

Dad never met a stranger, he would come and visit us and learn more about our neighbors in a matter of minutes than we knew of them after having lived next door for years. They would even work on projects together. And let's not forget The Waffle House and the All Star Breakfast that he would always order. Dad loved that place. That was always his first stop when going back to visit Meridian.

There are many memories of Dad. Although there were areas where we didn't get what we wanted or thought we needed, when we reflect on times with Dad, we realized that we got a lot from him. He influenced our lives greatly. For that, we are eternally grateful.

Early Tuesday morning, January 5, 2021, Dad got his wings. We will miss him tremendously. We will hold onto these and other memories and we will strive to be the best we can be while holding his love for us close to our hearts.

*Dad kids and *grandkids,*

Tony Sanchez (Amy Rew) Jones, Sr. of Meridian, MS

*Tony Jones, Jr. of Meridian, MS

Kiara (Rasheed) Aziz of Tyler, TX

Ambrielle Wilkins of Dallas, TX

Jason Wilkins of Carrollton, TX

*Ivy Ny'Ree Wilkins of Carrollton, TX

*Raiden Indra Wilkins of Carrollton, TX

Jakia Wilkins of Arlington, TX

Kayla Taylor of Tyler, TX

Jasmine Blanton of Houston, TX



Dad's siblings,

Jeffery (Sharon) Wilkins of Dallas, TX

Leroy Wilkins of Meridian, MS

Bernice (Charles) Grant of Brandon, MS

We honor the memory of our grandparents, Ora Wilkins and Walter C. Dean and our aunt, Joyce Wilkins.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank each of you for your thoughts, prayers, texts, calls and concerns during this difficult time for us. Although we can't hug you because of COVID, know that we love and appreciate you very much.

-The family of Tony Wilkins

Honorary Pallbearers

Tony Sanchez Jones, Sr

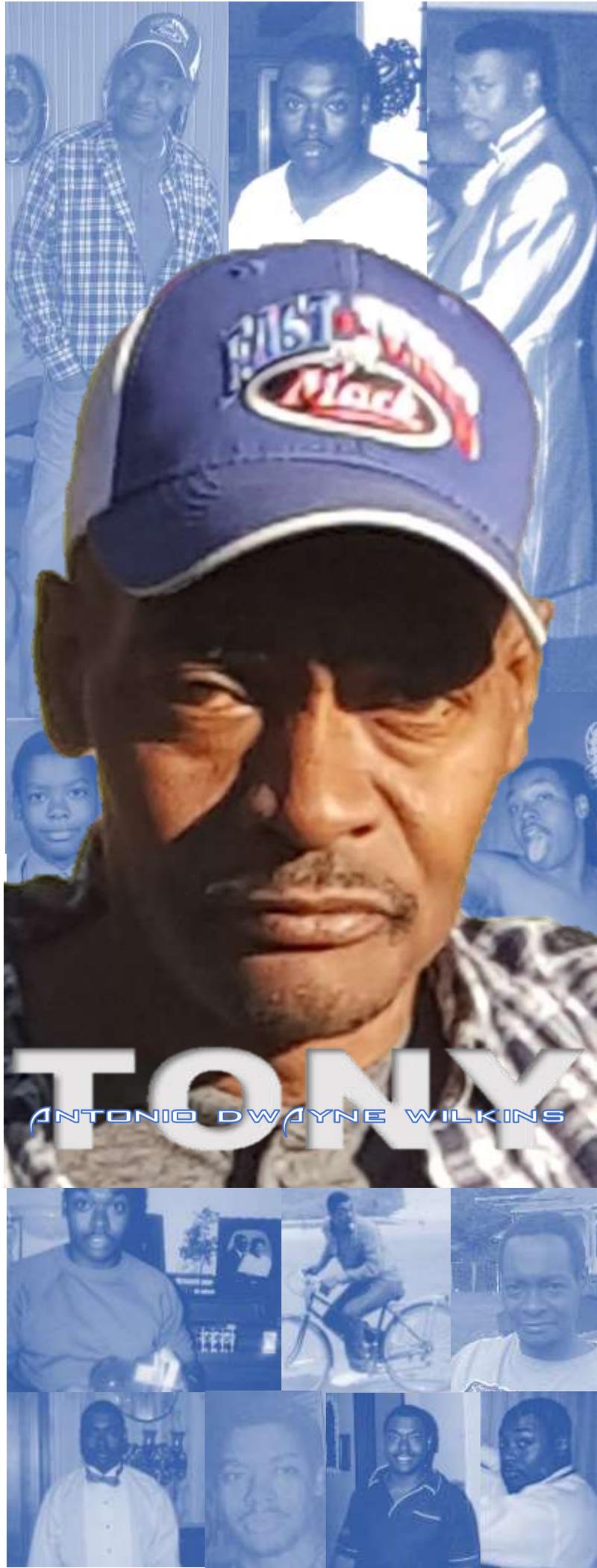
Jason Dwayne Wilkins

Jeffery Wilkins

Leroy Wilkins

Interment

Shady Grove Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery
Porterville, MS



Remembering Our Dad

TONY

ANTONIO DWAYNE WILKINS

Saturday, January 16, 2021 | 12 O'clock Noon
Brooks, Sterling & Garrett Funeral Directors
302 N Ross Avenue | Tyler, Texas
Rev. Frederick D. Berry, Sr., Officiant / Eulogist

Order of Service

Scripture & Prayer

Rev. Frederick D. Berry, Sr.

Ministerial Staff, Mt. Hebron Baptist Church of Garland, TX

Musical Selection

Remarks

Friends

Reflections

Family

Musical Selection

The WORD of Comfort

Rev. Frederick D. Berry, Sr.



Reflections

On Monday, April 19, 1965 in Meridian, Mississippi God blessed our grandparents, Ora Wilkins and Walter C. Dean to witness the birth of their baby boy, our dad, Antonio Dwayne who everyone called Tony. Growing up in the south, Dad and his family had



great memories. There was not a lot of money, but they had great times together in Highway Village. Dad grew up in the days when kids played outdoors all day long. In the summer Dad looked forward to going to swim in the pool at Magnolia Park, as well as going to dances and parties at Magnolia's Teen Center.

Uncle Jeff even remembers how they would sneak into their mom's freezer while she was at work and cook up all kinds of stuff to eat without her permission. Yea, that got them into some real trouble when she got home. Dad had many fun times and made many friends from the time he started school at Witherspoon Elementary, and through his days at Magnolia Middle School, Harris Junior High, and Merian High. Dad enjoyed

going to the Friday night football games at Meridian High as well as attending other high school events.

Following high school, some computer classes at Meridian Junior College, and the birth of Dad's first kids in Meridian, he met Toni Berry. They moved to Texas and got married. Imagine marrying someone with the same name, Tony and Toni. In Texas, they started their family and Dad continued to work as a short order cook. It was here that those computer classes and his interest in computers really grew. Dad became very interested in not only working on computers but building and rebuilding computers. He became a computer guru! Imagine that, Dad was a computer nerd. Not only did Dad work on computers but he actually opened an e-Commerce store on eBay where he sold computers and computer parts. There were spare computer parts everywhere! That reminds us of the time that Dad got Ambi a laptop for graduation. Ambi and Jason were fooling around and accidentally waisted water on the laptop. Needless to say it stopped working. Ambi decided to wipe it off and tell Dad that it just happened to stop working. She didn't think that one through... Dad worked on computers! To her amazement, Dad opened the laptop finding water inside. He laughed, 'really... she thought she could pull one over on me'.



Dad became interested in motorcycles and joined The Street Sweepers Biker's Club as well as The Old School Cruisers Car Club. As classic Dad would do, after he became involved with bikes, he expanded his eBay store to include motorcycle parts.

Dad was proud of his kids and took pride in being a father. He took time to talk with us. As kids, he would have Tea Parties with Jakia or just lay on the couch and we would watch TV together. He was protective of his girls and wanted the best for them, especially when it came to them and guys. He would always tell us, 'if you need something just call me'. Dad was the one to listen when we had issues but he didn't mind putting his "two cents" in if we wanted it or not telling us what we needed to hear not necessarily what we wanted to hear. He was not perfect as none of us are perfect. Dad had his flaws but we can agree that he loved us. He was interested in us and the things that made us happy. For example, Dad was not an animal lover, but because we had pets he would often find himself in a compromising position either by walking our pets, being jumped on by our pets, or getting us a pet and having to care for it because our moms would not allow us to bring it home.

As older kids, there were fun times with him going to Trade Days on Highway 69, cooking with him, eating his wonderful pork chops and fried potatoes and onions or watching him reheat coffee over, and over, and over, and over again! He loved to go fishing and taking us if he could. He taught some of us how to drive which he thought was going to take his life... he would scream... "hit the breaks, hit the breaks, hit the breaks!"