

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



RICHARD AKIN DIXON

JUNE 12, 1987 - MAY 11, 2026

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026

10:00 A.M. VIEWING | 11:00 A.M. SERVICE

FROM THE HEART CHURCH MINISTRIES®  
4949 ALLENTOWN ROAD | SUITLAND, MARYLAND 20746  
BISHOP JOHN A. CHERRY, II - PASTOR

# OBITUARY

**Richard Akin Dixon**, affectionately known as “Richie,” entered this world on June 12, 1987, in Baltimore, Maryland, born to Richard Arnold Dixon and Sonia Bent Alston. He was the third child born to his father, and the first born to his mother.

Richard received most of his education in Baltimore County, Maryland, where he graduated from Randallstown High School and furthered his learning in the carpentry trade with his father. Early in life, he discovered a love for working with his hands while accompanying his father to work, where he learned the craft of carpentry. Gifted with a natural talent for construction and creativity, Richard could observe other skilled tradesmen performing a task and soon master it himself. While he preferred to leave electricity and plumbing to others, he excelled in carpentry and related trades.

Moreover, Richard possessed a remarkable vision and imagination. He had the ability to see the finished beauty in projects that were only in their beginning stages. Teaching himself how to use entry-level computer-aided design software, he created layouts and drawings for several investment properties his father was developing. Those drawings later became the blueprint for the completed work. He also enjoyed cooking and watching cooking shows; creating things that brought joy to others.

Richard was a loving brother within his large, blended family of twelve siblings. Though the world may have referred to them as stepbrothers and stepsisters, his love for them was equal and unassuming as he only knew them as his brothers and sisters. Known for his quiet disposition, Richard had a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed making people laugh. He loved entertaining family and friends with jokes and playful moments that have lasting memories.

Richard was christened as an infant. Later, as a young adult, he made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and was baptized at From the Heart Church Ministries. He joined From the Heart in 1995. Richard loved the Lord and attended church regularly with his father, including attending Reality Enrichment Class on Fridays under the teachings of Reverend Porter Lawson, Jr. Through his faith journey, he formed meaningful bonds of Christian fellowship, especially with Myron Nicholas.

While Richard’s life was a blessed one, he had his share of struggles. In his early twenties, he was diagnosed with schizophrenia. It required him to strictly adhere to medications for the rest of his life. He was unable to sustain sobriety and manage his medications. Without continuous care and medication, the world would become confusing for Richard. The disease often caused him to refuse medication and treatment, which ultimately led to him being homeless for the last two years. Yet through it all, God’s unfailing love and protection remained over him.

On March 9, 2026, Richard’s mother received a call from Mercy Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. The harshness of living on the streets unfortunately led to his feet becoming infected with gangrene which put his body into septic shock; all his organs were affected. He underwent bilateral amputation of his lower legs. Then diagnosed with congestive heart failure and all organs failing, his family was notified after being hospitalized for nine weeks that they were unable to do anything more for him. By God’s grace and mercy, Richard’s family was blessed with time needed to surround him with love, comfort, laughter, and care. During that time, he was reminded of God’s unconditional love.

In the final days, his family shared meals with him, especially the sushi he requested daily. His family treasures these moments of joy together. While he knew life was shortening, he asked to be spoiled with some Cookies and Cream ice cream. His family is thankful to the Lord for the time they were allowed to spend with Richie during his last days here on earth. Though Richard Akin Dixon’s life was far too short, his presence and love were a joy and privilege to those who knew him. His creativity, humor, resilience, and loving spirit will forever remain in their hearts!

Richard leaves to cherish his memory, his loving mother, Sonia Alston; father, Richard Dixon (Alicia); bonus mothers: Kamesa Oneal, Daphne Freeman, and Bridget Johnson; bonus sisters: Soronia, Niya, Shanita (Chris), Shari, Casey and Shiana; bonus brothers: Bryon, Jeremiah, Elijah, Darren, Malachi, Myron (Kendra); nieces, Layannah and Scarlett; aunts, Judie and Alexis; uncle Walter (Carol) and a host of cousins and nephews.

Richard was preceded in death by his grandparents, Yerby and Vivian Dixon; aunt, Patrish Autree; uncle, Yerby “David” Dixon; and bonus father, Tony Alston.

# ORDER *of* SERVICE



## Invocation

Congregational Hymn ..... “Lift Him Up”

## Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 23  
New Testament: II Corinthians 4:6-14

## Prayer of Comfort

Selection ..... Mr. Alton Cheaves

## Acknowledgements

## Remarks

Ms. Niya Dixon, Sister  
Ms. Soronia Taylor, Sister

Poem ..... Ms. Soronia Z. Taylor

Obituary (Read Silently)

Song of Preparation ..... Mr. Alton Cheaves

Message of Hope ..... Reverend Porter L. Lawson, Jr.

Call to Christ

Committal

Benediction

Recessional

# Family Sentiments

I met Richie when he was 9 years old. Sometimes, the people who struggle the most leave the quietest footprints. Through it all he had a gentle smile, magnetic laughter, and a genuinely pure heart. Those attributes show who he was at his core. ~ **Miss Kamesa Oneal, Bonus Mother**

Richard was like a brother to me. I'm going to cherish the times we worked together out in the field. We first met at the 7-Eleven. When I got out of my van, Richard asked me what kind of work did I do, and I told him carpentry. He told me his dad was a builder, and he was drafting a set of plans for him. I asked him would he be interested in working and he said, "Yes!" and asked for the job's location. We exchanged numbers and he called me a couple days later and asked where to meet. I said we'll meet at 7-Eleven and that's where our journey began. I can't count how many jobs we had worked together, but it's been many.

One thing that I can say about Richard is he was a hard worker on whatever we were working on. He was a unique, honest, respectful, young man. Richard was very intelligent; he knew how to draw plans and to do the work. We often discussed the work he and his dad were working on. As time went on, Richard introduced me to his dad, Richard Dixon Sr., and we too became work partners and friends. The work that Richard Jr. constructed alongside his fellow crewmen, still remains standing as a testament of his skills within the state of Maryland. It was a pleasure being a part of Richard's life. Richard will be missed but never forgotten. ~ **Mr. Gordon Cartnail**

I have worked for Richard's father for probably 30 years. Young Richard worked with us, or rather he was at the jobsite willing to do whatever work he could; this was weird, because he's a very little boy. At the time when I started working for his father, I always saw him as a very intelligent little young boy, and I always knew that he would be a very special young man. There are so many special memories in my heart and mind surrounding my relationship with Richie. He will be very much missed. I ask for blessings and wish the family, all members, hope and happiness; that you remember all the good things about Richard, because Richard was a very good person. He just had some things that didn't work out for him. God bless the family and Richard Sr. You know I love you. So, hold on brother. Just hold on to God's unchanging hand. ~ **Thank you, Uncle Frank Crockett, Jr.**

When I think about Richard, I remember his sense of humor. He could take a small thing like breakfast and have you laughing out loud, while explaining to you why his dad didn't have milk or eggs. He was smart, kind, and had a quiet reserved way about himself. Although he battled with illnesses, he never lost his sense of humor, and I will cherish my lifelong memories about him, and his laughter and gracious smile. ~ **Daphne Freeman, Bonus Mother**

Losing my nephew, Richie, has left a quiet, aching space in my life. Every memory of him now carries both warmth and pain, because of the joy he brought, and the pain because those moments are all I have left. I find myself grieving, not only who he was, but all the years, milestones, and ordinary days he'll never get to live. There's an undercut of disbelief that someone so young and loved can be gone. The love I have for him keeps him alive in my heart, and the stories we tell, and in his small habits that will remind me of him. I will always carry my love for him. ~ **Aunt, Alexis Dixon**

Richard is my friend/nephew. Blessed to have known him from his birth and watched him grow through the years. We shared days of laughter and a day or two of sadness. Richard was a kindhearted young man. I enjoyed our conversations and interactions. Rich was an industrious type, a chip off the old block. Richard, I love you, fella. My heart and mind are off balance, but I do know that you loved JESUS and the gates of heaven have opened to receive you home. Rest well! ~ **Uncle, Kevin Jenkins**

With tears in my eyes, I just want to say he is my little nephew, and I love him and I miss him.  
~ **Uncle, Walter Cole**



**Richard,**

This father and son share more than a name, A smile that illuminates picture frames  
A heart that is kind, giving and true, Richard, we love and miss you ;

Through life's ups and downs - the good and bad, It is an honor to be your dad  
A love like yours, there is no other, It is a joy to be your mother ;

You showed us all what it means to press, Regardless of whether you made the mess  
To keep on going through thick and thin, always believing that Jesus would help you win;

When the end drew nigh and the light grew dim, We rejoiced in knowing you were saved by Him  
Received in glory by God's grace, Bowing in worship - beholding His face.

~ **Mona Kersey**

## **First Love**

I birthed you, I held you  
I looked at you You looked at me, I loved you  
You loved me We loved  
I learned you You learned me  
We grew together We grew apart  
I looked for you I prayed for you Where were you  
You found me Then I found you  
First love, you are to me

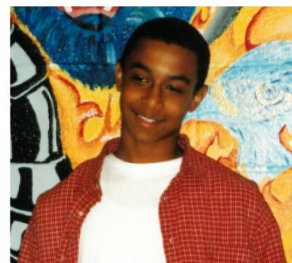
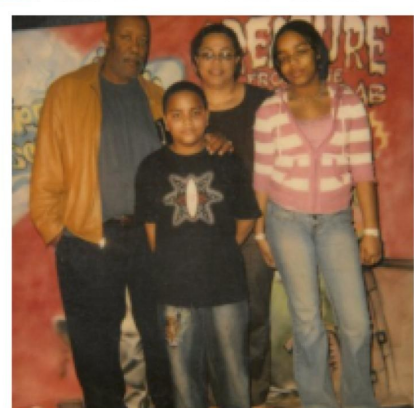
~ **Mom**

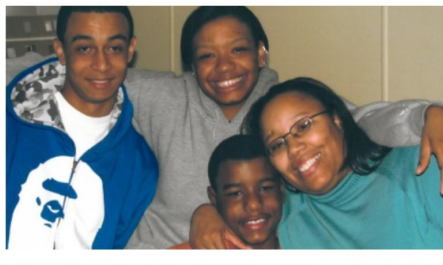
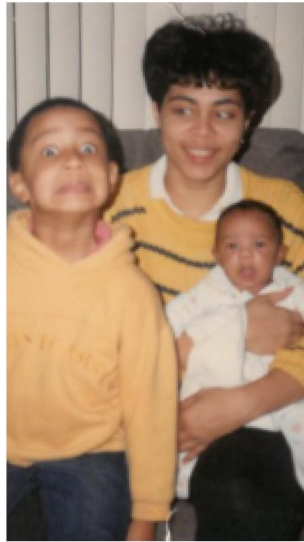
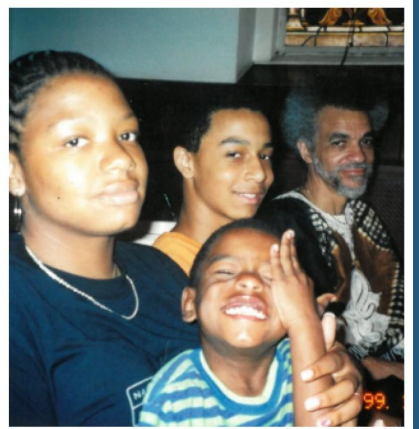
## **Mother's heart**

Only God knows the pain of a mother's heart when her  
child of only 38 years no longer lives. How deep the pain  
to know, to feel, to see, to wish it were all naught. The  
pain of the gut that Is squeezed so hard, you cannot  
breathe. The hole that is in your chest  
that just cannot be filled.

Ahh, but his spirit, his love, his kindness, his humor, he  
shared - again. You got to show him he's loved - again.

A mother's heart misses him so. But remember, time was  
graced so our love could shine - all over again. Forever  
loving you, Richie. Thank you God - again!  
Forever in mother's heart.





# *Congregational Hymn*

## **Lift Him Up**

How to reach the masses, men of ev'ry birth, for an answer Jesus gave the key,  
"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me."

### **Chorus**

**Lift Him up, Lift Him up, Still He speaks from eternity,  
"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me."**

Oh! the world is hungry for the Living Bread, lift the Savior up for them to see;  
Trust Him, and do not doubt the words that He said, "I'll draw all men unto Me."

### **Chorus**

Lift Him up by living as a Christian ought, let the world in you the Savior see;  
Then men will gladly follow Him who once taught, "I'll draw all men unto Me."

### **Chorus**

## *Acknowledgements*

The entire Dixon and Alston 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!

The family also extends heartfelt gratitude to Mercy Hospital and Union Memorial Hospital for their compassionate care and medical attention during Richard's final days.

## *Pallbearers*

Orville Baugh, Eric Demon  
Jeremiah Dixon, David James McLaughlin  
Steven McLaughlin and Myron Nicholas

## *Flower Bearers*

Family and Friends

## *Services Entrusted to:*

Hodges and Edwards Funeral Home  
3910 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746