



Minister Derrick Columbus Gay

December 17, 1957 - October 16, 2020

In the beginning, God released a spiritual being from Heaven to come live a natural experience in the Earth realm. So God, The Triune Being, in keeping with The Trinity, chose The Third Tuesday, The Twelfth Month, and The Seventeenth Day, in The Year 1957, to release The First of what would be The Magnificent 8, a phrase coined by the mother, in the fullness of time. His name would be called Derrick Columbus Gay - Magnificent One.

He was born to the parentage of Morris Alexander and Ola Mae Harris-Gay. The eldest of eight children born and bestowed unto this utterly divine union between two beings. After initially living in Fort Lauderdale for a short period of time, the family relocated to the City of Pompano Beach, Florida. Derrick was born and, ultimately, reared in the City of Pompano Beach, Florida.

Initially, Derrick's first babysitters were his maternal great-grandmother Addie Rozier, his gran-aunt Lillian Rozier-McGill, and his maternal cousin, Willie Bell Rozier. After that he went to Antioch's Daycare under the directorship of Sister Cora Lee Amerson.

As a lad, Derrick joined Antioch Baptist Church under the pastorate of Reverend J.A. Latham. As children, The Magnificent 8 went to church every time the doors opened. Derrick was involved in Red Circle, The Sunshine Band, Sunday School, and the Youth Choir. As a teenager, he was a member

of the Young Adult Choir, along with members, with whom he has maintained lifetime relationships.

Derrick's formal matriculation commenced in the Broward County Public School System at Sanders Park Elementary. At Sanders Park, the teachers discovered how gifted Derrick was academically, and athletically. Derrick was able to follow directions well. As a result, his teacher and others would send him on errands because they knew he would do exactly as he was told to do and return with items they sent for, even barbecue rib sandwiches! The Principal never caught him all the days he would leave the campus to purchase the sundries that some teachers would send him for from the local Barbecue Rib Man and from Georgia's Grocery Store.

Then some years later, Ola and The Magnificent 8 relocated, putting them in the Charles Drew Elementary School boundaries, which Derrick was now required to attend. He adamantly opposed to being bussed outside of his city to attend school in Margate, so he contrived a plan. As soon as his Uncle Elijah went off to college, Derrick moved with his maternal grandparents, Elijah, Sr. and Susie Mae Harris. This afforded him the opportunity to return back to Sanders Park Elementary School and finish out his sixth grade year. In seventh grade, Derrick attended Blanche Ely High School. His class was the last class to matriculate at Blanche Ely High.

Derrick enjoyed singing, his lifelong song was "What a Friend", as he was a friend to the friendless. He embodied Pompano Beach, Florida, and loved everyone with whom he made contact. He would walk and ride and make friends wherever he would go. No one was exempt from being graced with a smile, a hug, a joke, a scripture, or simply a warm gesture once they encountered Derrick. He was his brother's keeper.

Derrick always loved to have fun. As a result, a lot of people were very drawn

to him. As a high school teenager, Derrick, and his friends, that are too numerous to mention, loved hanging out at each other's homes. They would always be sitting around laughing and clowning and saying stuff about what they were not afraid of. These memories are indelibly etched in the minds of The Magnificent 8.

Derrick has always been a precocious child since birth. His dream was to always become a Nuclear Physicist, but he could not be still long enough for teachers to learn the formulas; however, he knew them. Derrick was so intelligent that he would reap the benefits of disciple because he did things his way, learning and all. From approximately 11 years of age, Derrick seemed exceptionally enamored with mortuary sciences, as he would, oftentimes, hang out at Freeman Funeral Home, even though Morris had admonished him many times before not to be "Going up there and hanging out at that funeral home!"

He proclivities and penchants for all things academia compelled him to take the SAT three months prior to commencement exercises of Coconut Creek High in 1975.

Derrick's remarkable score on the SAT, coupled with the Entrance Exam results, qualified him to further his studies at Miami Dade College's School of Mortuary Science. How divinely befitting it was for Derrick to pursue learning theory behind Mortuary Science.

For many years of his life, he served the Tri-County area, he was employed by Mr. Richard Macon of Freeman Funeral Home. He served in capacity of Funeral Director Assistant at Aikens Funeral Home in Tampa. Most recently, Derrick worked with Mr. Woodrow J. Poitier and the staff of LC Poitier Funeral Home, as Chaplain. Derrick was extremely passionate about the Ministry of

Grief and Caregiving, that afforded him the opportunity to minister to those grieving in not only Florida but in other states as well.

In 1994, Derrick preached his trial sermon and was ordained a minister under the tutelage and leadership of the late Dr. Winston Rudolph of Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. Derrick served as Executive Director of the Guiding Light Foundation in 1995-2000. During his tenure, Derrick trained and prepared ex-convicts for re-entry into society. Derrick also managed all day to day facility activities and led daily devotion and weekly Bible Study.

Aside from his directorship, Derrick was an avid student of God's Word and began his Biblical Studies, attending Knox Seminary (Ft. Lauderdale, Florida), as well as the Moody Bible Institute (Chicago, IL). Derrick attained multiple degrees, including Bachelor of Religious Arts in Biblical Studies; Master of Religious Arts in Christian Counseling; and Doctor of Theology, which he earned in 2002 at Jacksonville Theological Seminary (Jacksonville, FL). In 2003, Derrick was ordained by the Clergyman Council of Pompano Beach under the leadership of the late, Dr. Percy M. Dixon.

Derrick's admiration for his mother was incomparable, inseparable, and eternal. In fact, if the question of who was mama's most favorite child ever came up, Derrick would immediately retort, "You crazy! If it wuh'n for me, she wood'n've knowed she was a woman!" He was, arguably, one of his mother's most favorites human beings. Without a doubt, Derrick and his mother's relationship with one another shaped his mind, heart, and hands towards others. Derrick loved people, he loved music and oh did he love singing. On any given Saturday Derrick would be found singing at someone's church for someone's funeral. Derrick was blessed to record "THE DERRICK GAY PROJECT" with some of his favorite songs such as "Won't It Grand", "The Lord Will Make a Way", "When the Gates Swing Open" just to name a few.

After enduring ephemeral challenges in his health, Dr. Derrick C. Gay “gave up the ghost,” accomplishing all missions that he was divinely designed and purposed to accomplish. On Friday, October 16, 2020, the Son of Pompano, Florida answered the Master’s Call. He is preceded in death by his father, Morris A. Gay; four uncles: Edward L. Gay, Walter J. Gay, Odell Rice, and Robert Rice; four aunts, Euvonia Gay-Jackson, Lillian McGill, Ola Fluellen, and Victoria Rozier.

Those who must now continue the mission and ministries of help that Dr. Derrick Columbus Gay was so passionate about are: His number one cheerleader and backer, Ola M. Gay-Jones; his namesake and first born son, Derrick Columbus Gay, II, his son, Devin Wilkerson (Tanyka), and his daughter, Lateshia Darby; siblings: Cyneria Howard, Brue Alexander Gay, Lillian Fields (Donald), Altamese Gay- Carter (Melvin), Vanetta Gay, Gerard Mineo Gay, and Schonta Gay-Randolph (Guy) and the Rice Siblings; granddaughter, Devo’ntria Wilkerson, one grandson, Herrington Amir Gay, and Baby Girl Darby due Spring of 2021; Godparents: Mama Rose Jackson, Deacon and Mother Stevens; seven uncles: Charles Gay, George Gay (Earline), Elijah Harris, Jr., Leroy Heath (Stella), Willie Heath (Karen), Jimmie Heath (Jean), Herman Heath (Pat); five aunts, Ora Gay-Robinson (Roscoe), Ophelia Heath, Earnestine Austin, Annie Thelma Gay, and Rosa Lee Rice; special friend to the end, Ms. Dianna Williams and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Pompano Beach Cemetery

400 SE 23rd Avenue
Pompano Beach, FL 33062

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 27. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church
890 NW 15th Street
Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Service

OCT 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church
890 NW 15th Street
Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Tribute Wall



“ *Minister Derrick Columbus Gay*

September 27, 2023 at 05:27 AM



“ *My heart goes out to my family, may God bring you peace. Derrick was truly a blessing and joy. Love Walter & Yvonne McFadden*



Yvonne McFadden - October 28, 2020 at 09:21 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay.*



October 27, 2020 at 08:19 PM



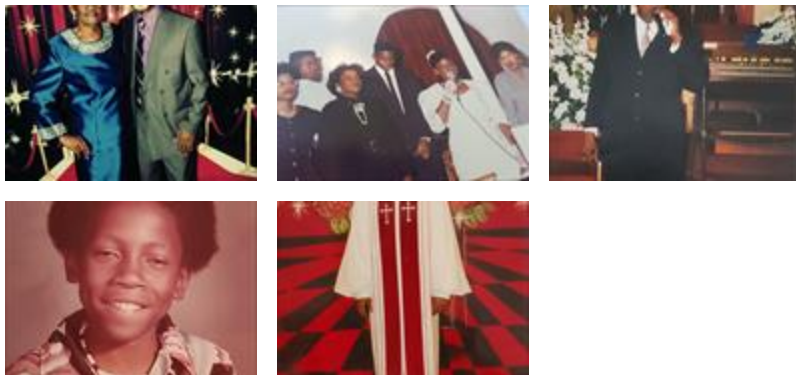
“ 117 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



L.C. Poitier Funeral Home - October 27, 2020 at 04:14 PM



“ 97 files added to the album *Memories Album*



L.C. Poitier Funeral Home - October 27, 2020 at 03:57 PM



“ To my nephew who loved and cared for all. Love Uncle Charles and family

Charles Gay - October 27, 2020 at 03:42 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay.*



October 25, 2020 at 07:47 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay.*



October 25, 2020 at 05:56 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay.*



October 25, 2020 at 12:41 PM



“ *Garden Accent - A heart of gold stopped beatin g... was purchased for the family of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay.*



October 23, 2020 at 10:35 PM

Tamika Gilliard

“ *Dr. Derrick C. Gay*



Tamika Gilliard - October 23, 2020 at 04:16 PM

Tamika Gilliard

“ *S.I.P Pastor Gay*



Tamika Gilliard - October 23, 2020 at 04:09 PM

Tamika Gilliard

“ *Farwell Bra Pastor(Pastor Gay, you will be missed by The Gilliard Family and for sure Lady & Boss.*



Tamika Gilliard - October 23, 2020 at 03:32 PM

DW

“ *DESIREE WRIGHT-POSEY lit a candle in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay*



DESIREE WRIGHT-POSEY - October 23, 2020 at 02:43 PM

GJ

“ *The Justice/Adams Family extends its deepest sympathy to the Gay Family. Our hearts and prayers are with you. My Mom thought the world of Derrick as if he was one of her children.*

Glenda Justice - October 23, 2020 at 11:06 AM

CF

“ *Though your smile is gone, and your love one's has your memories to carry them on. For all the love you shared and gave, will keep them in the day's to come. To our Father you went with no more pain or misery. For heaven has gain another singing voice in their heavenly choir. I know we will miss having you around. So I say Thank you Derrick for all the encouraging words you shared and all the wonderful songs you sang. So spread your wings and fly high, for we will see you again on the other side....*



Carrie Robinson & The Robinson Family

Carrie Robinson& Family - October 23, 2020 at 01:01 AM

AP

“ *Ashleigh J Powell lit a candle in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay*



Ashleigh J Powell - October 22, 2020 at 05:35 PM

AD

“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



Ashleigh and David - October 22, 2020 at 05:31 PM

CT

“ *Curtis, Jr And Janice Fulmore Tigner lit a candle in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay*



curtis, jr and janice fulmore tigner - October 22, 2020 at 07:19 AM

BB

“ *My deepest condolence to the family of Minister Derick Gay May God lift you up in your time of the Bereavement*



Barbara Butler - October 22, 2020 at 02:13 AM

SW

“ *My Deepest Condolences To Gay Family.
Derrick will be missed by many, Derrick will truly be missed by me
12/17 won't ever be the same. I will missed him saying
I'm The Oldest! I'm 1min older than you.
Derrick left some good Birthday memories for me too cherish..
The Gates Has Swing Open Cuz!
Rest Easy Cuz!!*

Sheryl Walker - October 21, 2020 at 01:45 PM

GA

*To the Gay family our sincere condolences to you Derek is in a better
place I know your hearts are heavy but look to Jesus and as Derek
would say when the gates swing open I'll be there U YouTo will be
there to see him when your gate swing open .*

Georgia Adams - October 21, 2020 at 05:16 PM

SW

“ *Sheryl Walker lit a candle in memory of
Minister Derrick Columbus Gay*



Sheryl Walker - October 21, 2020 at 01:35 PM

SW

“ *My Deepest Condolences To The Gay Family
12/17 won't ever be the same, Derrick will be missed by many, but
he will truly be missed by me with him saying I'm the OLDEST CUZ!
I'm 1min older.
The Gates Has Swing Open Cuz!
Rest Easy!!*

Sheryl Walker - October 21, 2020 at 01:26 PM

DR

“ *With Heartfelt Sympathy, praying that God will comfort you during this difficult time. Minister Gay was a good friend to our family and we will miss him. Deacon Malcolm Roberts, Deaconess Deborah Roberts, Brittany and Raven*

Deborah Roberts - October 21, 2020 at 11:41 AM

DB

“ *Derrell Boynton-Graham lit a candle in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay*



Derrell Boynton-Graham - October 21, 2020 at 10:43 AM

JD

“ *Very sorry to hear of this loss. Words can not express the impact that Derrick had on Pompano Beach and our surrounding communities. If you have lived in the area for any amount of time your path at some time crossed his path. A sweet soul, gentle spirit, helping hand, infectious smile , a heart to help and a voice that was a gift from the Father above. Rest Derrick , the Crown Of Life awaits you and is yours for the keeping. Sing up there, we will be listening down here. Gay family , thanks for for sacrificing and sharing....For real !!!!*

*George and Jacqueline Kay Thomas Dennis
Trophy Club, Texas*

Jacqueline Dennis - October 20, 2020 at 09:50 PM

KH

“ *Karenr Houlhac lit a candle in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay*



Karenr houlhac - October 20, 2020 at 09:05 PM

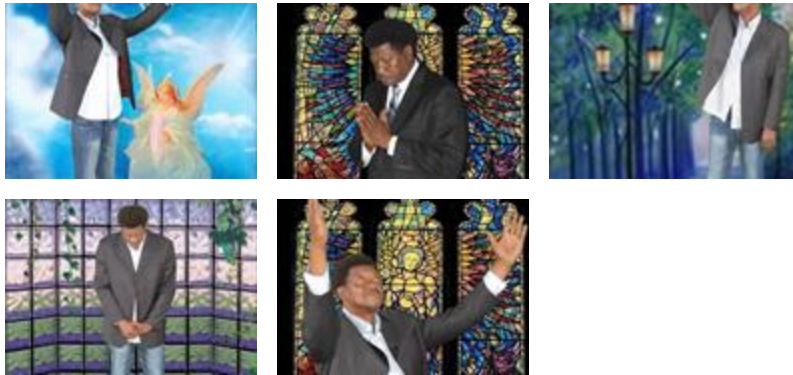
EM

“ *My condolences to the family going to miss you*

Emmajean mohorn - October 20, 2020 at 07:33 PM



“ *5 files added to the album Memories Album*



L.C. Poitier Funeral Home - October 20, 2020 at 01:38 PM

DN

“ *Sending Prayers of comfort and peace.*

*The Nelson Family
Esquire-Lakes Estates*



Dianne Nelson - October 20, 2020 at 12:56 PM

LR

“ My Deepest sympathy goes out to the Family of Minister Derrick Gay. I know your hearts are Heavy right now. Minister Derrick Gay might be gone from this world . No more ,suffering ,no more pain to bare . Now he can sleep peacefully with the master. I'll continue to pray for God to forever keep his changing hand for this family. God has bigger things in heaven for him and his marvelous soul and tremendous voice. REST IN PEACE.until we meet again.



LAURESTINE ROBINSON - October 20, 2020 at 02:07 AM

SK

“ I requested Minister Derrick Gay to sing at my mother's funeral and he did. I just loved to hear him sing. His voice was amazing. My condolences to his family and friends. Rest In Paradise Derrick. Heaven has another angel.



Sarah M. Kelly - October 19, 2020 at 03:11 PM

SW

My Cousin the Gates has swing open. You will be missed, I could never forget the memories we shared celebrating our Birthday, especially that you were 1min older than me. R.I.P.
My Deepest Condolences
To The Gay Family 🙏🙏🙏

Sheryl Walker - October 19, 2020 at 11:26 PM

FS

“ *With Love. Freeman Funeral Home And Staff*



Freeman Funeral Home Staff - October 19, 2020 at 12:39 PM

FS

“ *Freeman Funeral Home Staff sent a virtual gift in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay*



Freeman Funeral Home Staff - October 19, 2020 at 12:38 PM

RM

“ *My condolences to the Gay Family, Minister Derrick Gay you inspired so many in words and in SONGs. You truly will be missed.*
Rosa McFarlin
Kennesaw, GA



Rosa McFarlin - October 19, 2020 at 12:25 PM

RF

“ *Robinson Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay*



Robinson Family - October 19, 2020 at 02:11 AM



“ Minister Gay was a comfort to my family on many occasions. His anointing was singing the emotions we felt. May God ever bless him..

Angela Weaver - October 18, 2020 at 02:56 PM



“ Vina Hallmon lit a candle in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay



Vina Hallmon - October 18, 2020 at 10:09 AM



“ This gentleman sang at my godfather, godmother an god brother funeral an HIS VOICE BLEW ME AWAY!!! HE WAS AN AMAZING MAN. EVERYTIME I WOULD SEE HIM HE WOULD BE SINGING, SENDING MY CONDOLENCES 🙏 HEAVEN NEEDED ANOTHER LEADER AN HE WAS GIVIN THAT JOB

Vina Hallmon - October 18, 2020 at 10:09 AM



“ My Condolences To The Family At This Difficult Time May God Gives You Strength 🙏



Betty Sewel - October 18, 2020 at 09:53 AM

PM

“ *Patricia Martin lit a candle in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay*



Patricia Martin - October 18, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *Bonnie Hill lit a candle in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay*



Bonnie Hill - October 17, 2020 at 09:48 PM

PM

*I will never forget his kindness. May God give him eternal rest and hid family strength to bear the great pain.
Mother Martin and family (First Church Of Faith)*

Patricia Martin - October 18, 2020 at 12:04 AM

RO

We will truly miss you. Heaven has another Angel in the heaven choir

Robinson - October 18, 2020 at 10:37 AM

PJ

“ *To the Gay Family
May God grant you peace and comfort in this time of sorrow.
With Deepest Sympathy
The Jones & Lucas Family*



Pearl Jones - October 17, 2020 at 04:13 PM

TH

“ *Tawana Harris lit a candle in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay*



Tawana Harris - October 17, 2020 at 01:56 PM

BS

“ *I was so saddened to hear about the passing of this wonderful man of God. Derrick was another brother in the Scott Family. When my five year old brother Don was lost nearly 50 years ago, it was Derrick who knew that he was in the wrong place and brought him home. Multitalented, Blessed and Highly Favored, God wanted another singing Angel and my brother Derrick got the call and his wings and now he'll be singing over yonder. My thoughts and prayers are with Mother Jones and the entire Gay Family.*



Brenda K. Scott - October 17, 2020 at 11:39 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



L.C. Poitier Funeral Home - October 17, 2020 at 11:08 AM

BM

“ I remember Derrick from the neighborhood....Blanche Ely Estate a/k/a the Project. Derrick’s Aunt Lillian lived there but Derrick became a part of us because he was always there. I will never forget all the fond memories that we made. Derrick always had a old soul and he tapped into the wisdom of his elders. Mrs Ola Mae use to do my mom hair and his sister Van because our Godsister. Derrick was always willing to be the servant God called him to be.” Well done thy good and faithful servant “ now you have entered into your rest. My prayers goes out to the Gay family.

Minister Betty McElhaney-Anderson

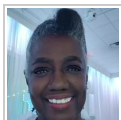
Betty McElhaney-Anderson - October 17, 2020 at 10:03 AM



“ To the family of Min. Derrick C. Gay my heartfelt condolences goes out to you'll. Min. Gay was in a league of his own. His encouraging words and his singing voice will be truly missed be everyone. S. I. H. Minister Derrick C. Gay 🙏🙏🙏



Johnette Bullard - October 17, 2020 at 09:09 AM



The voice of an angel. I'll forever remember the memories you shared with my sister snd me. Rest on.

Gail Battle - October 18, 2020 at 06:33 PM

GB

The Battle family of Deerfield Beach extend sincere condolences to the Gay family. Minister Gay will live on in our hearts and the Gay family will remain in out prayers.

Dorothy, Gloria, Lyvon, Pauline and Gail Battle

Gloria J Battle - October 21, 2020 at 05:15 PM

LB

“ Rest easy my friend. Sending prayers and love to your family and friends. 🙏❤️



Lonnie Baldwin - October 17, 2020 at 08:53 AM

KH

“ Karenr Houlhac lit a candle in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay



Karenr houlhac - October 17, 2020 at 08:17 AM

KD

“ Derrick was always uplifting and had a ear to listen to whatever you was going through. He sung at many of my family members church events and funerals. He will truly be missed,

Kimberly Dillard - October 17, 2020 at 06:40 AM

PT

“ Rest In The Arms Of GOD Dr. Gay
#Legend #FirstChurchOfFaith_Pompano



Prince Cortez Tolbert - October 17, 2020 at 04:17 AM

JD

“ Sip prayers for family 🙏 true legend I remember all times u was their try up life others in time of grief lords knows when u sing it bring joy in presence of the people u always kept a smile on your face .. very outgoing caring person gone to soon u touch a lot hearts through years never will u be forgetting



jasmine davis - October 17, 2020 at 02:41 AM

MA

“ Derrick song at my Mom's funeral and he was fussing because I asked him to sing 2 solos. Lol. That's how much I loved hearing him sing. You will truly be missed. Now you're singing in the heavenly choir. RIP.



Mary - October 17, 2020 at 01:44 AM

DM

“ Darryl Mcintosh lit a candle in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay



Darryl mcintosh - October 16, 2020 at 10:17 PM

LM

“ Lisa Morss lit a candle in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay



Lisa morss - October 16, 2020 at 09:37 PM

DM

“ *Deborah McCormick lit a candle in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay*



Deborah McCormick - October 16, 2020 at 09:33 PM

RJ

“ *My condolences to the family of Dr Derrick C Gay. Those inspiring words, songs etc will always remembered. Gone too soon but never forgotten. God's Blessings*

Rhonda Jefferson - October 16, 2020 at 09:21 PM



“ *Thank you for always being real! You were one of the oldest staff members and our LC Poitier Funeral Home Chaplain for many decades. You will not be forgotten. Rest on Dr. Gay!*



Juselle Poitier - October 16, 2020 at 08:41 PM

CA

“ *Carol lit a candle in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay*



Carol - October 16, 2020 at 08:22 PM

PM

“ *Ponza Mills lit a candle in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay*



Ponza Mills - October 16, 2020 at 06:58 PM



“ *Prayers and condolences goes out to the Gay family. Minister Gay you will be surley missed. SIH Derrick* ❤️🙏🙏



Wilbert Jones - October 16, 2020 at 06:17 PM

AB

“ *Adrienne Black Blakely lit a candle in memory of Minister Derrick Columbus Gay*



Adrienne Black Blakely - October 16, 2020 at 05:01 PM

AB

Derrick will truly be missed 😞

Adrienne Black Blakely - October 16, 2020 at 07:10 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



L.C. Poitier Funeral Home - October 16, 2020 at 04:37 PM

AB

He will truly be missed.

Adrienne Black Blakely - October 16, 2020 at 05:02 PM

TB

“ My heartfelt condolences to the Gay Family
May God give you strength and comfort at this
difficult time . God’s gates has swung open to
welcome you in Rest In Peace.



Tessa Black - October 16, 2020 at 04:31 PM

TB

“ My heartfelt condolences to the family of
Derrick Gay
Gods Gates has swung open and another
angel has entered rest in peace Derrick you
were truly be missed on this side.



Tessa Black - October 16, 2020 at 04:24 PM

KK

*My condolences to the gay family one of GOD Angela is on his way
home well done good and faithful several you can come on end.*

Katherine kimbrough - October 16, 2020 at 04:52 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



L.C. Poitier Funeral Home - October 16, 2020 at 03:46 PM

LG

My Condolences to the family may God give you all strength R.I.p. my long time friend Derrick linda green

Linda green gibbons - October 16, 2020 at 08:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



L.C. Poitier Funeral Home - October 16, 2020 at 03:45 PM

JM

My condolences to the Family in which I am apart of. May his works speak for him. Rest easy Cuz!

Joyce Wells Mack - October 16, 2020 at 03:57 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



L.C. Poitier Funeral Home - October 16, 2020 at 03:42 PM