

A Celebration of Life

for

Norman T. Peniston, IV

Sunrise: September 15, 1991

Sunset: February 7, 2023



Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Viewing: 10:00 a.m.

Service: 11:00 a.m.

From the Heart Church Ministries®
Annex at 5055 Allentown Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746

Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor

Obituary



Norman T. Peniston, IV, was born on September 15, 1991, to Norman T. Peniston, III, and Michele D. Peniston in Clinton, Maryland. Their only child departed this life suddenly on February 7, 2023, to enter into eternal rest with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He lived a short, fulfilled life.

Norman, affectionately known as “Norm” and “Little Norm,” attended Francis T. Evans Elementary School in Clinton and Thomas G. Pullen Creative and Performing Arts School in Landover, Maryland. His focuses were the trumpet and French horn. Norman continued his pursuit of music at Suitland High School in Forestville, Maryland.

Additionally, he attended several summer band camps at Hampton University in Virginia. In 2009, Norman graduated from Lutchter High School in Louisiana. He furthered his education at Northern Kentucky University in Highland Heights, Kentucky, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Communications in 2015. After graduation, Norman returned to Maryland and held several jobs in the Washington metropolitan area before finding employment in Cincinnati, Ohio, in December of 2022.

Norman accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age at From the Heart Church Ministries. (FTH). As a youth, he faithfully served in the Usher Ministry; participated in None Like Us, Children’s Church, Boy Scouts, and the Youth Institute. He also played on the FTH Basketball and Baseball Teams. As an adult, he completed Perfecting Class and attended the Men’s Retreats.

Moreover, Norman thoroughly enjoyed attending his family’s annual reunion held in Williamsburg, Virginia. He also loved family vacations and had the opportunity to travel abroad and take cruises. A big sports enthusiast, he loved watching both college and professional basketball and football. The Louisiana State University Tigers and the New Orleans Saints (“Who Dat?”) were his favorite teams. He also played sports through the Maryland Department of Parks and Recreation.

Norman, a man with a sensitive and giving spirit, met and soon fell in love with Ashley Smith, whom he proposed to on Thanksgiving Day 2022. He and Ashley, the love of his life, were planning to exchange wedding vows this fall.

Norm genuinely cared for and tried to help those he knew and loved. He will truly be remembered for his tender, pure heart and the unconditional love he showed to all. Lastly, he was a loving son, grandson, nephew, cousin, and friend.

Norman leaves to cherish his memory, his mother, Michele D. Peniston; father, Norman T. Peniston, III; maternal grandmother, Louise R. Dancy; aunts, Deborah D. Ingram and Leah P. Peniston; special aunt, Caryn B. Randall; first cousins, Stephanie (Marvin) Snipes and Deana S. Ingram; Godparents, Katherine Cook and Reverend Doctor Alton C. Dunn; fiancée, Ashley Smith; and a host of great-aunts and uncles, cousins, and friends.

Norman was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Walter Dancy, Jr., and paternal grandparents, Zelma Scott Peniston and Norman T. Peniston, Jr.



Order of Service

Invocation

Congregational Hymn..... “We’re Marching to Zion”

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 23
New Testament: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Prayer of Comfort

Selection *FTH Adult Choir*

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Reverend Doctor Alton C. Dunn - Godfather
Mrs. Geri Izzard - Family Friend
Mr. Vincent Cunningham, II - College Friend

Poem *Mrs. Stephanie D. Snipes*

Obituary *Ms. Andrea Kinchen*

Song of Preparation *FTH Adult Choir*

Message of Hope *Reverend Justin K. Young*

Call to Christ

Recessional

Interment

Heritage Memorial Park
13472 Poplar Hill Road
Waldorf, Maryland 20601

Family Sentiments

Dear Son,

Thanking God for blessing me with a son whose heart was pure gold. Remembering the good times and the joy that you brought to me. You were a devoted son who was always there if I needed you. I will remember how proud I was of your accomplishments and was looking forward to the plans you had for the future. You always told me you loved me and I always told you, "I love you more!"♥

I am grateful for the 31 years that I had with you. Although I will sorely miss you, I know that God is Sovereign and I have peace knowing that one day I will see you again.

Love Eternally,
Mom♥

My Dearest Son... You were my light, and the BEST THING IN MY LIFE!!!! I thought we'd have many more years together, but the Lord decided to take you home to Him.

I WILL ALWAYS HAVE YOU WITH ME, AND I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART!!
DAD

*HOLD ON...*A simple phrase that carries so much weight when you are trying to make sense of something that seems senseless. To my Beloved Nephew Norman, we did not know that your time with us would be brief. Like a shooting star that suddenly appears, and races fast across the night sky, if you're not careful you will miss it. Nephew, you made an indelible impression on the hearts of everyone you met. I now Hold On to GOD'S Promise that one day we will see you again in Heaven. Thank you Heavenly Father for your gift of peace, and for teaching us how to Hold On by Faith. Farewell Sweet Nephew, whenever I see a shooting star, I will remember your light was not extinguished, but has moved on to glory. So we Hold On...

Love Always, Aunt Caryn

To My Dear Nephew,

When I became your aunt it was one of the happiest days of my life. God blessed our family with you and you were so loved. I had a name all picked out of what I wanted you to call me, but the first time I heard you call me Aunt Leah that *was* it. I wish we could have spent more time together, but I will cherish all of the times we did. The summers in New Jersey and all of the times in between. Norman, I have always been so proud of you and all of your accomplishments and I know you would have done great things in this world.

You cared for people and showed that all the time. You were considerate of people's feelings and you will always be remembered as a kind and caring person. It broke my heart when God called you home, and the world did not make sense to me, but I take comfort in knowing that you are with God in heaven and with Our Lord Jesus Christ who welcomed you with open arms. Norman, I am so honored to be called your aunt and I will truly miss you.

May the Lord Bless you and keep you. May His face shine upon you always and give you peace. Until we meet again.

All My Love,
Aunt Leah

Family Sentiments (continued)

Norman,

I remember when auntie was pregnant with you. I specifically remember a yellow jumpsuit with a yellow and white top. I don't know why that stands out, but it does. But I remember when you came into this world.

I also remember saying when you were born that you were now grandma's favorite lol. (*whispers* it's true!). As the original baby grandchild, I knew my spot had been taken. You were the treasured boy in a sea of girls. You were special.

We fought a lot growing up. That good ole Gemini/Virgo mix. But there was never any love lost. You were always the little brother I always wanted. As we got older, we started to get closer. You'd call more to get advice, vent, or just check in to see how I was doing. If there was one thing about you, you cared deeply for your family and close friends. It was a pure love.

I still can't believe you're gone. I've tried hard to not have to face this grief, and have been successful, but I know the day is coming. I'm sad because the light was starting to shine for you, because you had so much good and happiness coming your way. I wanted nothing more for you to feel that inner joy that fills you up and makes your struggles seem almost worth it to get to where you are. I'm sad of the life not lived. Your wedding, your future children, success, travels, adventures, etc. You deserved to experience all of that and more. While I'm sad I am comforted in the fact that you are finally at peace. A peace that surpasses all understanding. That granddad welcomed you with open arms and I like to think you guys are playing heavenly trumpets up there. While I wish you were still here, I'm grateful to have another angel looking out for me.

So, thank you dear cousin. Thank you for being a light in dark places. Thank you for being the joy of your parents and the pride and joy of your grandma and auntie. Thank you for your 31 years. My only hope is that you knew how much, despite everything, you were loved and cherished. That we all were always rooting for you.

This is not a goodbye but see you later. I expect a grand welcome when I get up there, lol. I miss you, and I'll always love you.

Your older annoying cousin,
Deana Simone



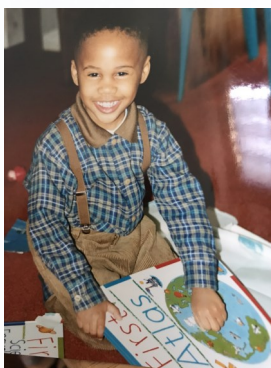
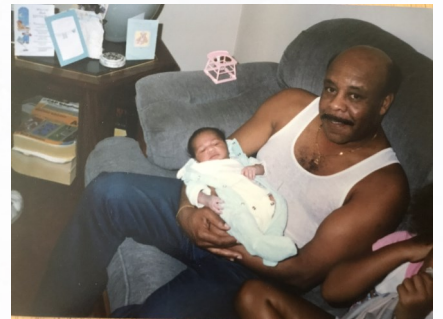
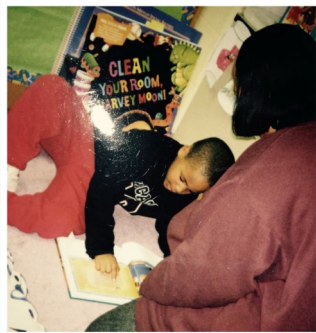
To my favorite Nephew,

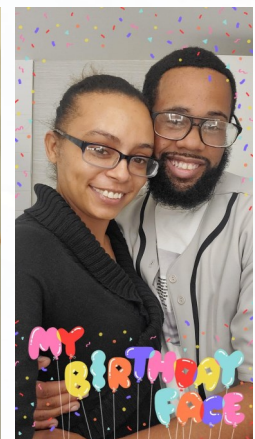
Goodbye hurts the most when it seems as if the story is not finished. I remember our conversations leading up to that sad day and know how happy and excited you were about the wedding, new job and all that we thought was about to happen. So, it would appear that your story was not finished.

I am comforted in knowing that your story is not finished but continues, for once we begin to exist, we never stop. We only change the form of our existence. You have started the next chapter of your story in heaven. I wish you could tell me what you see and all that you are doing. I can only imagine how amazed and happy you are.

I love you and will miss you terribly. But I know the time will come when I will see you and I will hear, "I love you Aunt Debbie" again.

Sweet rest my love,
Aunt Debbie





Congregational Hymn

“We’re Marching To Zion”

Come, ye that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord,
Join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne,
And thus surround the throne.

Refrain:

**We’re marching to Zion,
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We’re marching upward to Zion,
The beautiful city of God.**

The hill of Zion yields
A thousand sacred sweets;
Before we reach the heavenly fields,
Before we reach the heavenly fields,
Or walk the golden streets,
Or walk the golden streets.

Refrain

Then let our songs abound,
And every tear be dry;
We’re marching through Immanuel’s ground,
We’re marching through Immanuel’s ground
To fairer worlds on high,
To fairer worlds on high.

Refrain

Pallbearers

*Darryl Adams
Daniel Booker
Reverend Doctor Alton C. Dunn
Cecil Hill
Norman T. Peniston, III
Marvin Snipes
Joshua Youngerman*

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends



Acknowledgement

The entire Peniston family sincerely thank all of you for your prayers, comfort, love and support. Your many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy have been a blessing to us. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless and keep you in perfect peace!

Services Entrusted to:
*Hodges and Edwards Funeral Home
3910 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746*