



Darryl Deaton

February 18, 1963 - September 5, 2020

Darryl Maurice Deaton, was born February 18, 1963, to the late Bronté Thomas Deaton and Ralph Junior Deaton, and departed this life on September 5, 2020. He was the next to the youngest child out of five children. Darryl's mother passed away when he was five years old, but through God's grace and Ralph's charm, Thelma became the matriarch of the "Deaton Bunch", Donzelle, Vernon, Roxanne, Terra, Ralphie, Darryl and Marlon. There was never a dull moment in the household.

Darryl was known for having many nicknames. He started out with a shared nickname of "Rough and Ready" with his youngest brother, Marlon, which was given to them by their uncle, William Wallace. The nickname was interchangeable since they were both "Rough" and stayed "Ready" for some mischief. Darryl later became known as "Cleats" from playing high school baseball. He may have been known to the community as "Cleats", but to his immediate family his nickname was "Perry Mason", given to him by his dad. When the family wanted to know the word on the street, "Perry Mason" knew or he would find out.

Darryl loved sports and played Little League Baseball, Little League Football, Pony League Baseball and Church League Basketball. In high school he lettered in football, basketball and baseball. Cleats was not only a varsity

letterman, but excelled in music. He played practically all the brass instruments, starting with the coronet and later playing the tuba. He represented Kent County High School in the All State Choir, held in Baltimore, Maryland, and was in the All Shore Band. Cleats was always being the “Ambassador” of good will and friendship. He hosted a student from one of the lower shore counties during the All Shore Band. Cleats served as a class president, with his friend and classmate, John Larrimore, as vice president three out of four years of high school. He represented Kent County at Boys State and received the Elmer T. Hawkins Scholarship Award at his graduation.

Upon his graduation from high school, Cleats attended Chesapeake College for a year, playing basketball while there.

Cleats had a brief stint in the United States Navy. His duty stations included: Meridian, Mississippi and Norfolk, Virginia.

Cleats held a variety of jobs over the years, Conagra in Queenstown and Dining Services at Washington College. After attending Culinary Art School in Baltimore, Maryland, he served as a cook at the Harbor House and at Waterman’s. Things began to change in his life when he began working at Kent Youth. Cleats retired from the State of Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. Cleats coached junior varsity basketball at Kent County High School for almost 10 years.

Cleats had been a member of Janes United Methodist Church since childhood. He was a member of the Sunday School and choir, the JWW Singers (Youth choir) and Janes Men’s Choir. Cleats’ love for singing was shared with others who often requested him to sing at various events in the community. One of his last trecks was to see that “Lady W” was transported to and from the train station in Wilmington, Delaware, as she made her trips

back to the south.

Cleats leaves to cherish his memory, his father, Ralph; sons, Darius Harris and Jaden Wilson; sisters, Roxanne and Terra; brother, Marlon; aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, godmother, godchildren and a multitude of good friends.

Darryl Maurice "Cleats" Deaton, lived his life being a coach, mentor, family historian and friend.

Tribute Wall

AN

“ Rest easy Uncle Cleats man I can remember you saying how you had heard about my track and field accomplishments all the way down Kent County and how proud you was of me! Til we meet again SIP

Ahmad Needam - September 19, 2020 at 09:06 AM

AN

“ MEMORIES OF TRUE FRIEND Bro I\u2019m lost for words right now but God will give me the strength! I remember us growing up in Washington Park and you would come down the bottom and I could hear that raspy voice saying Adrian Needam man what you doing or you asking man what we gonna do today? Then we would play basketball on my court, or playing football, or baseball in the field behind my house ! But most of all I remember all the good times we shared joy riding in my 71 Ford Torino whether if it was going to Big Woods to pickup Patricia Hackett and Dora Shorter ! We also shared some chill moments joy riding with another hometown bro Michael \u201csix\u201d Gilbert to Graysonville and Delaware to parties ! THE BEST MEMORIES OF YOU MY DUDE WAS YOUR TRUE DEDICATION TO WHTEVER YOU DID : EXAMPLES 1. COACHING, SINGING , COOKING YOU WERE TRUE WARRIOR ! THAT OLD SPIRITUAL SONG BY THE REVERAND PAUL JONES IS FITTING FOR THIS MOMENT: I WON\u2019T COMPLAIN! WE ALL KNEW THAT YOUR GOOD DAYS OUTWEIGHED YOUR BAD DAYS AND SOME DAYS YOU MANY HILLS TO CLIMB ! BUT YOU NEVER COMPLAINED! REST EASY BRO! UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN ! LOVE ADRIAN & PATRICIA NEEDAM

Adrian Needam - September 18, 2020 at 01:56 PM

NI

“ Coach Cleats, We still Haven\u2019t Come to grips your Love your strength , and leadership will forever be a part of your Legacy , that we will Cherish Forever. Thanks for be doing Loyal, and Forever Having my back: I will miss you! Take your Rest... #WOLFPACK FOREVER

Nikita - September 17, 2020 at 04:12 PM

WR

“ If was a long time ago at Con Agra you on the peelers no matter what you always had a smile on his face.

William Roy - September 16, 2020 at 02:52 PM

JW

“ Darryl Cleats Deaton was a friend and coworker. No matter when or where you saw Cleats he was the same person each and every time. He will be missed by all that knew him! My deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to his family! Sending prayers of comfort to all of you in this time of sorrow.

Jeanie Wilson - September 13, 2020 at 04:48 PM

PC

“ I first met Darryl almost 30 years ago when we were both working in the dining hall at Washington College. I quickly became aware of his ability to express his concerns in a logical manner and asked him to assist with the preparation of an Employee Manual. His understanding of the work environment and the needs of his fellow employees were vital to the success of this project. One day just before the Christmas break I heard someone singing my favorite carol, "O Holy Night". When I came out of my office I realized it was Darryl. Over the years I have seen Darryl on several occasions helping his church with fish dinners & working at Kent Youth. His volunteerism will be greatly missed by those he served. May he rest in peace. Pat Clarke

Pat Clarke - September 12, 2020 at 03:43 PM

HS

“ Mr Ralph & family, Darryl was a special friend and will be missed by us all. We spent countless days on ball fields and in school together and I have nothing but great memories of Darryl. He was a true friend, mentor and coach to so many over the years that I am confident his legacy will live on forever! My thoughts and condolences are with you all. RIP my friend-- until we meet again! Hank Starkey

Hank Starkey - September 10, 2020 at 04:08 PM

LJ

“ To Mr. Ralph Deaton and Family: The pain of separation from those we care about and love can be difficult. That separation seems unthinkable. We mourn. We weep.. We have Hope, because we will be united with our Lord, and loved ones again. What A Reunion! "AT DEATH, GOD'S PEOPLE DON'T SAY "GOODBYE, " BUT "WE'LL SEE YOU LATER. ""If GOD Brings You To It, He Will Bring You Through It! " (Philippians 4 : 13) I Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengtheneth Me! Blessings, Lorraine Jenkins and Family

Lorraine Jenkins - September 08, 2020 at 08:23 PM

RK

“ Dear Ralph and Family Only God can heal the grief you are feeling. Only God can assure you that your loved one is at peace. Only God can help each of you through this. Praying that you will be able to lean on God. With God All Things Are Possible! (Matthew 19 : 26) Darryl has touched the lives of so many people through his kindness and Singing. He will be missed by everyone. Always Cherish The Fond Memories Of Your Loved One. With Prayers and Friendship, Ruth King and Family

Ruth King - September 08, 2020 at 04:53 PM