

### **ORDER OF SERVICE**

Christ Anglican Church Devonshire 106 Middle Road, Devonshire DV-06 Thursday, February 6, 2025 | 11:00am

OFFICIATING │ Rev. Wendell Dill

LIVESTREAM | www.twitch.com/mackslivebda

Processional	Clergy & Family
Prayer	Rev. Wendell Dill
Opening Song   "My Life is in Your Hands"	Congregation
Words of Comfort	Rev. Wendell Dill
Scripture Reading Thessalonians 4:13-18 Isaiah 41:10	
Solo   "Still I Rise"	Cindy Smith
Friends of Jawonday   Cedarbridge Academy   Raleigh Bermuda Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute   Department of Planning Wolves & Devonshire Cougars Community Clubs  Musical Tribute	
Reading of the Obituary	Vernita Hollis, FRIEND OF THE FAMILY
Solo   "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" Jesse Seymour, COUGARS TEAM MATE	
Eulogy	
Closing Song   "I Smile" Congregation	
Recessional	



### MY LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS



You don't have to worry and don't you be afraid Joy comes in the morning, troubles, they don't last always For there's a friend in Jesus, who will wipe your tears away And if your heart is broken, just lift your hands and say Oh, I know that I can make it I know that I can stand No matter what may come my way My life is in your hands

### Repeat From Beginning

With Jesus, I can take it With Him, I know I can stand No matter what may come my way My life is in your hands



So when the tests and trials
May seem to get you down
And all your friends and loved ones
Are nowhere to be found
Remember, there's friend in Jesus
Who will wipe your tears away
And if your heart is broken
Just lift your hands and say

Refrain (x 3)
Oh, I know that I can make it

I know that I can stand
No matter what may come my way
My life is in your hands
With Jesus, I can take it
With Him, I know I can stand
No matter what may come my way
My life is in your hands

My life is in your hands (x 3)

### **I SMILE**

Today's a new day, but there is no sunshine
Nothing but clouds, and it's dark in my heart
And it feels like a cold night
Today's a new day, where are my blue skies
Where is the love and the joy that you promised me
Tell me it's alright
I almost gave up, but a power that I can't explain
Fell from heaven like a shower

I smile, even though I hurt see I smile
I know God is working so I smile
Even though I've been here for a while
I smile, smile
It's so hard to look up when you been down
Sure would hate to see you give up now
You look so much better when you smile, so smile

### Repeat From Beginning

Smile for me
Can you just smile for me
Smile for me
Can you just smile for me
Oh oh oh you look so much better when you (x 7)

You look so much better when you smile, come on I almost gave up, but a power that I can't explain Fell from heaven like a shower now

I smile, even though I hurt see I smile
I know God is working so I smile
Even though I've been here for a while
I smile, smile
It's so hard to look up when you been down
Sure would hate to see you give up now
You look so much better when you smile, so smile
Oh oh oh you look so much better when you (x 7)

### Smile

See I just want don't you to be happy 'Cause then you have to have something you haven't been
I want you to have joy 'cause can't nobody
Take that away from you
I see you smile

# JAWONDEN Joshun Eugening ShillFF.





JAWONDAY JOSHUN EUGENIUS SMITH was the first born son to Shawn and Janell Smith on May 16th, 1994. He was the younger brother to Janaesha, older brother to Jaseehim, and uncle to Zarai.

As a baby, Jawonday attended Aunt May's nursery. He later moved on to Full Armour Christian Academy Nursery, and finished his preschool years at Kidd's College. Jawonday began his schooling in the Bermuda Public Education System at Elliot Primary. There he excelled before moving on to Whitney Middle School and then Cedarbridge Academy. He furthered his education at the Bermuda College, where he obtained his Associate of Science degree. Over the years, Jawonday became the recipient of several scholarships. He received the Bermuda Union of Teacher's Tertiary Scholarship, one of the Belco STEM Awards, the C. Eugene Cox Post Graduate Environmental Studies and Sustainability Scholarship, and the Bermuda Government Further Education Award. All of these awards helped towards furthering his education. He acquired his Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science at the University of West England in Bristol, and he achieved his Master's in Science Engineering at the University of Leeds.

Jawonday loved to play football. He started at the age of seven years old representing Devonshire Cougars. He adopted the nickname 'Snake' from his daddy, who was his first coach. Sometimes this was frustrating for Jawonday because after games the lecture, and what was meant to be "constructive criticism" would start at the field and continue on once they got home. Jawonday felt that all the other players did not get the daddy version of the coach once they left the game. His mom, Janell, would often come to his defence and tell his dad, Shawn, that the game was over. Jawonday displayed self-discipline and good character both on and off the field at a very young age. He was Captain of various age groups, but his crowning moment as Captain was when Cougars won the PDL Trophy at National Stadium. He was also part of the Cougars team that won the Premier Division Triple Crown (Friendship, League and FA Cup) in the 2012/2013 season.

Jawonday represented Elliott Primary's football team in his last year of primary school. He was reluctant to play for the school because they trained on Wolves' training ground and he didn't want to be disloyal to his Cougar's team. He was also a part of Cedarbridge Academy's football team, Bermuda College's football team and the Bermuda Futsal team that represented Bermuda in one of the World Futsal Championships. He was credited as being one of the people who started the indoor kick in Bermuda College's gym, which became popular for both participants and spectators alike. If anyone knew Jawonday they would know he was a passionate and proud Manchester City fan. During his time spent in England he attended many games and became a Manchester City club member, allowing him to get game tickets at a reduced price. He was fortunate enough to witness three (3) title winning games with his Aunt Shawnette and cousins Milaun and Milai.

Jawonday returned to Bermuda with the intention of playing football in honour of one of his former coaches, Mr. Errol Rhoda. He joined the Wolves football team as a late transfer in November 2024.

Jawonday's passion for the environment became apparent when he joined Raleigh Bermuda. It did not faze him one bit when he could not walk across his graduation stage because he had to travel for the Costa Rica/ Nicaragua expedition that day. When he returned to Bermuda he was excited to share his stories of learning and helping people who were less fortunate than he was. He also reminisced about trekking through mountains and jungles, and being able to see and appreciate the natural beauties of this world. His parents noticed how much Jawonday was in his element and believed that this was the catalyst that prompted his passion for wanting to be a part of improving the environment. They recall that Jawonday would sleep on the living room floor with his foam mat, and refused to cut his hair and shower because he did not want to waste water. His parents had to assure him that the people in Costa Rica and Nicaragua lived this way because they had to, but this was not the case for him and insisted that he shower daily. He loved the trip so much that he expressed that he wanted to experience the Malaysia expedition. In true Jawonday fashion, he fundraised and did what he had to do to travel with Raleigh to Malaysia. This was the trip that gave him focus and assured him that he wanted to pursue an education in Environmental Science. Ironically, on this Borneo expedition he met a few friends who ended up attending the University of West England, and became his roommates when he moved off campus. Ben, Ify and Sadie were three of those friends. Throughout the years Jawonday continued assisting Raleigh as a volunteer and mentor to the younger alumni.

Jawonday was driven to help the environment. He started the 'Get it Green' YouTube channel that focused on environmental issues in Bermuda. It was his hope to use this platform to help educate fellow Bermudians on the sustainability of our small island. Through 'Get it Green', Jawonday, along with a few close friends and volunteers, documented clean-ups in different areas around the island. He also created a documentary on cleaning water tanks and other topics relative to 'getting it green' in Bermuda. He dedicated his Saturday mornings to traveling to the desired locations to clean up and spread awareness on the importance of taking care of the environment. He received support from the KBB, volunteers and anyone who was willing to donate their time, trash bags, water, gloves etc. He chose to be the change he wanted to see in this world.

Jawonday's first job was with his daddy doing plumbing. It was at that time he expressed an interest in water preservation. Later, he worked briefly for Stevedoring Services, Scoops Ice Cream, BUEI, and as an intern for Belco. Jawonday was employed by the Bermuda Government Department of Planning as a researcher until his untimely passing. Jawonday volunteered for several organizations including the Annual Children's Nature Walk where he guided children through Spittal Pond and explained the various aspects of the ecological system, and KBB's Island and Beach Clean-ups. Some of his leadership achievements included the Bermuda College Russel B. Richardson In House Award, The Power of One (Bascome Enterprises), MVP CP Atience (Futsal Team), MVP - Bermuda Futsal League, Devonshire Cougars Football Captain U16 and PDL Division.

Jawonday started his romantic journey with Asanté Chapman in 2018. They had known each other their entire lives, but little did Jawonday know when he

messaged Asanté, that she'd had the biggest crush on him for years and was just happy that THE Jawonday was talking to her. Shortly after their relationship became official, they were both set to attend university in the UK—Jawonday in Bristol and Asanté in Hertfordshire. Although they were hours apart from each other, they managed to maintain a solid relationship. They quickly created a bond that would last a lifetime.

Asanté reminisced about the personalised cycle scavenger hunt around the island that Jawonday created for her in December. He was a creative romantic who would stop at nothing to bring joy to Asanté's day. Most days spent together would consist of Jawonday serenading her from the many vibrant songs in his playlist. When he couldn't be there physically, he would send surprise gifts, takeout food or flowers to her door, always with a quirky message attached. Jawonday often said that he wanted to marry Asanté, and that probably would have been the next step in their journey together.

At the young age of 30, Jawonday was already an avid traveller. He had visited Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Malaysia, and Tenerife in the Canary Islands, Faro Portugal, Scotland and many places throughout England. His last excursion was to Egypt for his 30th birthday in 2024. One of Jawonday's favourite trips was the vacation to Gloucester with Asanté to see the famous cheese race down the steepest hill you've ever seen. He had planned on visiting La Tomatina in Spain.

Janaesha recalls that Jawonday loved to go fishing off the docks with his Nana. They would compete to see who would catch the biggest fish. It was no surprise that Jawonday refused to keep the fish and always wanted to throw them back overboard. Jawonday was a protector of all animals. He was even reluctant to kill flies, bugs or frogs. You name it, he tried to save it. If an insect got in the house, they had to be caught and released outside.

Jawonday had a competitive nature and this meant losing was not an option. He believed there was only one winner, and everyone else was losers—no participation ribbons necessary!

Jaseehim says, "It's so crazy that the last time I played football with him was an UT7 Tournament. I wanted to make him proud so bad, but I was having a stinker the whole time. I was so disappointed because I knew I could do better, and he knew I could do better. I got

so mad at him that day, I left him at the field and just drove off and didn't say 'bye' or anything. When he got home he gave me two pepperoni slices from Pizza House and just said, "We cool?" and we just laughed it off. Now all I can think of is that we took so much for granted. I'm gonna miss him and our talks."

Wonday loved to learn. He loved gaining knowledge about new things on any random subject. He was always on Google. Out of the many nicknames, his girlfriend often called him 'Google Man', because if he was ever unsure of something or if he needed to prove a point that he was right, he would whip out his phone in a second and ask Google. And knowing Wonday, most of the time he was right.

His future ambitions were to: travel back to England to further his education by obtaining a second Master's Degree in Environmental Science, start his career journey as a football coach, and pursue a stable foundation to start a life with Asanté. He also had an interest in purchasing property in the UK for affordable housing rentals for students. Jawonday's passion for his Island home led him to consider running as an Independent political candidate in the future. He was on a mission, driven by ambition, to be a happy successful black man.

We could share so much more about Jawonday, but in closing we will share that one of his hidden talents was that he was an unpublished writer—of poetry, children's stories and also a novel. An excerpt from his novel reads: Accepting life/death. Don't try to change your story. Live life. Jawonday Smith

### Jawonday leaves to cherish his memory:

Parents: Shawn and Janell Smith.

Siblings: Janaesha (Zawadi) Place, sister, and

Jaseehim Smith, brother.

Niece: Zarai Place.

**Girlfriend**: Asanté Chapman.

**Grandparents**: Rosemarie West, Eugenius 'Eugene'

Richardson (Charlotte).

Uncles: Rudolph West, Anthony (Alisa) West, and Devaughn West.

**Aunts**: Shawnette (Terry) Perott, Sharon (Tom) Procida, and Betty-Jean 'Babes' Edwards.

Great-Aunts: Emily (late Cal) Deshields, Kay Burrows, Lucille (Eugene) Ming, Yvonne (George) Ross, Madeline (late Lionel) Richardson, Francis (Ted) Breary, Linda (Richard) Devaughn, Judith (late Howard) Tucker, Jeanette (late Randall) Davis, Valerie (Vernon) Dill, Carol Simmons, Eleanor (Osdel) Cyrus, and Thelma (Hylton) McGhee.

**Great-Uncles**: Wilfred (Larilyn) Outerbridge, Eugene Outerbridge, Dennis (Lisa) Outerbridge, Carlton (Paula) Smith, Allan (Debbie) Bean, Gregory Smith, and Walter Richardson.

Great-Great Uncles: Reginald, George, Arnold West.

Great-Great Aunts: Vera Robinson and Inez Ming.

Special Cousins: Milaun and Milai Perott, Jerome West, Saranna West, Jalesa Young, DeZhane West, Anaya West, and Michael O'Brien.

**Godparents**: Damon Bean, Jamal Salaam, Carlos Smith, Craig Ming, Fred Richardson, Trevor Smith, Dwayne Adams, Verna Wilkinson-Burke, Jannika Smith, Lisa Burgess, Chiquita Smith, Tika Gilbert, Tracy Robinson. Adopted Godparents: Alisa West, Juana Burgess, and Glenville DeShields.

Godson: Ronin Caines-Durham.

Special Friends: Cavun Ottley, Trey Smith, Juma Mouchette, Dashun Cooper, Tina Nash, Che & Cole Durham, KyAsia Scott-Fishenden, Phillip Burgess, and U.K. friends Ben, Iffy & Sadie.

Predeceased by: Grandparents: Henry and Nelda Smith; Great-Great Grandmother Grace Outerbridge. Great-Great Uncle Joey West, Great-Great Aunt Eloise Vantuul, Great Uncle Earlston (Sam) Richardson, Great Aunts: Suzie Johnson, Lorraine Jones and his **beloved cat** Socks.

Jawonday also leaves behind additional family and friends too numerous to mention.





### From JAWONDAY'S FATHER

Jawonday... "Jah Will Come One Day"

I NEVER THOUGHT HE WOULD COME FOR YOU SO SOON, CAN'T SAY I BLAME HIM...THEY SAY THAT NO ONE'S PERFECT I GUESS THEY NEVER MET YOU... YOU WERE THE PERFECT SON, PERFECT BROTHER ... I WAS THINKING ABOUT THAT BIG DEBATE WE HAD ABOUT WHO IS THE BETTER FOOTBALLER AND HOW YOU PROUDLY BOASTED ABOUT HOW MANY TROPHIES YOU HAD WON ESPECIALLY THE TRIPLE CROWN, - THEN I WON THE DEBATE WHEN I ASKED YOU... SOOOOO HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU PLAY FOR BERMUDA? FUNNY THING IS, IF YOU WERE TO EVER ASK ME WHO IS THE BETTER MAN, I WOULD HAVE TO SAY YOU... IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME I'VE SAID THESE WORDS AND I PROMISE IT WON'T BE THE LAST... I'M PROUD OF YOU.

LOVE YOU SON, Dad

P.S. O, BEFORE I FORGET, YOU LEFT YOUR AFRO PICK IN THE BATHROOM AGAIN!!!

### From JAWONDAY'S MOTHER

Jawonday there are no words that bring me comfort when it comes to telling you goodbye. I've tried countless times to put my writing skills to paper, but each time I have so much or absolutely nothing to say, besides 'I miss you already.' This void is unexplainable. I came across this poem and thought it was fitting under these circumstances.

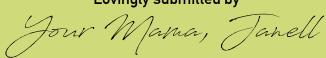
A Child Loaned

"I'll lend you for a little time, a child of mine," He said, "For you to love while he lives and mourn for when he's dead. It may be days, six or seven years, or twenty-two or three, but will you till I get back, take care of him for me?" He'll bring his charms to gladden you, and shall his stay be brief, you'll have his lovely memories as solace for your grief."

"I cannot promise he will stay, since all from earth returns, but there are lessons taught there I want this child to learn. I have looked the wide world over in search for teachers true and from the throngs that crowd life's lanes I have selected you. Now will you give him all your love, not think the labour vain, nor hate me when I come to call to take him back again?"

"I fancied that I heard them say, "Dear Lord, thy will be done! For all the joy thy child shall bring, the risk of grief we'll run. We'll shelter him with tenderness, we'll love him while we may, and for the happiness we've known, forever grateful stay. But shall the angels call him much sooner than we've planned, we'll brave the bitter grief that comes and try to understand."

Lovingly submitted by





### A LETTER FOR MY BROTHER

I can't find the words or the feelings to describe this new reality. We were two years apart, and for the 6 years of my life it was me and you, Janaesha & Jawonday. We would always be in the yard either playing Yugio, trading Pokemon cards, or playing BeyBlades. Those were our 3 favorite shows at the time. We literally did everything together, attached at the hip and liked most of the same shows and music. The only thing we differed in was, I danced and you did Football. We thought we were the best fishermen when we were younger. Nana used to take me, you and Nika off the dock, and we always had to make everything a competition. Who was going to get the bigger fish and who was going to get the most fish. Or, the time we tried to convince Nana to let us jump off Watford Bridge because we were "too old" to go to the beach, and when we got there we were so scared. We used to run Nana's snowball stand. Nika and I would make the snowballs, you would be our runner for ice, and everytime Nana came out to check on ice we were either eating the baked goods or snowballs and she would yell out to us "You're eating all my profit" and we would just burst out laughing.

You were a great little brother to me, and big brother to Seemy. We used to watch Avatar all the time, and when we saw it in the movie theatre you were so disappointed that you made us binge watch the entire TV series again. I loved how whenever the three of us were together we had the greatest talks and debates. Mama would stand at the door and listen and laugh because you and Jaseehim would be opposites, and half the time I didn't understand and we would crack up laughing. That was us, the siblings.

When you became an uncle, you refused to hold Zarai. Sante and I had to convince you to hold her. You were so scared. Then you brought her a size 5 football, and I said "Wonday, she can't play with this. She is a baby", and you said "Ya Ya Ya, she'll grow into it".

We all supported every major milestone, and have always lifted each other up. Even though I was older, I always came to you for advice and sometimes approval because I looked up to you. Everything just came so naturally to you. You were smart, kind and talented. Like, you really had dance moves. You were compassionate, and you always tried to speak life into those around you.

You were our great accomplishment.



### MINE

From Jaseehim
To Jawonday



I think I got caught up
In all that I wanted
Didn't see I was hurting
Didn't know how to control it
So, I just sat by the water

**And thought about you**Just thought **about you** 

I know you got your new wings But, I never had any closure I never heard what you said

### Cause I never thought it was over for you Over for you

Cause I thought you would last
Thinking you would pull it back
But it all happened fast what I'd do to get you back
Now you left me on my own
How you gonna let me go
So quick

But even though I know that
I would never be your chosen
We would never be golden
You tried to
Tried to see me shine
But were never meant to be mine

Now I, sit and I wonder what I would do if you were here
If all of the pain and the torment just disappeared from me
I would hold you so damn tightly and not think of letting you go
Wishing that it was a dream, and it didn't feel so real
Time will heal
Everything that you said to me I hear your voice still
If I hold back
The tears I have

Will it make me strong enough?

Am I even strong enough?

But even though I know
that I will never be your
chosen We will never be
golden You tried to
Tried to see me shine
But were never meant to be mine

I wish that you can come back to me
I know I have to accept that you ain't ever coming back to me

### Me and you had our time together Memories that'll last forever

I believe I can storm the weather
I believe I can pull it together
I believe you will be here to carry me on
Weather the storm
Whether I'm right or I'm wrong
I know you keeping me strong
Here from the start
I know you'll be there when I'm gone One

### One day you'll be there at the end And I'm gonna make you proud

day I'll see you again

But even though I know that
I would never be your chosen
We would never be golden
You tried to
Tried to see me shine
But were never meant to be mine



### JAWONDAY Joshur Engening SMITH Kink-of MAY 16, 1994 | Final Whighthe JAN 21, 2025

# JAWONDEN Joshun Eugeniuz SMITTE



### From UNCLE ANTHONY

Most times when I see my nieces and nephews, I usually approach them and I check on them regarding schoolwork, boyfriends, girlfriends and just life in general. One day I recall, seeing Jawonday at BFA field in Prospect playing football and the conversation went like this, "Hey nephew, what's up?" "Hey Uncle Anthony, everything is good. How is Aunt Alisa and Cousin Anaya doing? I always see you in your truck and you always seem to be moving faster than the speed limit... you need to slow down and take your time; and I always hear your music before I see the truck... you need to turn it down a bit!" How is that whenever I had a conversation with Jawonday, I always left feeling as if he had checked me instead of the other way around! He was quite a fella and I will really miss those conversations.

Sleep in peace nephew. Love always, *Uncle Anthony* 

### TO JANELL AND SHAWN:

This is a well-known poem that I want to share as my words of comfort to you.

He Only Takes The Best

A heart of gold stopped beating.

Two shining eyes at rest.

God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.

God knows you had to leave us,
but you didn't go alone.
for part of us went with you,
the day He took you home.
To some you are forgotten,
to others just part of the past, but
to those who love and lost you,
your memory will always last.

### From UNCLE DEVAUGHN

TO MY NIECES AND NEPHEWS: My brother Anthony is the stern uncle, but for me, I'm the cool, fun, jokester Uncle DeeDee. Jawonday would stop by my job on a regular when he was coming from school up at Bermuda College. One day I asked him, why out of all my nieces and nephews you call me Uncle Devaughn? He replied with a smile on his face saying, "that's your name." I guess he had a point there! We had a li'l laugh about that.

When Jawonday used to come back from school and all his Raleigh trips, I would always ask him, "where you

been now?" He loved to travel to places focusing on the environment. He'd send pictures all the time of countries he had been to and to me it looked like scenery that you only saw on TV, social media, etc. Some of the places looked like he was in the jungle and I would often ask him "when you going to take me with you?" Whenever he came back, he would tell me all about the places he had been which I would like to possibly travel to one day myself. He definitely went on trips of a lifetime.

During his tenure at one of his jobs, I would often ask where he wants

to go with his future plans. I always told him that even though it might not be the exact job that he wanted, get your foot in the door and do what you have to do until you can branch out. I believe he had a bright future ahead of him.

Jawonday was such a pleasant person and had a very helpful nature. That's something I really admired about him. He was a humble guy who I will miss dearly.

Love always,
Uncle Devaughn (DeeDee)

### From your AUNTIE

Jawonday, so much I could say about you, but you would be saying "...alright Auntie, Auntie, I know Auntie, I get it Auntie". You simply called me Auntie and I just simply adored you - My nephew, my first child — Milaun and Milai's big cousin. You made me so proud. In everything you did you were just simply you. Thank you for including me in your ambitious, adventuresome spirit. I loved our talks as there was always a story of your next aspiration. Football was our thing we most chatted about, whether it was about you playing or getting into coaching. You represented our family well — humble, dedicated and loyal...and good like your Auntie — O right and your daddy. Jawonday was a coach's dream player. You were already the best but knew the best can get better. You were a believer, an overachiever.

I will always feel so blessed to say Jawonday was my nephew.

Loved beyond words, Auntie Shawnette

### DEAR WONDAY,

You were my favorite cousin, and I told you every chance I got. From the moment we were kids playing football in the yard with Milai and Seemy, you had this energy, this passion, that was impossible to ignore. You played such a significant role in my childhood and now looking back, I realize that so much of who I am was shaped by you.

Our trips to Manchester City games were more than just football - they were an escape from school life, a piece of home that I always looked forward to because it meant time with you. Your love for the game sparked my own, but it wasn't just football. You had a way of making everything feel bigger, more exciting, more meaningful. On our hour-long walks to the stadium, we would talk about everything - our feelings, our dreams for the future, score predictions. The world didn't seem quite so big whenever I was with you.

You always dreamed big, and your vision for a better Bermuda was something that truly inspired me. You didn't just talk about change; you believed in it, you worked for it, and you carried that same passion into everything you did. I admired you for that. You found your purpose at such a young age, and I was in awe of how you chased it.

I'll miss our surprise lunch dates in the park, those random moments that felt so small at the time but now mean everything. I didn't realize just how much influence you had on my life and my way of thinking until you were gone. Your stories of your travels fascinated me - your upcoming plans, your adventures, the way you saw the world. I'll never forget when you came back from your first Raleigh trip, proudly telling me that you no longer plan on showering every day. I thought you were so weird for that, but that was you, fully embracing every experience, living life on your own terms.

You left too soon, but your impact stays. I'll carry your passion, your dreams, and your spirit with me always.

Rest easy, Wonday. I love you. Milaun



### JAWONDAY Joshun Engening SMI

int-of MAY 16, 1994 | Final Whith JAN 21, 2025

### **ASANTÉ'S TRIBUTE**

Wonday was a person to stop for a turtle on the road and take it all the way to the aquarium on his push bike.

He was the one who would stop to help an elderly stranger take a dead chicken out of their driveway.

He was the one who would give his last penny to a person without shelter.

Wonday was the one who during a blackout in the UK, would call all your friends to make sure you're safe but after an hour of waiting and they don't answer, he calls the police to file a missing person's report.

Yes, Wonday was the sweetest love I've ever known and always made a point to keep me safe. He insisted on walking on the outside of me when next to a road-side, he insisted on making sure I stayed hydrated, and almost daily he insisted to call and make sure my front door was locked.

Wonday was expressive of his emotions but also exuded masculinity as a partner. And by being authentic in himself, he was a role model to almost everyone close to him. He was most definitely a role model for me and my little brother Z'Ani. Wonday was dependable, respected and respectful, honest, passionate, wise, outgoing, eco-minded, loving and humble, oh so humble. When he was passionate about something. you could surely tell. He loved Man City, he loved Devonshire Cougars, he loved to play football, he loved to coach football, he loved his family, he loved his cat (Socks), and he loved his rings. (Don't get me started on the rings. He has so many reasons for why he choose each ring, yes all 8 of them). But in terms of love, Wonday gave his all to the things and people he valued. And his actions showed me how pure a love could be.

Most people thought that Wonday chased after me, but in fact Wonday didn't even know we went to the same primary school. I had a crush on Wonday for years and after 2018, we realised how much we had in common (our love of the Earth, animals, sports and spreading kindness) and quickly became inseparable. Every moment I had back in Bermuda, it would be next to him. He didn't have transportation? No problem, I'll cycle to your house. No bike? Fine, I'll run. It's night time? No problem get the headlight and I'll find my way.

That's what it will continue to be, I'll find my way to you again. Whether it be in the songs we used to listen to or the many nature spots we discovered, you'll always

be a part of me and I'm a part of you indefinitely. It was a privilege to be loved by you, and I wish we had our forever, but I am just grateful that while you were here you chose me. You made me stronger, and a lot better at spelling.

That fairy-tale love that you look for, welp that wasn't us. Jawonday was made in the image of a perfect Prince charming but in the lens of the movie Jungle Book. Yeah, that's my perfect man. His gentleman aura paired with a giant afro and a wild sense of humour. There is NO ONE like Jawonday, and like the flower to the sun, I will grow towards your warmth forevermore.

So to end my tribute, I would like to share a poem that Wonday wrote to me. Titled:

### If I could make a wish By Jawonday Smith

If I could make a wish,
And was told it would come true
My only wish I have
Is that I could be with you

But not for the sake of being Not for the sake of chance To lock eyes back with you To be stuck inside a trance

The wish is for me to have a shot
To tell you how I feel
And win your heart all over again
Because I know this love is real

But the future is not seen And the past has had its day The gift we call the present Has made me feel this way

I don't know where we go from here
I'll never forget that kiss
I'd hope my future is with you
If I could make a wish'



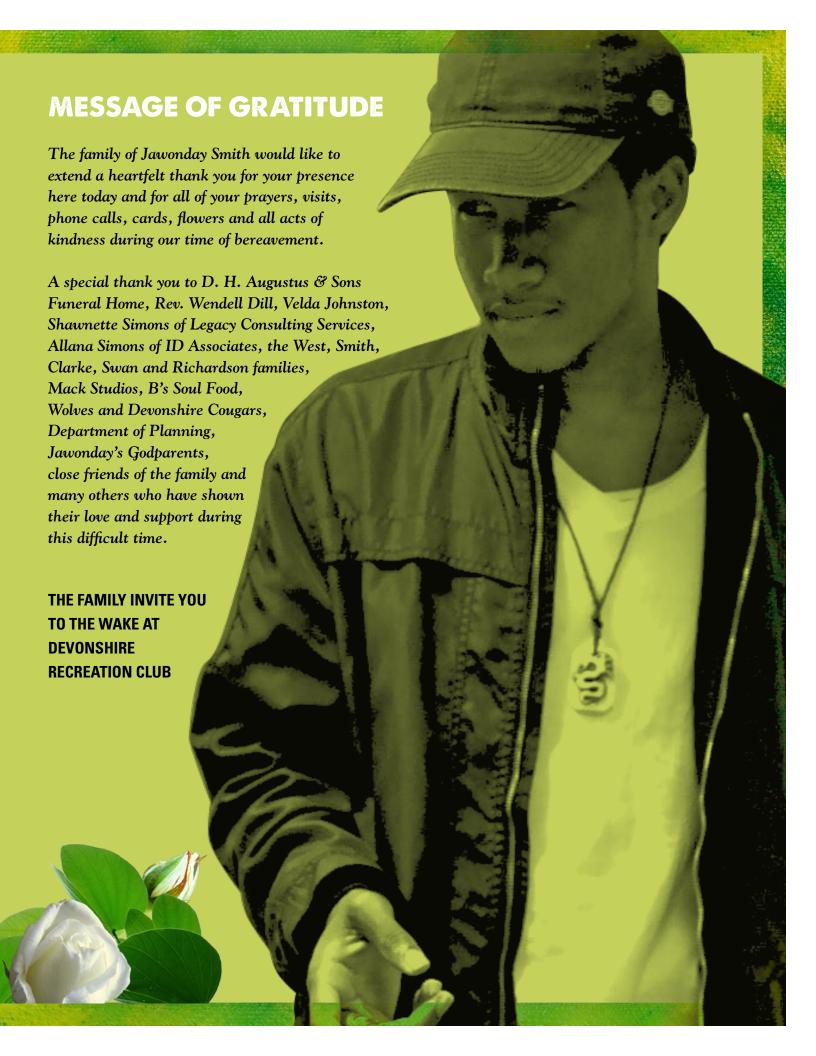




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JANAESHA PLACE | SISTER