



Aaron Leon Russell Jr.

January 25, 1995 - February 5, 2024

Aaron Leon Russell Jr., 29, formerly of Chattanooga, passed away Monday, February 5, 2024, in Knoxville, Tennessee. He was born on January 25, 1995, in Chattanooga. Aaron had a funny, loving, and sweet soul. He was modest, devoted, brave, talented, and goal-oriented. He always acted with kindness and optimism in his leadership. His enthusiasm for life enabled him to follow his lifelong dream and ambition of becoming Russell's School Bus Lines owner and operator. He loved cooking, watching the Georgia Bulldogs play, and watching WWE wrestling. Aaron was cherished by his family, respected their traditions, and enjoyed spending time with them, especially on holidays. He was a follower of Christ and lived according to his beliefs. He was never without light. He was unique and friendly in his approach to business. He set a good example and was always eager to take decisive action to resolve an issue. Aaron was a man of inspiration because of his perseverance and unwavering determination to reach his goal. Everyone who saw him was enamored with this gentle giant. The children Aaron carried, his drivers—whom he loved and respected as a family—contractors, present and past coworkers, and his numerous mentors all thought highly of him. Realizing his dream of driving a bus for Knox County Schools, he ensured everyone knew the plan, and how to get the kids home because they were the most important thing. By offering the kids on his bus route snacks, guidance, and anything else he could, he made the bus feel like a safe haven for them. His rapport with students was evident by Northwest Middle School's award of "Bus Driver

of the Year" to him the previous year. Russell and his crew transported more than five hundred students while driving routes for Norwood Middle School, Amherst Elementary School, Pleasant Ridge Elementary School, West High School, and Northwest Middle School. He drove bus #283 and lived out his lifelong dream. He ought to be regarded as a bright example of overcoming obstacles to achieve your goals and follow your dreams. Aaron obtained his Central High School diploma in 2014. He was employed by KFC as a store manager for several years. After relocating to Knoxville, Aaron worked for USPS and attended Pellissippi Community College to study Culinary Arts. He studied and earned his CDL, which allowed him to drive a bus. In 2016, he bought his first bus. His unwavering desire to always set new objectives led him to shadow others and gain knowledge in the busing industry as he worked toward becoming a businessman. Russell School Bus Lines was the company he founded in 2019. Olivet Baptist Church was Aaron Leon Russell, Jr.'s church. Remember Aaron's kindness, his wish for everyone to love one another, and his unwavering support for lending a hand to one another. Aaron was preceded in death by his great-grandmother, Mary Lou Russell; grandmothers, Gertha Russell and Vassie Lester; grandfather, John W. Caslin; and step-grandfather, Napoleon Gaither. Survivors include his daughter, Autumn Smith of Knoxville; his significant other, Angelica Smith of Knoxville; mother, April Caslin; father, Aaron (Kenya) Russell; grandmother, Gloria Gaither; grandfather, Aaron Lester, all of Chattanooga; brothers, Christopher Russell, Sr. of Clarksville, TN, Timothy (Shirley) Russell, and Kehshan Russell, both of Chattanooga; sisters, Tangela Caldwell of Atlanta, GA, Aareon Russell, and Kyla Skillern, both of Chattanooga; uncles, Chris (Angie) Russell, Sr., Timothy (Kristie) Russell, Sr., Reginald Caslin, Fredrick Scott, all of Chattanooga, John Caslin, Jr., Gerald Caslin, Tyrone Cain, and Adrian Goodwin; aunts, Anissa Benning and Lashonda Pittman, both of Chattanooga; nieces, Aaleah Watkins and Sophia LaFleur; nephews, Christopher Russell, Jr. and Jaazel Russell; several cousins, many other relatives, and close friends. Aaron will lie-in-state on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at

Taylor Funeral Home. Funeral service will follow at 12:00 noon in the chapel with Pastor Ricky Taylor as the eulogist. Interment will be in Lakewood Memory Gardens, East.

DIRECTIONS FOR LIVE STREAM: Click the link below to view the service.

<https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/index.php?data=MTcwODEyNDEzNjEzMDE3NDEmb25lcm9vbS1lbWFpbCZpbmZpdGF0aW9uX2NvcHlfbGluaw==>

Cemetery Details

Lakewood Memory Gardens East

4621 Shallowford Road
Chattanooga, TN 37411

Previous Events

Lie-In-State

FEB 17. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411

Service

FEB 17. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *FuneralServiceCamera2-AaronRussellJr*



Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc. - March 19, 2024 at 09:54 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *FuneralServiceCamera1-AaronRussellJr*



Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc. - March 19, 2024 at 09:54 PM

KD

“ *To the Family of Aaron I am deeply sorry I was Aaron's sub driver n worked with Aaron long time I will never forget him always so kind hearted always had me laughing very good friend prayers for all the family*

kristi denton - February 17, 2024 at 07:42 PM

RR

“ I would like to give my deepest condolences the the entire Russell family. I had the great pleasure of riding on the bus with Aaron. I started off riding in 2015 . I was his aide for 8 years. Never a dull moment on the bus. He had a passion for making sure those students were taken care of. A big ❤️ indeed. I will miss my bus bestie. But , will always remember our memories as friends.
RiP#283

Rodneyta Rocker - February 17, 2024 at 01:44 PM

AM

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. We loved reading about Aaron Jr. and his kindness and wonderful accomplishments. You all are in our prayers. Annette and Ken McJunkin

Annette McJunkin - February 17, 2024 at 10:10 AM

VS

“ Veterans Realty Services planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Aaron Leon Russell Jr..

Veterans Realty Services - February 16, 2024 at 04:40 PM

VS

“ Veterans Realty Services purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Aaron Leon Russell Jr..



Veterans Realty Services - February 16, 2024 at 04:40 PM

JO

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of Aaron. My husband was a driver for Aaron for the past year. He was driving with the intentions of becoming a contractor himself. Who knew Aaron could be such a great mentor and teacher at the young age of 29. This loss has hurt us deeply and he will be truly missed. I will miss the conversations he and my husband and son had on the phone with him daily. They were always joking each other about something but the love they had for each other was always there. Thank you Aaron for such an impact on our lives. Our gentle giant will be missed!

Jocelyn - February 16, 2024 at 10:58 AM

KC

“ To the family of Aaron Russell, you are all in my thoughts and my prayers during this time of such a great loss. I did not know Mr. Russell personally, but I have heard so many wonderful things said about him being that I'm a bus aide. I believe the genuineness in everything that I have heard, because I haven't heard anyone mentioning anything about him other than how big his heart was, and how upstanding he was. People may not ever remember what you say, but they always remember how you made them feel. This holds true, because even in his passing he is still making people feel good about knowing him and seeing him exhibit the true characteristics of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Knox County - February 16, 2024 at 09:38 AM

RG

“ My condolences to all family and friends. Aaron, I will never forget you. There is no way I could. I will cherish our friendship forever. Till we meet again my friend. Love you.



Rhonda Galyon - February 15, 2024 at 08:25 PM

GL

“ Sorry for your loss. My condolences to you and the family.

Greta Looney - February 15, 2024 at 07:52 PM

BH

“ Aaron was a long time customer of mine and our maintenance department in Knoxville Tn. He was a great man. One of the things that I will remember forever is he would bring his daughter in to work and you could just see how much love he had for her. I would always keep a few extra quarters for her to get gum balls out of our machine. He was more like a brother to me than a customer. Aaron will be deeply miss by me and my co workers. Prayers for his family and friends in this tough time.

Bryce Hickey - February 15, 2024 at 07:07 PM

DB

“ Sending my deepest condolences to Aaron's family praying for everyone's strength.. 🙏



Dimple Ballard - February 15, 2024 at 05:38 PM

JW

“ John Carter and Carrie White purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Aaron Leon Russell Jr..



John Carter and Carrie White - February 15, 2024 at 11:43 AM

AS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Aaron L Russell Sr - February 15, 2024 at 11:41 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Aaron Leon Russell Jr..



February 15, 2024 at 11:30 AM

GG

“ Gloria Gaither planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Aaron L. Russell Jr..

Gloria Gaither - February 15, 2024 at 06:53 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Aaron Leon Russell Jr..



February 15, 2024 at 06:53 AM

GG

“ *RIP, grandson until we meet again.*

gloria gaither - February 15, 2024 at 06:41 AM

BS

“ *My condolence to the family.*



Brenda Jones Sims - February 15, 2024 at 04:51 AM