

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family gratefully acknowledges the kind expressions of sympathy and love shown during its hour of bereavement. Special thanks to Andrea for being someone I could depend on to administer, facilitate and disseminate, pertinent information timely and accurately. I can't begin to express how much your support has meant to us. Special thanks is also extended to Cousin Wanda for advocating on my families behalf. Your unexpected support lifted a monumental burden from the family's shoulders. We owe you a debt of gratitude. To Pastor Jerry Harmon and the supportive staff of Grace Bible Baptist Church, we also extend a special thanks for your selfless and gracious hospitality. Your professional staff has been without question extremely proactive in ensuring that all matters as it pertained to the funeral services were handled in decency and in order. The family would also like to recognize those that donated monetarily. Your kindness and generosity is appreciated beyond measure. Your gifts of love provided the necessary support to make these arrangements possible.

ANDREA
ANTHONY AND ANITA
AUNT BRENDA
AUNT CECILIA
AUNT GALE
AUNT LEAKY
AUNT MARIE
AUNT PAT
BRO. & SIS BROCK
BRO. HARRISON HILL
BRO. JOHN & PRICILLA SALTER
CHRISTINA HANDY
JACKIE WASHINGTON (AUNT MARIE& DAUGHTER)
JAMES AND CARLA
JANAE
KEVIN AND ANNETTE
KIMBERLY
KRISTINA BOYD-HANDY
LAMONT
LINDA
LISA
MARCIA MACKALL
MARIAH AND JAMEEL
NATALIE
NATHANIAL MACKALL
SIS. DANDRIDGE
SIS. JANICE OWES
TONYA WILLIAMS
UNCLE BOB AND AUNT SHEILA
UNCLE MAC AUNT CAROLYN
UNCLE ROLAND AND AUNT DAWN
UNCLE VERNON AND AUNT DIANA
WALLAS
WANDA
WARREN
WASHINGTON FAMILY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE MINISTRY
WAYNE
WENDY
WINSTON

Services Entrusted To:
Chatman-Harris Funeral Homes
5240 Reisterstown Rd. Baltimore, MD 21215

Memorial Programs By Shawnie O . 410.844.9600
"Creating Lasting Memories For Loved Ones"

EXCLUSIVE EDITION

GO

Celebration
of Life

BRIAN-MICHAEL

Merrick

(SUNRISE: 10/14/1993 - SUNSET: 12/06/2020)

FRIDAY DECEMBER 18, 2020
WAKE: 11:30AM - FUNERAL 12:00PM

GRACE BIBLE BAPTIST
1518 N. ROLLING ROAD
CATONSVILLE, MD 21228

Remembering Brian

Brian-Michael Merrick was born October 14, 1993 in Baltimore, Maryland to Lynnette Merrick and Aaron Scott. He departed this life on December 6, 2020. Brian's initial years were spent in his grandparents' home along with his mother. He was a kind and naturally sweet child with an even temperance. He loved to laugh, joke, play various sports and possessed a special interest in the performing arts. He attended Baltimore County Public Schools and later graduated from York Adams Academy in York, Pennsylvania.

He attended First Baptist Church of Pimlico and actively participated in many of the youth ministries and activities. This was also where he began to develop and experiment with his undeniable vocal talents. Brian was raised in a Christian home, with Christian values and where church was a second home. He openly acknowledged a profession of faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and was later baptized.

Shortly after his mom graduated in June of 1995 they moved into their own place. It was more like a small room that was opened with a key lock to prevent break ins but, they were together and it was theirs. His mother although by herself and just starting out with minimal income took her parental responsibilities very seriously. His mother's expansive career success is credited to Brian. Looking at him every morning was a constant driving force of the absolute necessity to change her situation because he deserved better. For the next four years the struggle was real. However, things would eventually get better.

In January of 1999 Brian's mom met Isaac Taylor who she would eventually marry the following year. Through this union Brian became a big brother to Ivan Taylor. After seven years the marriage was dissolved.

In April of 2007 his mom built her dream home in York, Pennsylvania. It was definitely a long way from Lanvale and Calhoun St. She moved to York, Pennsylvania in hopes to raise her sons in a safe environment, with better education and opportunities they would not otherwise have been afforded. On September 5, 2008 his youngest brother Joshua was born. Brian loved both of his brothers. During these primitive years sibling rivalry erupted from time to time between him and Ivan causing the need for parental intervention. Brian and Ivan would in time discuss these incidents and put their issues to rest.

On December 24, 2011 his mother married Damone Upchurch. Brian could not be happier as he felt their four year relationship had grown independent of the relationship Damone had with his mother. Brian loved his new dad and he loved him. Brian felt comfortable discussing anything and everything with him. One of his favorite past times was watching rap battles together, discussing opposing sports and entertainment related opinions, and spending time together at his uncle Troll's house.

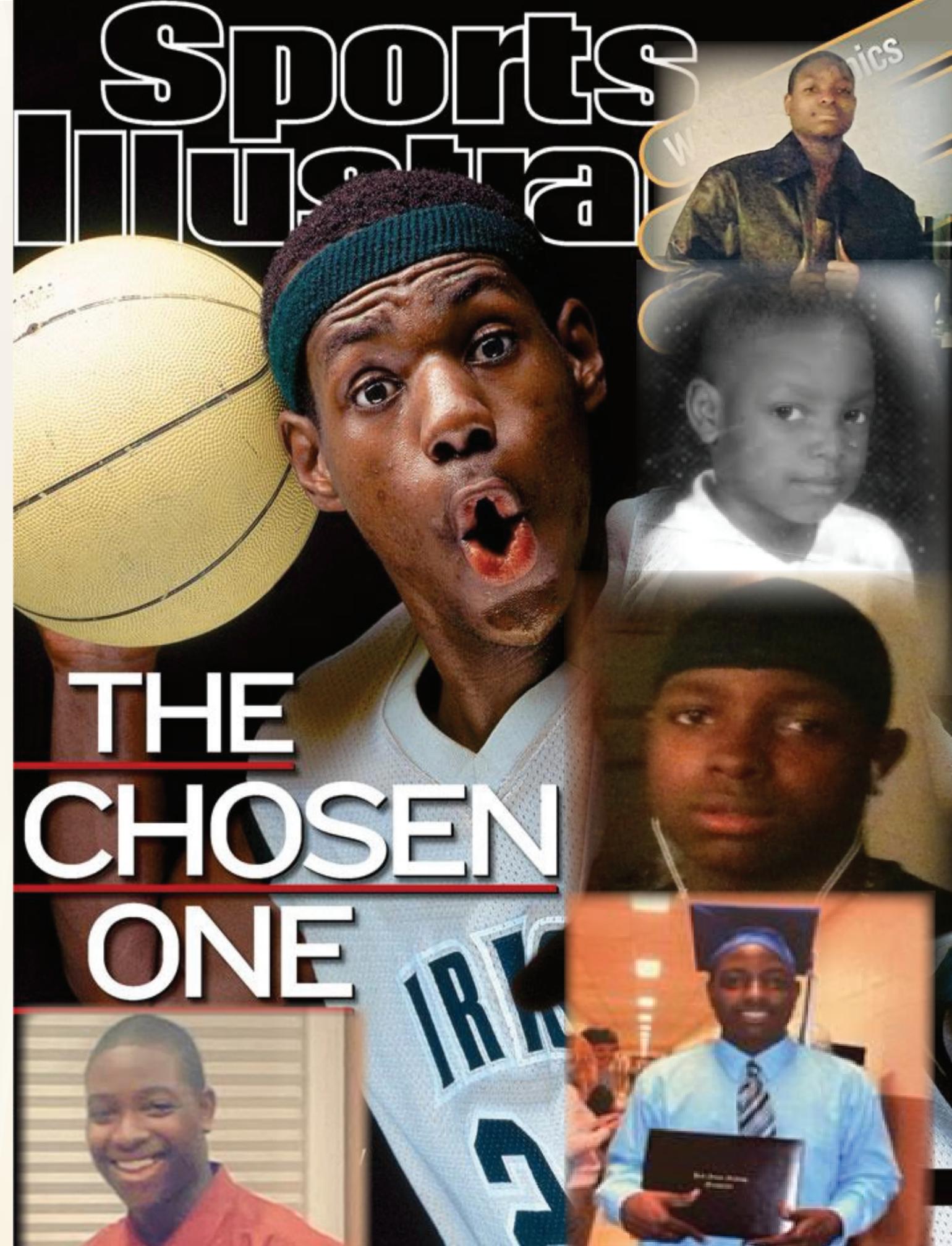
After graduating high school in 2013 Brian was still deciding what he wanted to do with his life. He had previously considered continuing his education, or enlisting in the military, but ultimately decided to join the working class. He learned the importance of a good work ethic as it was represented daily in his household. Brian worked a variety of different jobs involving food services, warehouse, and construction which utilized a number of his skill sets.

In 2015, the house in Pennsylvania was sold and his family relocated back to Baltimore. Brian, then twenty-two years of age decided to remain and make a life for himself. He soon realized his income would not support the lifestyle he had become accustomed to while living with his parents. During the next few years following, Brian began to progressively distance himself from his immediate family as he pursued his new found independence. He reached out periodically and again a few months prior to the birth of his daughter Aliya -Marie Merrick who was born on May 8, 2017.

Brian continued these varying intervals of contact several times after and over the next 3 years. Brian would be best described as a free spirit. He relished in his new found freedom of making his own decisions and living his life on his own terms. Like many young people challenged by societal pressures, low self-esteem and the need to belong, Brian made conscious, high risk, self-destructive decisions for his life.

During the days and weeks before his tragic and untimely death he recognized the need to begin living his life differently and wanted a new start. He acknowledged the need to change people, places and things. He recognized the love of his mother that for years he had taken for granted and ultimately dismissed. He expressed the love and acceptance he was looking for all his life was right in front of him. Brian was ready to come home.

He leaves to mourn his mother, Lynnette Upchurch, his dad, Damone Upchurch (aka Pops), his stepfather Isaac Taylor, his daughter Aliya -Marie Merrick, two brothers Ivan Taylor and Joshua Upchurch, grandparents Elder Vernon and Diana Merrick, two aunts, Shaunna Merrick and Veronica Merrick, two uncles, Vernon Merrick and Taureane Brown and a host of cousin and friends.



Treasured Memories of Our Brother

I thought of you today but that is nothing new, I thought about you yesterday and will tomorrow too.
I think of you in silence and make no outward show. For what it meant to lose you only those who love you know.
Remembering you is easy I do it every day, it's just the heartache of losing you that will never go away.
Lovingly submitted by Ivan and Joshua

Son, Until We Meet Again

Those special memories of you, will always bring a smile.
If only I could have you back, for just a little while.
Then we could sit and laugh again, just like we use to do.
You always meant so very much, and I will miss you too.
Some days I think about you, with thoughts I like to share.
Some days I just can't understand the reason you're not there.
The fact that you're no longer here will always cause me pain.
But you're forever in my heart, until we meet again.
Lovingly submitted by Dad (Most loved as "Pops")

The Loss of a Child

The moment I knew that you had died,
my heart split in two,
one side filled with memories,
the other died with you.
I often lay awake at night, when the
world is fast asleep, and take a walk down memory lane,
with tears upon my cheek.
Remembering you is easy, I do it every day
but missing you is a heartache that never goes away.
I hold you tightly within my heart, and there you will remain,
Life has gone on without you, but it will never be the same.

Lovingly Submitted by Mom



Tributes of Love

Order of Service

Processional	"I Love the Lord" Whitney Houston
Scripture	Pastor Patrick Lewis New Vision Worship Center
Prayer of Invocation	Pastor Patrick Lewis New Vision Worship Center
Musical Selection	"I Almost Let Go" by Kurt Carr
Resolution and Acknowledgments	Ms. Ramona McWilliams
Special Musical Tribute	Lynnette J. Upchurch "If I Could" Regina Bell
Reading of the Obituary	Ms. Ramona McWilliams
Musical Selection	"Don't Cry for Me" CeCe Winans
Eulogy Pastor Patrick Lewis	New Vision Worship Center
Invitation to Discipleship	Pastor Patrick Lewis New Vision Worship Center
Recessional	"Going Up Yonder" Walter Hawkins



