

CELEBRATING
THE LIFE OF

Donald

RAY PRUITT

APRIL 9, 1946 - MAY 22, 2026

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026

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

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

OBITUARY

Donald Ray Pruitt was born on April 9, 1946, to John “Bow” Wesley and Augusta Lee Hamell Pruitt. He was the third of eight children, five sons and three daughters.

Donald grew up in the suburbs of Detroit, Michigan. As a teen, he worked tirelessly to earn money to buy his own clothes. He graduated from Northwestern High School in 1964 and was subsequently drafted into the United States Army. He served two years during the Vietnam era and was honorably discharged in 1966.

Upon his return to civilian life, Donald worked for a while at a Detroit automobile factory before pursuing a higher education. He graduated in 1970 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Michigan. After working for Conyers Ford in Detroit, he became a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). He was assigned to audit General Motors Corporation’s records while working for a reputable CPA company.

Donald relocated to the Washington metropolitan area in the early 1980s and began working for National Public Radio (NPR) as an accountant. He met Brenda Joyce Richardson Haskins, his wife of 42 years, while working at NPR. Five children made up their blended family, all of whom have grown up to have quite successful lives, for which their parents are extremely pleased and thankful.

A mutual friend led Donald and Brenda to From the Heart Church Ministries and suggested that they attend a marriage enrichment class there. The couple desired to grow in their spiritual walk and joined From the Heart in 1997. Donald, who was baptized at the church, served in the Helps, Financial Stewardship, and Seniors Ministries. He also enjoyed attending Men’s Fellowship, the annual Men’s Retreat, and listening to the Men’s Choir as they ministered in song. A sharp dresser, he was determined to learn how to tie his tie like his pastor so that his center knot would have the same polished look.

Donald loved music, especially Motown, which had its roots in Detroit, and fishing. He and his family were avid fishermen. He was quick-witted; he loved to make people laugh and had one-liners that did just that. He made you laugh without ever cracking a joke, as one of his grandsons put it. Although he had Alzheimer’s, that quick wit came through occasionally, and people still laughed at his one-liners.

After work, Donald loved to come home and ride his bicycle. One day, in 2014, while riding his bike, he fell, hit his head on the curb, and cracked his helmet which resulted in a concussion. Sadly, he never fully recovered from the accident and passed away on May 22, 2026. Donald, with his larger-than-life personality, will forever be missed by those who knew and loved him.

Donald leaves to cherish his memories, his wife, Brenda; children: Andrea (Wendell) Russell, Donald Pruitt, Jr., Erica Lynn (Jason) Crutchfield, E’ron Amin Pruitt, and Erica Patrice Pruitt; thirteen grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sisters, Johnnie Mae (Moses) Miles and Patricia (Lonnie) Taylor; brothers: Anthony, Gerald, and Marlon Pruitt; and brother-in-law, Howard Mahone.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents, John Wesley and Augusta Lee Pruitt; brother, James Pruitt; and sister, Carol Mahone.

ORDER of SERVICE



Invocation

Congregational Hymn“Blessed Assurance”

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 34:1-8
New Testament: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Prayer of Comfort

Selection Reverend Andrea Russell
Mrs. Loretta Johnson, Pianist

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Ms. Deidre Walters
Mrs. Brenda Pruitt

Obituary (*Read Silently*)

Song of Preparation Reverend Andrea Russell and the Pruitt Family
Mrs. Loretta Johnson, Pianist

Message of Hope Reverend Steven A. Battle, Sr.

Call to Christ

Recessional

Interment

Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery
11301 Crain Highway | Cheltenham, Maryland 20623
Monday, July 6, 2026 at 1:45 p.m.

Family Sentiments



You came home from a trip to Detroit and the first thing that you asked me was, “Did you miss me?” Sadly, not too long after that prophetic question, you had an accident riding your bicycle, suffered a concussion and gradually left me all alone. Did I miss you? ...Yes, I have missed you for a very long time because your life has been fading year by year, until you—the man I loved—were no longer here with me. I have missed your noisiness, your conversation, your laughter and even the times when you were quiet and pensive. You have been through a lot and now you can rest. God bless you, Mr. Pruitt. With fond, warm memories.

- Brenda Pruitt



As your oldest sister, I felt like I needed to be in charge when our parents weren't home. I remember you fighting with your brother and sister and I call myself helping you by picking up the broom to make them stop. But you took it from me and started hitting me on the head with it...it was funny then and we all still laugh about it to this day. We were a family that got along and loved each other and worked things out for the best outcome for the family. I love you brother, and I will miss you oh so much.

- Johnnie Mae Pruitt Miles



What can I say about my big brother? You know Frank Sinatra's song, “I Did It My Way”? That's how Donald Ray lived his life...his way. I looked up to him. We had good and not so good times. Not only was he my big brother, he was my friend and we had so many memories. Through the good, bad, and difficult times, he was always there. He will be missed by me and by others in this world that his life impacted. I say to you, my brother, keep doing it Don's way. I love you.

- Anthony Pruitt



My big brother, Donald, taught me to drive a stick shift in his brand new 1975 Corvette Stingray. For my birthday one year, he bought me the best gift ever...the album Songs In The Key of Life by Stevie Wonder. He taught me about honor, duty, and being a good citizen. We were pen pals while he was away in the Army. He helped me navigate my first car purchase and was great company while he and Brenda visited with me in California. He was fun, yet brooding; generous, yet miserly; brilliant and not so brilliant. He was perfectly human in his dichotomy, and a great big brother. I missed my brother years before his body joined his mind. The last time I saw him when his mind and body were in sync, he was sweet, poignant, endearing, and heartfelt. That's how I will remember him for the rest of my life.

- With love, Patricia Taylor



My dad, my pops, my hero. He is a man that I admired and looked up to, to the utmost. He shaped who I am today. He wasn't perfect, but he was perfect to me. I loved the deep conversations we had and the time we spent together. I thank him for sharing wisdom and knowledge and I'm glad that God chose him to be my father, my dad, my pops. I loved him from the bottom of my heart, and I will miss him forever. You will always be in my heart, my twin, my hero.

- Donald Pruitt, Jr.



I remember my dad picking me and Erica up on weekends so we could spend time with him. I appreciate him coming from DC to Detroit to pick us up and take us back to live with him in Maryland. I loved it when he came to my basketball games, took me fishing, and took me with him to care for his 4-unit apartment building in Southeast, DC. I loved the time we spent together at family reunions. I appreciated his lectures on doing the right thing. I just appreciate him being there as my father. I love you, Dad.

- E'ron Pruitt, Sr.

Family Sentiments



Granddaddy was not a man of many words, but a man of action and example. His love was expressed in how he cared for his family and I am so grateful for the years that I spent with him, growing up with him. He taught me that consistency matters, showing up for yourself and your family matters. I carry that with me now and will forever. He had the best taste in music—high quality, classic grooves. I think of him when I hear Nancy Wilson, Candi Staton or The Temptations' "Silent Night." Granddaddy, you will be forever loved and missed.

- **Brit'nee Haskins**



Granddad was inquisitive, curious, and witty. In my eyes he was a premier role model. He took lots of pride in being a grandfather. He could make you laugh all day and never tell a joke. He was well-dressed and well-mannered and had a good heart. He was always a pleasure to be around. I'll miss you, granddad,

- **E'ron Pruitt, Jr.**



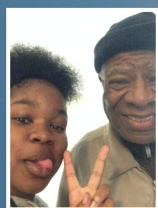
Grandpa, there is a particular kind of peace I had when I was with you. Your presence was calm, steady, and warm and made everything feel okay. I think about that trip to Tennessee, you, me, and Grandma, packed in the car, the miles rolling by. We played miniature golf...so much fun. I took a picture of you and Grandma and called it "those crazy kids." You were always good at making ordinary moments feel like something worth holding on to. I remember you doing my first tax return and sharing some experiences that you had in the Army. These last few years were hard. Disease has a way of taking someone slowly and grief is there long before the end. Who you were never faded for me; every memory is still in my heart where you left it. With all my love,

- **Jilanne Pruitt Cradle**



I remember when Granddad would take me fishing. I distinctly remember that he could catch a fish—no problem—but I kept catching baby crabs. He taught me to keep trying even if it seems like it's futile...he taught me how to fish. Somehow, even though they were the times we talked the least, those times meant the most to me. I will miss you, granddad.

- **Gabriel Haskins**



Grandpa, you meant so much to our family. Your presence brought comfort, laughter, and love. I will always cherish the time my mom, Erica Patrice, and I lived with you and the memories we made together. Though you are gone, those memories will remain in my heart forever. You will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

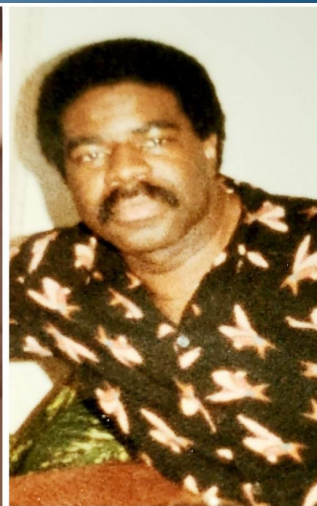
- **Tracie Mariah Joi Thompson**

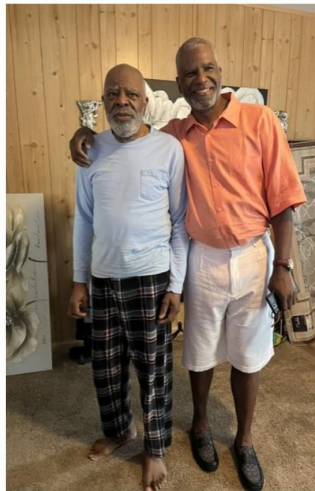
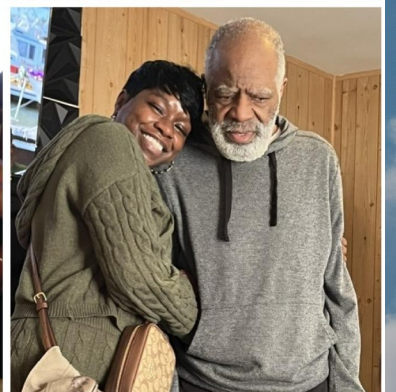
In Loving Memory of Our Uncle Donald



Uncle Donald was more than an uncle to us—he was an example of a Godly man; and a source of wisdom, strength and endurance. His presence always brought an indelible moment with his family photos and stories that left us filled with laughter and joy. Uncle Donald left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him; and we will always cherish the memories we shared, and the example he set through his love and admiration for family. Though our hearts are saddened by his passing, we are grateful for the time we had with him and for the legacy he leaves behind. Uncle Donald will be deeply missed and forever remembered. We are so grateful for the impact that he had in our lives, and we know that we will see him again... *(For we walk by faith, not by sight:) ...and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord (II Corinthians 5:7-8)*

With love and gratitude, "Carol's Kids" - **Michelle, Terance, Deidre, and Patience**





Dad

*Though time keeps moving forward,
My heart still turns to you.
In quiet moments, I hear your voice,
In difficult days, I feel your strength guiding me through.
You were my shelter in life's storms,
My teacher, my protector, my friend.
The love you gave still lights my path,
A light that will never end.
I miss the sound of your laughter,
The wisdom in your gentle way.
There are so many things I'd like to share,
And so many words I'd like to say.
But love does not end with goodbye,
Nor does it fade with time.
You live within my memories,
In every lesson, every climb.
So, when I look toward the heavens,
I send my love above.
And carry you with me every day,
Wrapped forever in a father's love.
Until we meet again,
I will cherish all you gave.
For a father's love is eternal—
Even beyond the grave.
♥ In loving memory of Dad. ♥*

-Erica Patrice Pruitt-

Acknowledgement

The entire Pruitt and Richardson families 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!

We love you, the family of Brother Donald Ray Pruitt

Pallbearers

*Gabriel Haskins, Howard Mahone,
Anthony Pruitt, Jr., Donald Pruitt, Jr.
E'ron Pruitt, Jr. and Terry Richardson*

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Services Entreated To:

*Wiseman Funeral Home and Chapel, P.A.
4591 Allentown Road | Suitland, Maryland 20746*