

CELEBRATING THE LIFE
OF

Mr. Elvin "Johnny" Rankine

MAY 5, 1935 - JANUARY 22, 2026

Saturday, February 7, 2025

12:00 Noon

RAINBOW PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
2941 Columbia Drive
Decatur, Georgia

The Reverend Micah Dial, Pastor
The Reverend Keith D. Brooks, Officiating

Obituary

Elvin Rankine, affectionately known as “Johnny,” was born on May 9, 1935, in Berkshire, Jamaica, to his father, Hezekiah Cephas Rankine, a butcher and farmer, and his mother, Emel Daley, a devoted homemaker. He was raised as one of five siblings in a close-knit family, where strong values, resilience, and respect for others were instilled from an early age, qualities that shaped the man he became.

With determination and a vision for a better future, Johnny left Jamaica at the age of 19 and journeyed to Coventry, England, where he began his career with the telephone company. His path later led him to the United States, where he settled in Hartford, Connecticut, continuing to refine his skills as a telephone technician at the Southern New England Phone Company.

In 1977, Johnny made Atlanta, Georgia his permanent home with his beloved wife of 50 years, Jean Yvonne Jones, who preceded him in death. Together, they raised their three children and built a life founded on love, hard work, and family. He dedicated 47 years of faithful service to Southern Bell, later known as BellSouth, where he was respected for his strong work ethic, mentorship, and unwavering commitment.

Johnny was a man who found joy in life’s simple blessings. He loved gardening and took great pride in his Scotch bonnet peppers and flourishing callaloo. His home was always a place of welcome—doors open wide to family, friends, laughter, and fellowship. He delighted in hosting, entertaining, and gathering loved ones for lively games of dominoes. Ever cheerful, Johnny greeted all with a warm smile, kind words, and a gentle sense of humor.

In his later years, Johnny met and married Monica Gordon, with whom he shared love, companionship, care, and affection, walking hand in hand through the remaining seasons of life, a beautiful reminder that love can come around a second time.

Elvin “Johnny” Rankine was preceded in death by his son, Courtney A. Rankine. His love for life and for others continues to live on in his survivors: his wife, Monica Rankine; his children, Marjorie Rankine and Marcia Clark; his grandchildren, Emen Rankine, Denorris Allen, Dominique C. Rankine, Cerissa Rankine, Darius Rankine, and Lauren Clark; his great-grandchildren, Denorris Allen, Jr., Aniyah Barnes, Miles C. Rankine, Ashlyn Allen, Jaiden Allen, Janiya Allen, Jordan Lockett, Kamarion Kelly, Anthony Barnes, and Abrielle L. Rankine; his sister, Iris Rankine; his sister-in-law, Valerie Rankine; and a loving circle of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends.

Johnny Rankine will be fondly remembered as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, mentor, and friend. His legacy of perseverance, generosity, and open-hearted love will remain alive in all who were blessed to know him.



Forever With Us

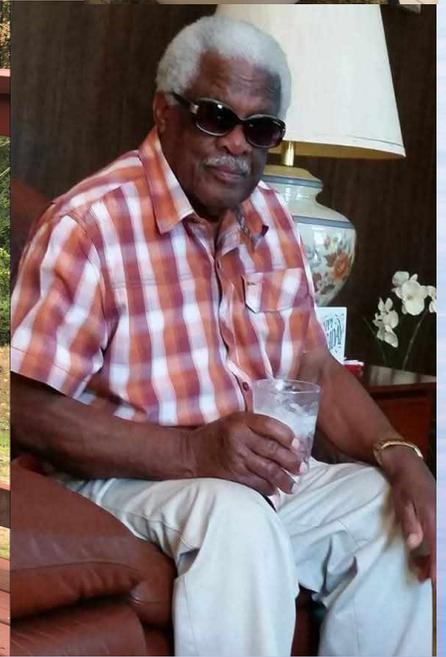
IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ELVIN "JOHNNY" RANKINE

Though today we pause with heavy hearts,
Your love still fills this place.
In every laugh, in every tear,
We see your gentle face.

You walked beside us, led the way,
With strength, with pride, with care.
When life grew hard, you stood us up
And showed us you were there.

Your voice still echoes in our minds,
Your wisdom guides us through.
In all we are, in all we do,
Your love remains so true.

We do not say goodbye today,
For love does not depart.
You live forever—everywhere—
Especially in our hearts.



In Loving Memory of a Cherished Grandfather Dear.

We gather here to shed our heartfelt tear.
A life well-lived, a heart so kind,
In our hearts and memories, forever you'll find.
With wisdom in your eyes and stories to tell,
You guided us through life so well.
A source of strength and boundless love,
You're now with the angels, watching from above.
Your laughter and your comforting embrace,
Time can't erase the love you gave, the grace.
The lessons learned, the values passed down,
In your absence, we'll carry your legacy's crown.
Through every season, you stood by our side,
In joy and sorrow, you were our guide.
With every smile and every word you'd say,
You made our world a brighter, warmer place each day.
Through every season, you stood by our side,
In joy and sorrow, you were our guide.
With every smile and every word you'd say,
You made our world a brighter, warmer place each day.
Though you've embarked on your eternal flight,
In our hearts, you'll forever shine so bright.
As we bid farewell with heavy hearts, we know,
Your love and presence in our lives will always glow.
In the starry sky and the gentle breeze's breath,
In the songs of birds and the sunset's depth,
We'll find your spirit, forever at our side,
Our beloved Grandfather, our eternal pride.
As we say our goodbyes, we promise to cherish,
The memories of your love,
never to perish.

Rest in peace, Grandfather,
in Heaven's embrace,
Until we meet again in a

Better Place.



Order of Service

PRELUDE

PROCESSION

SELECTION

SCRIPTURE READING
OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT

INVOCATION

SELECTION

REFLECTIONS & TRIBUTES

WORDS OF COMFORT
MS. PANSY BURCHELL

MEDLEY OF SONGS

RECESSION

POSTLUDE

Casket Bearers

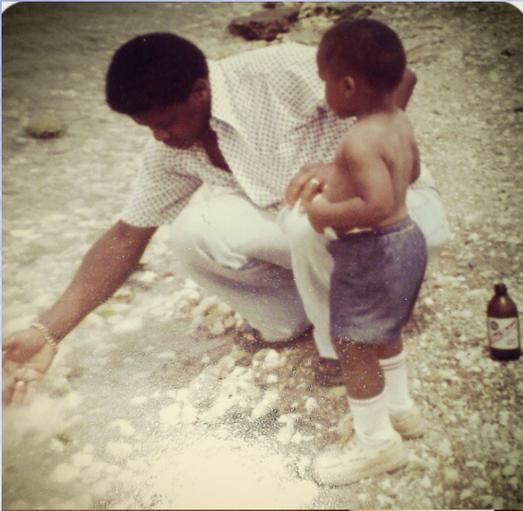
RANKINE FAMILY MEN

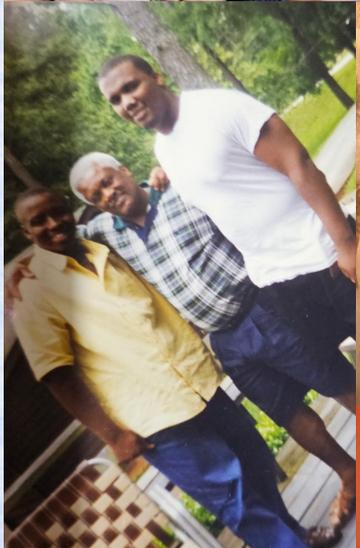
Interment

KENNEDY MEMORIAL GARDENS
2500 RIVER ROAD | ELLENWOOD, GEORGIA

Acknowledgement

WE WALK WITH FIRMER FAITH AND A CLOSER SENSE OF GOD'S GUIDING HAND BECAUSE FRIENDS SUCH AS YOU SHARED OUR GRIEF DURING THE PASSING OF OUR BELOVED JOHNNY RANKINE. DURING OUR TIME OF DEEPEST SORROW, YOUR LOYALTY AND CONCERN, SO BEAUTIFULLY EXPRESSED, WERE A SOURCE OF COMFORT AND WERE DEEPLY APPRECIATED. WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR KINDNESS.





For My Dad

ELVIN "JOHNNY" RANKINE

*You were my strength when I needed one,
My steady, guiding light.
You showed me how to stand up tall
And do what's true and right.
You loved us hard, you spoke your mind,
You never led us wrong,
And when we stumbled, you were there
To help us carry on.
Your laughter filled every room,
Your wisdom shaped our days.
You taught me life, you taught me love,
In so many lasting ways.
Though I can't hold your hand today,
Your lessons still remain.
I carry you in all I am—
Your heart, your name, your pain.
Rest now, Dad, your work is done.
Your love will never end.
You'll always be my hero—
Elvin "Johnny" Rankine,
My father and my friend.*

D.C.
Rankine
FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT