

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Samuel
LESTER DUKES

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Jaydon D. Dukes
Avery N. Dukes
Kermit James

Tyriq E. Dukes
Samuel Ty'Weobe M. Dukes
Anthony Cooke

Ean Harrell

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Carl Moore Sr.

Collin Moore

FLOWER ATTENDANTS

Friends of Family

EARTH'S FINAL RESTING PLACE

Douglas City Cemetery
1623 North Gaskin Avenue | Douglas, Georgia 31533

REPAST

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Social Hall
605 East Ross Street | Douglas, Georgia 31533

THE FAMILY'S MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

The family of Samuel Lester Dukes extends our sincere and heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of love, kindness, and support shown to us during this time of bereavement. When our loss felt overwhelming, we were uplifted by the presence of our family and friends through flowers and cards, spoken and written words of comfort, warm smiles, and open hearts. May God continue to bless each of you. Please continue to keep us in your prayers, as we will keep you in ours. We find peace in the words of I Corinthians 2:9: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

The Family of Samuel Lester Dukes

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO



HARRELL'S FUNERAL HOME
400 E. CHERRY STREET ~ DOUGLAS, GEORGIA 31533
LICENSED DIRECTOR/EMBALMER, SIDNEY K. HARRELL
OFFICE: (912) 384-2251
WWW.HARRELLSFUNERALHOME.COM



SUNRISE

December 17, 1942

SUNSET

January 17, 2026

Saturday, January 24, 2026
11:00 AM

Bethesda Christian Fellowship Church of God
6719 Ogontz Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19126

*Pastor Arienne Henderson, Officiating
Pastor Kenneth Sheppard, Eulogist*

Sunday, February 1, 2026
2:00 PM

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
605 East Ross Street
Douglas, Georgia 31533

*Brother Rashaan Doctor, Officiating
Pastor Arienne Henderson, Eulogist*

His Story

Samuel Lester Dukes, affectionately known as “Sam,” was born on December 17, 1942, in Douglas, Georgia, to the late Thomas Nathaniel Dukes and Gladys Dukes. On January 17, 2026, God peacefully called him home after a life filled with love, service, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

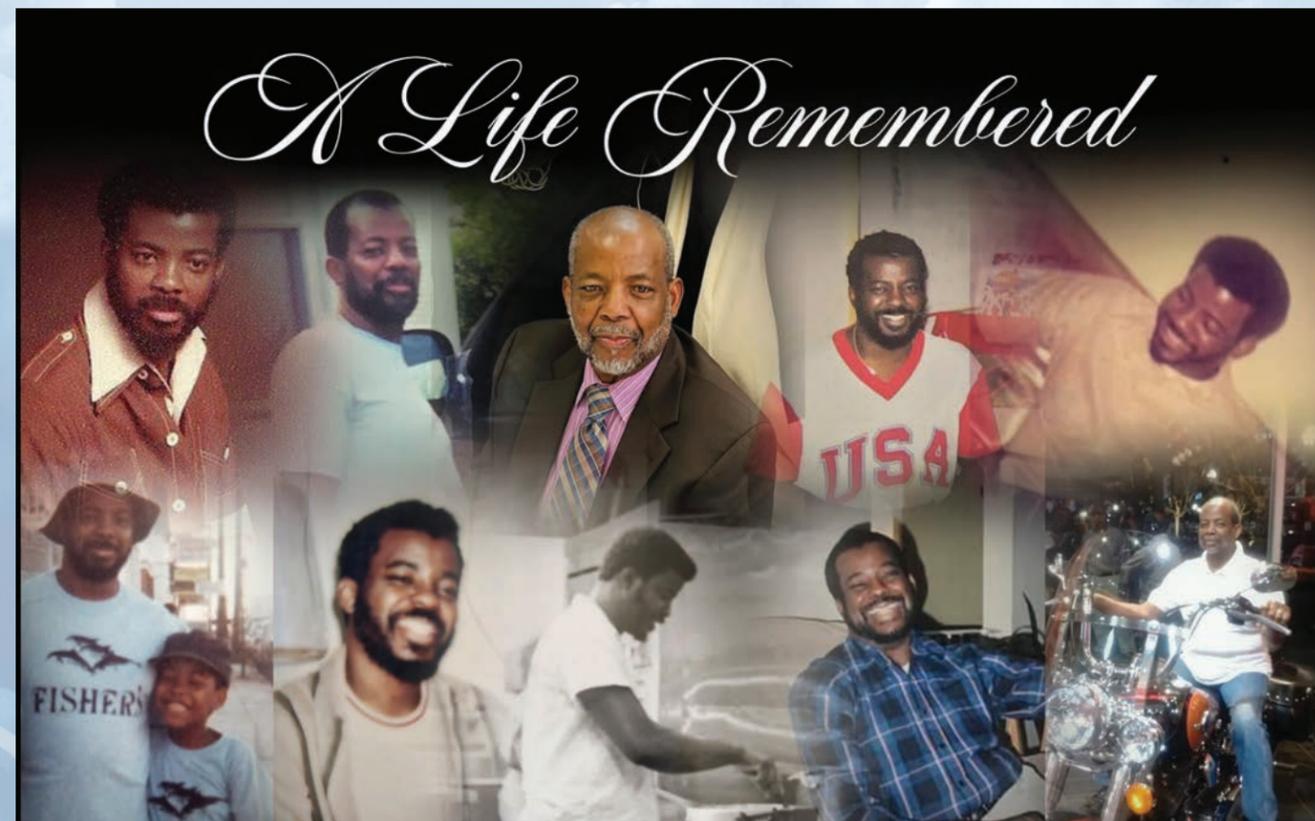
Samuel graduated from Carver High School, in Douglas, Georgia. He later relocated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he built his life and legacy. He devoted more than 40 years of service as a chef at Fisher’s Seafood Restaurant. Through his passion for cooking, he nourished not only bodies but hearts, becoming a beloved staple in the community.

Samuel was a devoted member of Bethesda Christian Fellowship Church of God. He was a loving, kind-hearted man who never hesitated to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. His generosity, wisdom, and gentle spirit left a lasting impression on all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

He truly enjoyed life, traveling down south, spending time at the recreation center, cooking for family and friends, beating everyone at cards, talking on the phone, and passionately cheering for his Dallas Cowboys. He was known for preparing hearty homemade soups that he generously shared with his neighbors, his church family, and anyone in need of a warm meal. And of course, no one will ever forget his famous coleslaw.

Samuel leaves to cherish his loving memory: his devoted wife, Diane Dukes; children, Valerie (Anthony) Pace-Williams, Patraimer (Carl) Moore, Donna (Michael) Poldoski, Samuel L. Dukes, Jr., Avant (Eric) Teagle, Dameion H. (Nia) Dukes, Tokayè (Gary) Dukes, Kimberly (Mike) Quinn, and Kristin Blake; sisters, Helen Harrell, Mary Pugh, and Alberta Montgomery; twelve grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends. He also leaves behind his devoted friend, Mr. Ralph Wyche.

Samuel Lester Dukes lived a life rooted in love, faith, hard work, and service. Though he has departed this earthly life, his legacy will live on through the many hearts he touched and the countless lives he blessed.



Dad

We'll always remember
That special smile,
That caring heart,
That warm embrace
You always gave us,
You being there for Mom and us
Through good and bad times,
No matter what.
We'll always remember you, Dad,
Because there'll never be another one
To replace you in our hearts
And the love we will always have for you.

Your Children



When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

*When tomorrow starts without me
And I'm not there to see
If the sun should rise and find your eyes
All filled with tears for me,
Then I'll wish so much you wouldn't cry
Like the way you did today
While thinking of the many things
We didn't get to say.
I know how much you love me,
As much as I love you,
And each time you think of me,
I know you'll miss me, too.*

*But when tomorrow starts without me,
Please try to understand
That Jesus came and called my name
And took me by the hand.
He said my place was ready
In Heaven far above
And I'd have to leave behind
All those I dearly love.
So when tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart.
Every time you think of me,
I'm right here in your heart.*



Rooted In Love



United In Love



My Husband

*We shared lots of years
And had a whole lot of fun,
But God has called you home.
I just can't believe
Our time together has ended.
There were so many things
I wanted to say.
It's too late for that now;
It will just have to wait
Until the day I see you
At Heaven's gates.*

*May your soul rest well,
My beloved husband.
But the day is not over,
We shall share another.
So when times are great
And happy as such,
I'll think of you, my husband;
I'll miss you so much.
So good-bye for now, my husband.
I have not one regret.
You were a part of my life*

That I'll never forget.

Your Loving Wife



ORDER OF CELEBRATION

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Saturday, January 24, 2026
11:00 AM

Bethesda Christian Fellowship Church of God
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Officiant, Pastor Arienne Henderson

Viewing.....“Total Praise”
Slide Presentation During Viewing

Organ Prelude and Processional

Closing of the Bier

Opening Hymn.....“How Great Thou Art”
Deacon Karen Hawkins
Brother Rashaan Doctor

Prayer of Comfort Deacon Craig Palmer

Scripture Readings
Old Testament: Psalm 116:12-15 Deacon Wendy Boone
New Testament: John 5:21-25 Pastor Cynthia Pendergrass

Music Selection.....Deacon Karen Hawkins/BCF Choir

Acknowledgement of Condolences and ResolutionsSister Patricia Bantom-Browne

Reading of the Obituary..... Silently

Remarks/Family Reflections Please Limit To Two Minutes
Deacon William Swain
Deacon Derek Hawkins
Deacon Ralph Wyche

SoloDebbie Dukes

EulogyPastor Kenneth Sheppard

Benediction.....Pastor Kenneth Sheppard

Recessional.....“Highway to Heaven”
Thomas A. Dorsey

ORDER OF CELEBRATION

DOUGLAS, GA

Sunday, February 1, 2026
2:00 PM

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
Douglas, Georgia 31533
Officiant, Brother Rashaan Doctor

Processional..... Ministers, Family, and Friends

Invocation..... Pastor Wayne Thomas

Hymn Reverend Dr. James W. Anthony, Jr.

SoloDebbie Dukes

Scripture Readings
Old TestamentAnthony Cooke
New Testament Mary Pugh

Praise Dance Jakiah Doctor and Makiah Doctor

Reflections Please Limit To Two Minutes
As a Family MemberRobert Samuels and James Samuels
Anyone Desiring to Speak

Solo Brother Rashaan Doctor

Eulogy Pastor Arienne Henderson

Acknowledgements..... Harrell’s Funeral Home Staff

Committal Service

Recessional