry developed a passion for running at a young age. After completing his primary years in education, he attended Cerritos College in Cerritos, CA where he studied business. While studying business, he took Advanced Running courses at UCLA. It was there in Los Angeles where he met Oriental Cherry Collier, and they instantly began building their family together.

Terry had a passion for running marathons. In March 2005, he was hired as the Executive Race Director in Los Angeles California where over 45,000

runners participated. He remained Executive Race Director through 2009. He was also a twenty-one year participant (runner) of this event and Legacy Runner. In December 2005, Terry Collier was employed to create Las Vegas' first ever marathon down the world-famous Las Vegas Strip. This race in its' inauguration, brought 20,000 runners down the Las Vegas Strip: a race that would be remembered throughout history.

Terry Collier was hired to mirror the marathon work he did in Los Angeles, California to be brought to the Las Vegas Strip. He exceeded all expectations and retained until December 2009. In addition to being an Executive Race Director and Legacy Runner of the Los Angeles Marathon, he was chosen to carry the Olympic Torch in 1996 for the Atlanta Summer Games. In the 1990's Terry Collier organized the Jimmy Stewart Relay marathon that raised over \$250,000.00 for St. Johns Child Study Center. In the early 80's, Terry partnered with Florence Griffin-Joyner "Flo-Jo" to organize a 5K-10K that raised funds for The Children's Hospital in Orange County, CA.

Besides running and organizing races, Terry worked for over 30 years in the grocery industry in Los Angeles and Atlanta to include Vons, Harris Teeter, Wayfield Foods and Sprouts. He retired from the grocery industry to focus on needs of the community business owners and residents to ensure they were thriving along the infamous MLK corridor. He was the President of The Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Merchant Association (MLKJDMA). In this position, he developed the "MLK 5K" in 2013 in partnership with UNCC. In 2018, the Inaugural "Race for the Dream" was founded by Terry Collier as Atlanta's first black marathon. In recent months as a way to help eliminate homelessness, Mr. Collier partnered with the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless in 2018 for "Stomp Out Homeless Challenge" bringing awareness.

Terry made many advances in community development. He partnered with Invest Atlanta to provide grant opportunities to established business owners

along the MLK Corridor which brought relief and sustainability to those businesses. He was best known also for the continuation of the late Councilman C T Martin's "Fish Fry at Hightower Manor for the senior residents annually for many years to provide food and good spirits. He was instrumental with the development of iVillage at the H E Holmes MARTA Station, a collaboration with Invest Atlanta and MARTA. During the holidays, Terry partnered with the DA's office to have a food and toy giveaway for the community. On June 23, 2018, he led the charge under the MLK Merchant Association partnering with New City U.S. to host a community awareness event with conversation on the state of affairs with the NAACP. Again, the MLK Merchant Association, he adopted a highway and was recognized by the Atlanta City Council for his efforts in promoting this initiative. He won countless awards and accolades throughout his career. He always had a very strong work ethic. He loved teaching the importance of integrity to his children and grandchildren. He was proud to have a family to build a legacy for and legacy was very important to him.

Terry passed away unexpectedly in his home while actively recovering from heart transplant surgery. He was 68 years old. He was a loving and devoted brother, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, friend and motivator. Terry Collier is survived by: former spouse, Oriental Cherry Collier their children- daughter, Terramani Collier Smith (Duane Smith) and son Ahmad Youngblood (Kia Youngblood); grandchildren- Khara Youngblood Verbov, Khalea Youngblood, Nalani Smith and Niles Smith; great-grandchildren- Viviana Verbov, Maksim Verbov, and Violeta Verbov; siblings- Henry Spence, Lillie Mae Spence, Frances Holmes, Bettie Wright, Danny Wright and Felton Wright and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbors and friends who all loved and cherished their time with Terry. He will be deeply missed.

Livestream: <https://vimeo.com/720472115>



# Tribute Wall

RS

“ Terry, my friend and brother, was the most motivated person that I have known. Your passion for success is could not be matched. You will truly be missed. I love you man!!  
Roger



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**Roger Stone** - June 18, 2022 at 09:06 AM

JC

“ Uncle Terry was non-stop! Some of my fondest memories are us riding around in his muscle car, blasting Michael Jackson before going to sweat it out on the field, running track. Terry showed me that I can be anything that I want, with a little hard work. Another fond memory was trying to keep up with him "walking" around the admin area for the LA Marathon. Everybody wanted to shake his hand and were full of smiles when they talked to him. It was amazing to see him wear his passion on his sleeve like a badge of honor.



I will miss Uncle Terry. I am glad to see that his zest for life, excitement, and energy live on in his family. And I am grateful to have him in my family legacy.

Jahmai

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**jahmai cherry** - June 17, 2022 at 01:08 PM



*Farewell Mr. Collier. It was indeed a pleasure & honor to know you & to work with you. Surely a man & mentor such as you have earned your place with the father. God bless & keep your family. Until we meet again my friend!*

**Henry Blackmon** - June 18, 2022 at 11:25 AM

LR

“ Love, Yoshi and Roland purchased the Lovely On e Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Terry Collier.



**Love, Yoshi and Roland** - June 16, 2022 at 09:26 PM

YF

“ Your Wellstar Outreach Team Family purchased the Delightful Dieffenbachia for the family of Terry Collier.



**Your Wellstar Outreach Team Family** - June 16, 2022 at 09:07 AM



“ Terry was my mentor, my older brother, and my good friend. I learned about legacy from Terry. I learned the grocery business from Terry. I also learned that a black man could create, manage and execute a marathon from Terry, because he did it. Terry, I will miss you, but I never forget you nor the things you and I accomplished! Rest in heaven my friend, I will miss and think of you often...

**David Pack** - June 15, 2022 at 04:08 PM



“ *Lillian purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Terry Collier.*



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**Lillian** - June 15, 2022 at 02:57 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Terry Collier.*



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June 15, 2022 at 01:55 PM