



Donovan Deshawn Gillison

November 5, 1975 - March 21, 2017

Donovan Deshawn Gillison “A man that lives fully is prepared to die at anytime.” Donovan Deshawn Gillison, fondly known as “Bam Bam” and “Don P”, set foot into this world and the hearts of his late parents, John and Janice Gillison, on November 05, 1975.

Donovan was born in Detroit, Michigan then relocated to Clinton, Maryland in 1986 with the Gillison family. He later graduated from Friendly High School in 1993 and enlisted in the United States Army for 6 years. He was a reservist in the 352 Civil Affairs Command and the 450 Civil Affairs Battalion “Airborne”. He was honorably discharged from the Army and subsequently worked for various Defense contractors as a computer specialist and security consultant. Donovan was a natural born soldier who could talk for hours about survival skills, safe fire-arm techniques and tactical weaponry. Teaching and talking about survival skills was his passion...his children were his heart!

Donovan was a man of many talents! He was a poet, talented graphic artist, computer guru, entrepreneur and could create a 5-course meal on a shoe-string budget. Donovan was full of passion for life- nicknamed “Mr. Congeniality” as he always knew how to work a crowd. He lived life out-loud and unapologetically... always standing up for the underdog. Donovan knew God and often remarked on how he was Baptized twice just in case the first time didn't take. His laugh, corny jokes, intense quirky personality and heart of

gold drew people from vast backgrounds to love him as more than a friend. Donovan was a father, friend, a helping hand, a story-teller and most importantly a gift from God to all he loved.

Donovan was a loving, involved, compassionate, empathetic, playful and doting father to his three daughters- Domonique L. McKnight born April 09, 1995; Jada D. Gillison born May 23, 2001 and Orianna R. Gillison born May 26, 2014.

Donovan and Jada Gillison both departed this life on March 21, 2017. Donovan is survived by his wife, Nicole, daughters Domonique McKnight and Orianna Gillison, sons Sean and Corbin Snyder, brothers John U. Gillison II (Laura), John "Perk" Beckman, sister Shalante Davis, grandmother Lonnie Crenshaw, uncle Butch Bell (Cora), nieces Elise Gillison, Talia, JaKai and Ambyuana Beckman, nephews Cortez and Mark Davis and John "Jay" Gillison III along with a host of uncles, aunts, cousins and friends. Donovan was preceded in death by his parents John Ulysses and Janice Marie Gillison and his brother-in-law Mark Davis.

Donovan will be missed; however heaven has gained a new soldier to serve in the army of the Lord.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 31. 10:00 AM (ET)

Groveton Baptist Church
6511 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22306

Tribute Wall

Joanna
Yoder

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Joanna Yoder - April 02, 2017 at 05:13 PM

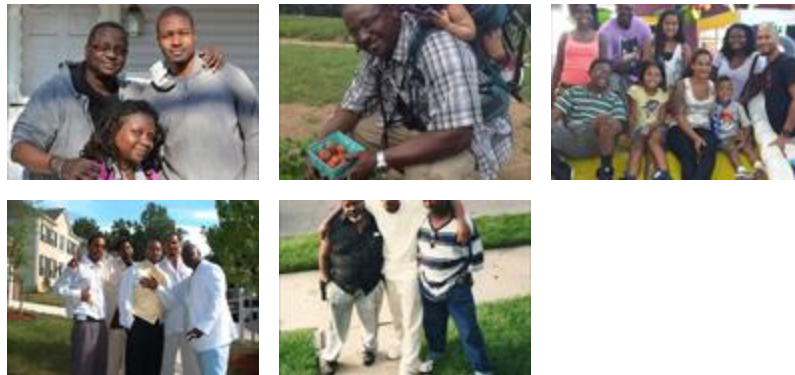
Joanna
Yoder

We love and miss you everyday. You were love....you left traces of love wherever you went...

Joanna Yoder - April 02, 2017 at 08:16 PM

JG

“ 8 files added to the album Missing Donovan



Jasmine Gillison - April 01, 2017 at 10:02 AM

AS

“ *R.I.P this really sucks your gone you and Jada I know you to are in a better place name.Im glad I get know you and call you cousin for the time I got to know you.*

Andree Smith - March 31, 2017 at 04:57 PM

CB

I didn't know them, but sure is sad looking at the pictures, may God be with you two

Carson Bingaman - May 09, 2017 at 01:06 PM

BB

“ *Barry and Keishla Brown purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Donovan Deshawn Gillison.*



Barry and Keishla Brown - March 30, 2017 at 01:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donovan Deshawn Gillison.*



March 29, 2017 at 05:18 PM

PF

“ *Paul/Diane Williams & Family lit a candle in memory of Donovan Deshawn Gillison*



Paul/Diane Williams & Family - March 29, 2017 at 05:11 PM