



DeRease Lubron Caldwell

March 12, 1987 - November 10, 2025

DeRease Lubron Caldwell, 38, of Chattanooga, passed away Monday, November 10, 2025. He was born on March 12, 1987, and spent most of his life in the city he loved. DeRease graduated from Tyner Academy in 2005 and later earned an Associate Degree in Business and Trade with a focus in Automotive Technology/Collision Repair from Chattanooga State Community College in 2010. His passion for cars eventually led him to work at Porsche of Chattanooga, where he proudly combined his skill with his love for high-performance vehicles.

In 2007, he met the love of his life, Alonjua, and the two were married on October 14, 2017. Together they welcomed their son, Destin, in 2013—a moment that forever deepened DeRease's purpose. As Destin grew, DeRease discovered his calling for mentorship and coaching. He poured his heart into youth sports—football, basketball, and baseball—using the experiences of his own difficult childhood to guide others with compassion. He sowed seeds of encouragement, kindness, joy, and confidence in every child he coached, leaving an impact that stretched far beyond the field or court.

Though not affiliated with a specific church, DeRease was a Christian and found spiritual nourishment through livestream sermons, especially from Transformation Church with Pastor Mike Todd.

He loved sports, cars, and laughter-filled moments with his family. DeRease had a gift for lighting up any room; with humor, warmth, and a magnetic personality, he became the life of every gathering and the heartbeat of every celebration. His true calling were people—connecting with them, uplifting them, and loving them fully.

DeRease was preceded in death by his children, Kiahna Caldwell and DeLonte Caldwell; his father, Eric Caldwell; grandfathers, Clerance Wallace and Henry Caldwell; and grandmothers, Johnymae Caldwell and Liv Caldwell.

DeRease is survived by his loving wife, Alonjua Caldwell; his son, Destin Caldwell; his mother, Yolanda Johnson; stepmother, Pamela Caldwell; grandmother, Doris Wallace; brother, Jeremy Caldwell; and sister, Tyrika Vinson. He is also survived by his in-laws: Alonzo Banks, Tamera Banks, Sumara Banks, and Seaira Banks; his niece, Jasion Lattimore; nephew, Kaison Lattimore; and a host of devoted aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends who will forever cherish his memory.

DeRease touched countless lives with his generosity of spirit, unforgettable personality, and unwavering love for his family. His absence leaves a profound ache, but his legacy of joy, compassion, and dedication to others will continue to shine through every life he touched.

DeRease will lie-in-state on Saturday, December 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at Taylor Funeral Home. Funeral service will follow at 3 p.m. in the Chapel with Pastor Mark Hickman as the Eulogist.

Previous Events

Lie-In-State

DEC **6.** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411-1076

Funeral Service

DEC **6.** 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411-1076

Tribute Wall

DH

“ I knew DeRease all the way back in elementary school. One of the funniest people I ever met. He was always kind.

Danielle Hudgins - December 17, 2025 at 10:14 PM



“ Dee I'll never forget your kindness and just how bright of a soul you were. From the first time I met you 6 years ago at graces thanksgiving lunch I knew you were a great dude, and as we played ball in the same league and Destiny and Gabe got closer it was just an honor to get to kick it with you! Don't worry about Lonnie and Destin, you poured so much of yourself into the I know they are going to be just fine over time. Rest in Paradise my guy and I will see you again.

Johnathan Rice - December 10, 2025 at 04:27 AM



“ Sending prayers and condolences 🙏

Tony Bell - December 06, 2025 at 02:03 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to you all 🙏❤️
Continued prayers for his wife and son. And
his whole team. Rest easy Coach ❤️🙏*

Sherrie Aye - December 06, 2025 at 09:54 AM



“ *1 file added to the album I love you brother !*



Brittany Crutcher - December 05, 2025 at 04:27 AM



Continued prayers for you 🙏❤️

Sherrie Aye - December 06, 2025 at 09:52 AM



“ *Jackie Johnson lit a candle in memory of
DeRease Lubron Caldwell*

Jackie Johnson - November 21, 2025 at 03:32 PM



“ Dear Cousin Dee,
I wish I could've gotten a chance to meet you.
I just know in my heart you were cooler than a
fan in the shade(it's in our DNA 😭😭😭
).When Uncle Rickey(Pretty Rickey) would
come and visit he would always say "I can't wait until you and my
son meet y'all are gonna get along good". I really hate we didn't get
to meet...to see all the good things ppl have to say about you I can
truly see you are loved by so many ppl. Hopefully soon I'll get to
meet the rest of the family. Give Grandaddy, Uncle Turon and my
Pretty Rickey the biggest hug for me. My prayers and condolences
to everyone. From your cousin in Decatur,Al Sequoia Peterson aka
Koya Lacy

Sequoia Peterson - November 21, 2025 at 08:57 AM



“ Sharron McClarty lit a candle in memory of
DeRease Lubron Caldwell

Sharron McClarty - November 20, 2025 at 07:48 PM



“ Greasy D where do I start? From middle to high school up until our
adult years you have and will always be my brother from another
mother!!!! Rest peacefully bro!! Forever in my heart!! Ps..take your
rest & I got HOLLINGSWORTH FROM HERE ON OUT & THAT'S A
PROMISE SO FLY HIGH SOULJA...LOVE CHOC

Loyalty - November 20, 2025 at 08:08 AM



“ *Rest easy cousin. Love you 🥹*

Kayla Johnson - November 19, 2025 at 08:40 PM



“ *Kandis Owens lit a candle in memory of DeRease Lubron Caldwell*

kandis owens - November 19, 2025 at 01:19 PM



“ *Original member of the “500 block” (Rams know” there is no “B-Smart” without “Greasy D”
Really didn’t see this coming but the universe makes no mistakes. We both went different paths but we both knew we would be forever locked in. Thank you for the friendship we had growing up. You played a big part in who I am today. Love ya fa ever Brodie. See ya on the other side*

Brian Sullivan - November 19, 2025 at 12:40 AM



“ *Lori Monroe lit a candle in memory of DeRease Lubron Caldwell*

Lori Monroe - November 18, 2025 at 11:07 PM

LM

“ *Lori Monroe lit a candle in memory of DeRease Lubron Caldwell*

Lori Monroe - November 18, 2025 at 11:06 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of DeRease Lubron Caldwell.*



November 18, 2025 at 01:32 PM

HO

“ *Hollingsworth planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of DeRease Lubron Caldwell.*

Hollingsworth - November 18, 2025 at 01:32 PM

Y

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



YOLANDA JOHNSON - November 18, 2025 at 03:24 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

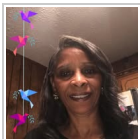


YOLANDA JOHNSON - November 18, 2025 at 03:16 AM

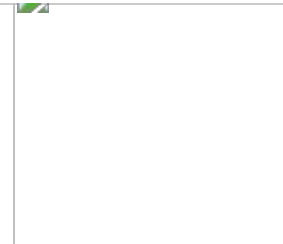


“ Where can I start about my wonderful son DeRease. Growing up, he never wanted to leave my side. We did so much together. He was extremely funny and thoughtful since childhood. I have always told him how proud I was of him. I'm going to miss our calls telling each other I love you and have a blessed day. He began every call saying "Hello my beautiful mother ". I miss you so much son. Until we meet again. Always with love, Mom. Yolanda Johnson

YOLANDA JOHNSON - November 18, 2025 at 03:13 AM



“ Nephew I am still trying to process that I will not see your smiling face, your hugs and you saying hi auntie when I open my door. I am going to miss you dearly! Love you! 🥺❤️❤️
❤️❤️



Wanda Swafford Thurman - November 18, 2025 at 12:27 AM



“ ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️



Alexis Mitchell - November 17, 2025 at 11:20 PM



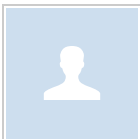
“ *Clowning about my love life won't be the same without you. I'll probably cry every time I hear the name Tyron or Dontavious lol . Watch over us . We love you and miss you dearly. Until we meet again* ❤️🕊️

Alexis Mitchell - November 17, 2025 at 11:14 PM



“ *There are no words that I can put together. I watched you blossom into a loving, caring Husband and Father. You always came with love and respect. You sure didn't play about my cousin! Greasy you will be missed and never forgotten. Rest easy* ❤️

Shontel - November 17, 2025 at 10:42 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of DeRease Lubron Caldwell.*



November 17, 2025 at 10:08 PM



“ I Love and miss my nephew DeRease Dee Caldwell so much. DeRease was a very Loving son, husband, father, brother, nephew, Grandson, cousin, and friend. He was so fun and respectful. I am his Auntie Kathy and he grew up with me and my kids and his cousins. I Loved taking care of him. I pray for my sister Yolanda Johnson, and his wife Alonjua, and his son Destin and our family for our loss of DeRease Dee Caldwell. R.I.P. my Loving nephew.

Kathy Covington - November 17, 2025 at 08:47 PM



“ I love you brother and I miss you

Brittany Crutcher - November 17, 2025 at 07:44 PM



“ I worked with Dee for a few years,He always had a Big Smile on his face and would always call me Mama Lisa,It Breaks my Heart to hear the news about him,i do know when he would talk about his Wife and Son the look on his face was Priceless,he Loved them Both so much,So many fun times with him i would always ask him if he was going to behave?He would look at me and roll his eyes and Say well for you Mama Lisa i will try,(lol)Go Rest High my Friend,My Thoughts and Prayers are with every one, Lisa Defur

Lisa DeFur - November 17, 2025 at 07:36 PM

PC

“ A warm heart, and a bright smile DeRease you will be truly missed,thank you Yolonda for sharing Him with me and everyone, Thank you Alounja for blessing us with Destin, may he continue to carry on his dad's spirit and love. May you rest in peace with your Dad, i love you.

Pamela Caldwell - November 17, 2025 at 01:21 AM

CW

“ Carlethia Watts sent a virtual gift in memory of DeRease Lubron Caldwell



carlethia watts - November 16, 2025 at 01:09 PM

CC

“ Carlethia Watts Cousin lit a candle in memory of DeRease Lubron Caldwell



carlethia watts cousin - November 16, 2025 at 01:07 PM



“ Tamesha Pillows lit a candle in memory of DeRease Lubron Caldwell

tamesha pillows - November 15, 2025 at 09:01 PM

DS

“ *Dywana Sanders lit a candle in memory of DeRease Lubron Caldwell*

Dywana Sanders - November 15, 2025 at 11:05 AM

LD

“ *One of the nicest guys you could be around! Life of the party and loved his family!! His legacy will live on through his son and everyone he left an impact on!! Forever in my heart🙏☐ rest easy affectionately known “Greasy”🙏❤️*



LaTonia Davenport - November 14, 2025 at 10:26 PM