



## Deon Wilbert

September 16, 1973 - November 11, 2007

Family Hour will be held at 10:00 a.m. with the funeral service commencing at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 20, 2007 at Greater Coleman Temple C.O.G.I.C., 2405 Bay Road. Elder H. J. Coleman, Jr. will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Friends may call on Monday from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m. at the Browne's Mortuary, 441 N. Jefferson Avenue. Mr. Deon Micheal Wilbert passed away suddenly on Monday, November 12, 2007 at the age of 34 years. He was born September 16, 1973 in Saginaw, MI to Thomas Russell and Linda Gayle Wilbert. Mr. Wilbert attended Greater Coleman Temple Church of God In Christ and was active in the Men's Department and was part of the security team. He attended Delta College and was a Fellow in the Willie E. Thompson Fellowship Program. Mr. Wilbert had a big heart for youth. He leaves to celebrate his life, his father, Thomas Russell, Nashville, TN; grandmother, Katherine Russell, Memphis, TN; four brothers, Damon Wilbert, Jimmy Bentley, Jr., Courtney Russell all of Saginaw, MI, and Terry Hill, Kalamazoo, MI; five sisters, Shontella Russell, Tamara (Albert) Anderson, Grand Rapids, MI, Docshea Johnson, Nashville, TN, Missy (Tim) McCarty, Lansing, MI and Diamond Russell, Saginaw, MI; many aunts including special aunt, Jean Willis; uncles, cousins, including two special cousins, Ta-Tasha Willis-Thomas and Kjuanna Ray; nieces, special nephews and friends. Mr. Wilbert was preceded in death by his mother; a brother and three grandparents.



# Tribute Wall

TG

“ Deon's quiet nature is the first thing that comes to my mind when I think of him and all that has transpired. Through all that he endured in life, he had an aura of peace and love and I admired him for that. Not to mention his commitment to school. I think that Deon was at school more than I was. Whenever I would walk into the computer lab at the Delta Ricker Center I was guaranteed to see Deon and Lil'Rick on the computer doing a paper or some last minute work for which of course they would always ask for some help, and of course, I would charge them a slight snack fee (smile). My whole point is this- allow all of the things that you know to be true about him fill your hearts with peace and you will receive true contentment. Deon was a soldier; he was doing things that most men out here aren't doing(he was pressing through)he was going to school,serving God, and he was active in the church. That alone is an awesome example that should be patterned after. Tasha, I know how close the two of you were and that through his years of storms and battles you and Jean were faithful to him. Just continue to press through this hard time with prayer and embrace Deon's memories. And to the rest of the family, my prayers are with you as well.

*Isaiah 26:3-4 Be Blessed!*

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**Tiffany Goodman** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ My heart and Prayers go out to the family. It saddens me to have learned of this tragedy. Deon had a wonderful personality and he was fun to be around. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten. May God Bless you all.

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**Nichole Holmes** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Deon,  
We will truly miss you. You were like a brother to us. I will miss you playing with the boys..everytime I say my kids - I can hear you correcting me saying no - 'children'. We may never understand or be able to accept what happened - but you know we loved you, it will always be a empty place in our hearts. You know it is just hard. My nigga for life "Gutta Boyz". As i sit here thinking i cant believe your really gone. The shock aint hit me yet what am i gonna do i try not to cry but its so hard not to . i have so many unanswered questions with no response - I keep asking myself - 'Why Dee...why?

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**Cecilia "Rainy" Webb** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ We were very sadden when we heard of the news of Deon passing away, just last week he was up in GR visiting. Our prayers and thoughts are with the entire family durng this very difficult time in your life. Just remember To be absent from the body is To be in the Present of God. May God Bless and Comfort you.

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**Chris & Dee-Dee (Youngblood) Weems** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Deon was a very good friend. He would give you the shirt off of his back if you needed it. My heart and prayers go out to the Wilbert Family. He will be dearly missed.

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**John Shabazz** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ *I will always miss you Unc. I will treasure the times we spent together. There will be a hole in my heart,that no one can fill. I know you are with God now. Rest in peace Unc.*

*Love*

*Lil' Bryant and my mom Rachel*

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**Rachel and Fat Boy** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Deon,

*There is going to be a empty spot in our hearts, we cared dearly for you. Our children - boyee did they love 'Dee'. I can still see all 3 of yall down on the ground wrestling and doing karate. I cry every time I look at Tank...I tell him to strike his pose that you taught him & attack. Tank go miss you Dee, both him and Cam. They will never forget you, I'll never let them forget you. You were basically Tank's god father...you were there helping Nark many of days care for him when he was just an arm baby. Deon we truly miss you, everyday is hard to really believe that you are gone...to know that you will not be coming across the hall - telling us about your next busines agenda or good sale that you caught (smile). Who am I gonnna call when Nark piss me off -- you know you were my venting partner...and of course you would always make me see things differently. You never know how much you miss someone until they are gone. You were a friend to me and I know you loved my boys. You were a friend to Nark - it wasn't nothing that neither of you wouldn't do for the other...like you always told me..That was ya nigga...thick & thin. It gonna be had to see Nark everyday and his side kick not with him. It use to get on my nerves how much yall use to be together...I'll give anything to see that image again. Dee we miss you and I know that you know that we loved you. Love over us Dee - I already know that you are - you will always be there in spirit. Love, peace & happiness...Dee*

*Love always, your friend...."Rainy & Nark"... "Tank & Cam"*

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**Rainy & The boys** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

OW

“ Deon you will be missed but never forgotten. You were one out of few that were pure and genuine when it came to being a friend. I just would like to say thank you for all you have done and all that you have shared with me and for me. May you rest and peace until we meet again. Also to the Wilbert family my prayers are with you. God Bless you all.

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**Oneka West** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ TOO THE WIBERT FAMILY, YOU HAVE MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND PRAYER. MAY GOD GIVE YOU STRENGTH TO CARELY ON. CARRIE MAE AND EVA MAE AND FAMILY. FROM THE FAMILY OF ALICE FAYE HUNT AND DONALD AND DERRICK MASON.

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**ALICE FAYE HUNT** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ I hope God be with your family in your time of sorrow. God Bless all of you.

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**Trishuan Bivens** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ To the family of Deon,

*My thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time..Deon was a very special young man. I will always remember you. You taught me not to ever "try" to do something but "put forth and effort"! Deon you will never be forgotten..Much Love Always..Trice*

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**Latrice Dozier** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ TO THE FAMILY OF DEON: I'M SADDEN FOR THE LOST OF YOUR LOVED ONE AND I WILL CONTINUE TO LIFT YOU GUYS UP IN PRAYER. DEON AND I WAS SCHOOL BUDDIES AND I WILL MISS HIM DEARLY. REMEMBER- TO BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY IS TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD.

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**CELEASHA WILSON** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ Deon, me and the kids going to miss u so much. Muff definitely going to miss seeing you at the store. We had alot of childhood memories. Deon would never let nobody mess with me and Rachel, unless it was him then it was ok. I can remember all our old civitan days. When I got the news I couldn't believe it and even though it's true I still can't believe it. Some things happen for reasons and we never know why. But what I do know that you was very special to everybody you came across. Every child life you entered you made them happy. Fatboy, I know it's going to be along journey for you, but just follow your dreams and everything going to be alright. When you think about doing certain things, think about what Deon would say to you. I know how it is to lose someone close to you. May GOd Bless you and your entire family.....

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**arleen long** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

VS

“ DEON WAS A TRUE MAN OF INTEGRITY HE STOOD FOR WHAT WAS RIGHT HE UPLIFTED WEARY SOUULS ,HE CARED ABOUT & LOVED CHILDERN, BUT MOST IF ALL HE DELIVERD A MESSAGE TO EVERY ONE HE CAME IN CONTACT WITH THERE HE WAS NEEDLESS TO SAY HE WAS A MAN OF GOD...IM GONNA MISS YOU BRO....I KNOW THERS ROOM FOR YOU IN HEAVEN....VALENA P.& JOJUANNIS C.

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**Valena "Palmore" Shepard** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

VA

“ Deon will be missed dearly by all of those who knew and loved him if you knew him you'd know that he was full of life, a true warrior, a soldier of righteousness, he always gave words of encouragement, faith, & hope. He was truly a man of integrity with much knowledge and he gave others hope. I WILL ALWAYS LOVE & MISS YOU BRO YA SIS..... VALENA PALMORE

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**Valena** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

VJ

“ GOD KNOWS THE APPOINTED TIME OF OUR BIRTH AND OUR DEATH AND WE ALL KNOW THAT WE LIVE AND MUST DIE BUT DEATH IS SUCH A HARD THING TO FATHOM ESPECIALLY WHEN IT HAPPENS TO SOMEONE SO YOUNG. FAMILY LEAN ON JESUS FOR HE WILL SEE US ALL THROUGH, PRAY GOOD PRAYERS FOR THOSE INVOLVED AND WATCH THE POWER OF GOD AND OUR PRAYER WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THE LOST OF OUR LOVED ONE FAMILY I LOVE YOU ALL AND WILL SEE YOU SOON.

REST MY COUSIN FOR WE SHALL MEET AGAIN.

LOVE VICKI

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**VICKI L. JEFFRIES** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ My heart goes out to the family. May God bless all of you in your time of need.

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**Tanya Wingard** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Deon was a sweet and very deep,individual, there will never be another,to replace him or do the special things he did for everyone he loved,he was a angel in disguise.....DEON!!! You will be truly be missed. much love Jojuaniis and Valena.

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**Jojuaniis Carson** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CY

“ My prayers are with you and your family. My God bless and comfort you during this time...

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**Christine (Dunn) Young** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ DEON, YOU WERE A VERY SPECIAL IN MY LIFE AND MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS LIFE. YOU WERE SUCH A NICE PERSON WHENEVER ANYBODY NEEDED ANYTHING YOU WERE THERE,WHEN ANYBODY NEEDED SOMEONE TO TALK TO YOU WERE THERE. I WILL ALWAYS LOVE AND MISS YOU,AND IM SO SAD AND HURT. YOU HAVE VERY MANY PEOPLE THAT YOU LEFT BEHIND THAT WILL ALWAYS LOVE AND MISS YOU. JUST KNOW THAT YOU TOUCHED ALOT OF PEOPLE LIVES! YOU WERE A FRIEND INDEED. AND I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU. LOVE ALWAYS KIA!

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**KIA FRIERSON** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ I just wanted to express my sympathy for the Wilbert family. Deon will truly be missed because he was a very nice young man who said positive things whenever he talked to you. May God bless the family in your time of loss.

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**Tori Shipman** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ LIFE IS HARD SOMETIMES,MAN ITS HARD!!!AND SO UFAIR!  
SORRY DEON.GOD BLESS AND KEEP US ALL.....

DARRELL (GRUNT) SHERLEY - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ DEON I LOVE YOU SO MUCH. I MISS YOUR FACE

Sabrina Hines - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

EV

“ Deon was a caring man. He had a good heart and will do anything  
he could to help you in any situation. To the family you would be in  
my prayers. God is a good God and he do things for a reason.

Ebony Virgies - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ YOU WERE THE WIND BENEATH A LOT OF WINGS. GOD LENT  
YOU TO ALL OF US. YOU ALOT OF US REASON TO GO ON TO  
BE A BETTER PERSON. DE YOU WERE VERY WISE FOR YOUR  
AGE. YOU HAD THE GIFT OF TRUE LIFE. YOU KNEW  
TOMORROW WAS NEVER PROMISED LIVE FOR TODAY. WE  
HAD SOME VERY GOOD DICUSSION ON LIFE TO GO ON  
LIVING AND LET THE REST CATCH UP. YES IT HURTS,BUT I  
KNOW WE ARE ALL JUST PASSING TROUGH, THIS WORLD IS  
NOT OUR HOME. I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU FOR YOU. YOU  
MADE IT. I'M STILL WORKING ON MY BUILDING. FAMILY DE  
LEFT A MIGHT LARGE FOOTPRINT TO WORK ON WE CAN DO  
IT IF WE ALL PULL TOGETHER AS ONE LOVE ONE ANOTHER  
AS WE WANTS TO BE LOVED AND SAY IT. LOVE CONQUERS  
ALL. GOD IS LOVE GET IT TOGETHER. LOVE MITTIE.

MITTIE RUSSELL & FAMILY - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ Not only when the wind blows or the blades of grass holds the morning dew, the sun rise and set,will remind me of life with you,In your death I've lost nothing but gained many things,because even though your shell is gone,your heart still remains.Your life is a testament of things told yet untold who whould have thought, that your story would go on, so in the things I gained I will hold TRUE and DEAR.I do KNOW MY ROLE, so I will live my role just as if you were here. I LOVE YOU.....

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**Tamara L. Anderson** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ When I was told about Deon my heart sunk (man Deon we do go way back, and I have alot of fond memories, of you and the crew, you will be MISSED but NEVER forgotten, I treasure our last conversation we had when I was home visiting after all these years you were still the kind hearted thoughtful person that you were when we were kids. May you REST IN PEACE. To the Wilbert and Russell Family Always remember to put GOD first and continue to HOLD on to GOD's unchanging hands,and he will walk with you though this difficult time.

*Tamika Wicker*

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**Tamika Wicker** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

OG

“ Just want to say that my heart sank when I heard the news and it continues to mourn. You were my boy. You always will be. You will forever be missed and never ever forgotten.

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**Oscar & Angelica Garcia** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ TO THE ENTIRE FAMILY, I WAS DEVASTED TO HEAR WE HAD LOSS DEON. THAT WAS MY BOY AND I'LL NEVER FORGET HIM. I CAN TELL YOU IT IS NOT EASY, TRY TO REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES, AND REMEMBER DEON WOULD WANT US ALL TO CONTINUE SMILING AND TRY TO BE HAPPY. I JUST LOST MY BROTHER SO I KNOW ITS GOING TO BE A HARD ROAD AHEAD. PRAY FOR STRENGTH...YOU ALL ARE IN MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS....SINCERELY

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**TANYA BRACKEN TAYLOR** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ It seems just like yesterday that I was talking to Deon laughing and joking about life. Those are conversations that will last a lifetime. He was such a protector, if I was to go out he would give me and our cousin Kujuanna this look, like I have my eye on you. He would walk us to the car, no matter what the weather was like-he was so caring. The years I was able to be around Deon and get to know him better, are memories that will last lifetime. It is really hard for me to deal with me not having Deon in my/our life anymore but like my 4-year old daughter says "Deon is going to be in my heart forever". He is truly missed already and it has only been a week. For all the family and close friends, this is a time to unite as a family and remember and share all the memories that Deon gave to us. One thing he did pass on to me, end the conversations, the right way-Always let the ones you love, know that they are loved.

Love Ya

Lisa

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**Patricia Broady** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ My heart and prayers goes out to you and your family in your time of sorrow. Words cant really express the way your feeling in your time of grief. Deon will truly be missed. He was a good spirit person and always smiled when he walked into my office. May God bless you and keep you in his everlasting arms. PLPD,INC

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**Tanya Howard** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

VS

“ Frist I would like to say I am so sadden by this, but we all must surrender our needs to our heavenly father. My prayer go's out to the family and close friends. As we all know Deon was a dear humble young man who had deep care for children. I know there were times that we had very, very deep conversation, I remember times you would call and tell me your bored and I would tell you come sit on the porch @6:00 a.m. in the morning and kick it about life and know you have reach the end of the tunnel. I am really not believing this has happen but its true. Know I have to stay strong for T'era and Antjuane(Man-Man) because they are wondering where is Mr. Deon, they wonder who is gonna chase them from the store and you know man-man was gonna protect his sister so you did certian thing for him to react. I know the things you talk to Daniel would last a life time with him, I am sure his ambition has excelled to the highest. I gonna miss you telling me that I am a good mother. I am happy that you were about to touch apart of me and my children's life and this is a promise to you, I would never call a "child" a "kid" every again. I am ending this tribute but never the memories.

Love, Velvet and family  
the street side of me would say Peace "My Nigga Dyun"

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**Velvet Stuckey** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ I cannot remember how I met Deon, but I was excited when I saw him again at an event at church. I was excited when he joined Greater Coleman Temple and begin to work in the ministry! What a blessing! I will miss him greatly. Whenever and wherever he saw me, he made sure he'd come over and speak, we'd laugh about something, he would tell me to take care of myself and that he loved me. One of my fondest, memories we were talking at the Hess st. store about his classes and life, I made a comment about my kids...out of the blue, he asked me if I was a goat or something???? :)! I looked confused, he said, "those are children...not kids."

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**Janice Reason** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the Wilbert and Russell family, Deon will be truly missed.

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**Tanual K. Gaskew** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ Our Hearts and Prayers go out to the Wilbert family that God will bring you peace in this lonely time. The hardest part is giving back what our Great GOD has given us. We are so sorry for your hurt and pain. God Bless!

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**Mr & Mrs James Wilson jr** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ The McKandes family is praying for the Wilbert family thru this difficult time.

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**Melvin McKandes Jr.** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Deon & I met as members of Coleman Temple. It was a blessing to watch Deon's growth in church & his willingness to serve. Deon was a man who was concerned about others.

*My fondest memory is about a conversation we had. Sunday mornings I'm usually walking in over drive around the church. One day Deon said to me "You need to slow down." He reminded me that I needed to take care of myself. From that point forward whenever I saw Deon I took time to stop & check in with him.*

*Sunday as he was leaving the sanctuary Deon gave me his usual smile. I'll miss his smile and presence at church.*

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**Jennifer L. Moore** - November 11, 2007 at 12:00 AM