

Life

REFLECTIONS

CLEVELAND NEAL, JR., affectionately known as "N.O.", embarked on his eternal journey on April 7, 2026, passing away at Baptist Memorial Hospital - GT.

Born into this world on November 23, 1975, in the vibrant city of New Orleans, LA, to his beloved parents, Claudia and Cleveland Neal, Sr., Cleveland's life was a testament to unwavering love, profound dedication, and an indomitable spirit that touched all who knew him.

A proud alumnus of John F. Kennedy, Sr., graduating in 1992, Cleveland carried the discipline and drive of his youth into every endeavor. In 2005, he planted new roots in Columbus, MS, where he cultivated a life rich with purpose and an unyielding passion for creation. N.O. was a renaissance man, a true "jack of all trades" whose hands were as skilled as his mind was keen. He found profound joy in the mastery of diverse crafts, his expertise spanning the complexities of HVAC, the precision of plumbing, the art of construction, the strength of welding, and the intricate workings of automobiles, with a distinct specialization in floor and electrical work. His professional journey saw him contribute invaluable skills to Golden Triangle Waste Company and Ignacio Industrial, before bravely forging his own path, establishing Do-Rite Maintenance, LLC, a testament to his entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to excellence.

Beyond his impressive professional accomplishments, Cleveland embraced life with an infectious enthusiasm. He discovered tranquility and exhilaration in the open waters while fishing and the freedom of the road on his motorcycle. His heart found its truest rhythm in the fellowship of his cherished family and friends, weaving a tapestry of lasting memories filled with

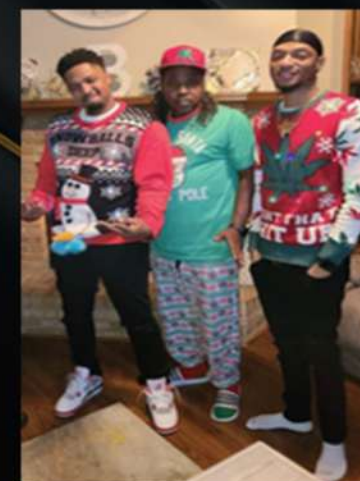
laughter and camaraderie. A beacon of unwavering loyalty, Cleveland's passion for the New Orleans Saints was legendary, his cheers echoing with the spirit of his hometown. He was, at his core, a "momma's boy," a title he wore with honor, finding deep comfort and joy in his special breakfast times shared with his mother.

Cleveland Neal, Jr. will forever be etched in the hearts of those he leaves behind as a profoundly loving father, a devoted son, a steadfast brother, a cherished uncle, and an irreplaceable friend. His generous spirit, his boundless talents, and the pure joy he extracted from the simple, profound moments of life will be profoundly missed by every soul he encountered. His enduring legacy of love, tireless dedication, and the joy he brought to the world will continue to illuminate the lives of his family and friends, a light that time cannot diminish.

He was preceded in death by his father, Cleveland Neal, Sr.

Cleveland leaves to cherish his memories his mother, Claudia Neal of Caledonia, MS; his children, Kaylan Neal and Kaydan "Tay Tay" Neal both of Columbus, MS, and Kito Hill, Jr. of Arlington, TX; his ex-wife, Stacy Redmond Neal; his sister, Carla (Vincent) Neal-Bush of Caledonia, MS; and his nieces and nephews, Jerome McNeil, Jacari Bush, Kelli Blunt-Bush, Kylie Bush, and Taijha Bush and his life partner, Taquila Deloach and a host of other relatives and friends.

BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN



Cleveland Neal, Jr. 1975 - 2026

GONE, FROM OUR SIGHT



ORDER of SERVICE

Saturday, April 18, 2026
11:00 A.M.

SOUTHSIDE M. B. CHURCH
100 Nashville Ferry Road East
Columbus, MS 39702

Sister Johnnie Bush - Mistress of Ceremony

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

OLD TESTAMENT
Pulpit

NEW TESTAMENT
Pulpit

PRAYER OF COMFORT
Pulpit

SELECTION
Bro. Joshua Burton

EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE
Sis. Monica Mitchell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SELECTION
Bro. Eric Green

EULOGY
Pastor Rayfield Evins, Jr.

RECESSIONAL

DEAR DAD

Our lives go on without you
But nothing is the same,
We have to hide our heartaches
When someone speaks your name.
Sad are the hearts that love you
Silent the tears that fall,
Living out hearts without you
Is the hardest part of all.
You did so many things for us
Your heart was kind and true,
And when we needed someone
We could always count on you.
The special years will not return
When we were all together,
But with the love within our hearts
You will walk with us forever.

Love Your Children,
Kaylan, Kayden & Kito

UNCLE MAN

From Jay, Ja, and Tiajha

They called you Uncle Man,
but to us you were family and so much more—
a steady kind of love,
always walking through the door.
You were the coolest in the quietest way,
laid back, with a heart so true,
the kind of uncle you could talk to about anything,
and always feel better when you do.
You gave advice when it was needed,
never judging, always there,
showing up for everybody in your life
with a love that showed how much you cared.
It's still so hard to believe you're gone,
it doesn't feel real at all,
because you've been in our lives forever—
the one we could always call.
Now everything feels a little different,
like something warm has slipped away,
and we're still trying to understand
why you couldn't stay.
But we carry you in every memory,
in every laugh, in every mile,
and we'll still feel you with us, Uncle Man,
in every quiet smile.
From Jay, Ja, and Tiajha, we say thank you—
for your love, your light, your care.
You'll always be with us, always loved,
always everywhere.

Rest Easy, Uncle Man
Love your Nephews & Nieces

MY BROTHER MY FOREVER GUARDIAN

You were my first friend,
my protector, my guide,
the one who stood beside me
through every changing tide.
From childhood laughter
to life's winding road,
you carried my worries
and lightened my load.
You taught me strength
when I felt weak,
and heard my heart
when I couldn't speak.
Though time may take you
from my sight,
it cannot steal
the love we write.
Your voice still echoes
within my soul,
a steady presence
that makes me whole.
We will miss your smile,
your steady hand,
the way you'd always
understand.

But we will carry you
in all we do,
in every step—
I walk with you.

So rest, my brother,
your work is done,
your legacy lives on
in everyone.

And though my heart
will forever ache,
our bond is one
no loss can break.

Love your Sister, Carla
& Brother-In-Law, Vincent



ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Derrick Dabney
Raymond Profit
Alfred Hayes

Tyrone Blevins
Herbert Neal III
Herbert McGee

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Tony O'Neal
Joshua Burton

Lavares Jackson
Sedrick Jackson
Deandre McKinley

FLOWER BEARERS

Family & Friends

INTERMENT

Memorial Gardens
Columbus, MS

REPAST

The Southern Venue
Columbus, MS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We, the family of the late Cleveland Neal, Jr acknowledges with heartfelt appreciation, all the many calls, visits, texts, cards, floral tributes, monetary donations, words of encouragement and every expression of kindness extended to us during this difficult time. Thank you for your continued prayers and support in the days to come.

WE ENTRUSTED OUR LOVED ONE TO:

CARTER'S FUNERAL SERVICES

602 - 14TH STREET NORTH
COLUMBUS, MS 39701
662-327-1855

200 MILLER CHAPEL ROAD
MACON, MS 39341
662-726-5318

WWW.CARTERSFUNERALSERVICES.COM



IN LOVING
Memory

Cleveland
NEAL, JR.

November 23, 1975 - April 7, 2026