



Jeffrey Starkey

July 23, 1966 - December 23, 2024

Jeffrey Starkey, 58, of Chattanooga, was called home by the Lord to rest from his labors on Monday, December 23, 2024, at his residence after a valiant fight against colon cancer. He was born on July 23, 1966, to Terry and Hilda Starkey. Jeffrey accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior at an early age and was a member of the Orchard Knob Missionary Baptist Church his entire life. He was an active member working with the Singles Ministry and singing with the Youth Choir, Gospel Chorus, Mass Choir, and Praise Team. He faithfully served in each capacity. Jeffrey was also a member of the singing group Praise founded by the late David Sanders. The group shared the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the south for the past 30 years.

Jeffrey was a graduate of the Brainerd High School Class of 1984. Upon graduating, he began working for Provident Life and Accidental Insurance Company. While working, he attended the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he sang with the Littleton Mason Singers. He then began working for CIGNA Insurance Company, where he worked for 40 years until his illness began in December of 2023.

Through the years, Jeff enjoyed spending time with his family and traveling. He traveled extensively and explored the United States, Israel, London, Paris, and Ghana. He was an avid tennis player and a member of the Brainerd Tennis Club where he played regularly and participated in many tournaments. In December 2017, Jeff found his greatest love, skiing. He traveled to Killington Ski Resort in Vermont to begin ski instruction. From there, he

attended the National Brotherhood of Snowsports annual Ski Summit where he met and befriended black skiers from all over the world that shared his love for adventure. He became a member of the National Brotherhood of Snowsports and Southern Snowseekers and continued to ski until his illness began.

Jeffrey was known by all as a loving, caring gentleman who loved serving the Lord. Whether at work, church, playing tennis, skiing, traveling or just in his day-to-day interactions, he was loved and respected as a man of integrity.

Jeffrey was preceded in death by his mother, Hilda E. Starkey. He is survived by his father, Terry (Nancy) Starkey; brother, Terrance Starkey; sister, Valencia Starkey; nephew, LaDarrius (Jessica) Starkey; niece, Jasmine Shackelford; uncles, Frank Henderson and Elton Young; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, relatives and dear friends. **DUE TO THE WEATHER, FUNERAL SERVICE HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED.** Jeffrey will lie-in-state on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at 9 a.m. at Orchard Knob Missionary Baptist Church. Visitation with the family will be at 11:00 a.m. with the funeral service to follow at 12 noon at the church. Burial in Lakewood Memory Gardens, East. Arrangements are by Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc.

Cemetery Details

Lakewood Memory Gardens East

4621 Shallowford Road
Chattanooga, TN 37411

Previous Events

Lie-In-State

JAN 18. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Orchard Knob Missionary Baptist Church
1734 E 3rd St
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Visitation

JAN 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Orchard Knob Missionary Baptist Church
1734 E 3rd St
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Service

JAN 18. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Orchard Knob Missionary Baptist Church
1734 E 3rd St
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Tribute Wall

TR

“ *Tatia Reed-Harrison lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Tatia Reed-Harrison - January 18, 2025 at 12:13 PM

JG

“ *Jennifer Greenhill lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Jennifer Greenhill - January 18, 2025 at 11:05 AM

JC

“ *Memories of your smile and laughter will forever be in my heart ❤️. Love you*



Jeanette Crawford - January 18, 2025 at 02:15 AM

WI

“ *Wendy Isom-Hill lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Wendy Isom-Hill - January 17, 2025 at 02:46 PM

LP

“ *My sincere condolences to Marvin and Joyce and the entire family RIP*



Lloyd Pinheiro's - January 15, 2025 at 11:08 AM

DM

“ *Donna J Morris lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Donna J Morris - January 14, 2025 at 03:01 PM

DM

I went to Eastdale Elementary with Jeffrey and we connected on facebook after years passing by. I always would encourage him and pray for and with him after he would update us on his progress from treatments. All I can say is 2 Timothy 4:7 NIV I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have keep the faith. You won Jeffrey, you got your crown.

Donna J Morris - January 14, 2025 at 03:06 PM

AA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Amanda Amponsah - January 13, 2025 at 07:17 PM



“ I will surely miss you. Love you cousin❤️



Dwain Esdaile-Peaches - January 12, 2025 at 01:07 PM

PO

“ Pastor Walter And Lynn Owens lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey



Pastor Walter and Lynn Owens - January 10, 2025 at 04:00 PM

LD

“ Lora Dawson lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey



Lora Dawson - January 10, 2025 at 03:55 PM

JA

“ John A. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jeffrey Starkey.



John A. - January 09, 2025 at 06:49 AM

JA

“ John A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey Starkey.

John A. - January 09, 2025 at 06:49 AM

VP

“ Vincinrtta P.Brown lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey



Vincinrtta P.Brown - January 09, 2025 at 05:03 AM

VP

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Starkey Family at this difficult time. May God bless and keep each of you is our prayer.
The Brown Family

Vincinrtta P.Brown - January 09, 2025 at 05:05 AM

TW

“ Tiamara M Wynn lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey



Tiamara M Wynn - January 08, 2025 at 11:40 PM

CG

“ My deepest condolences to the family and our Cigna employees. I worked many years with Jeff. He will be dearly missed.

John 11:25-26

...I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die...

Christine Gumieniak - January 08, 2025 at 11:16 PM

SW

“ So sad to hear of Jeffrey’s passing! Many years working with him at Cigna were all good memories of a warm and kind heart. Praying for comfort for his family as they store up memories that will remain in their heart. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Sharon Wilson - January 08, 2025 at 09:39 PM

JB

“ Jennifer Berkley lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey



Jennifer Berkley - January 08, 2025 at 01:09 PM

JB

I am praying for his family and his multitude of friends. We all miss him so very much. This world was a better place because Jeffrey was such a light in it. His faith and love for others is a beautiful reminder of how we are all supposed to live. What a kind soul we were all blessed to know.

Jennifer Berkley - January 08, 2025 at 01:15 PM

SB

“ *Sherry Burney lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Sherry Burney - January 08, 2025 at 10:31 AM

SB

Jeffrey was such a sweet man. Not long after I started at CIGNA we sat beside each other in cubicles and he was such a sweet man! Then I had the honor to work with him for a number of years recently. Prayers for all of his family and friends during this timeframe.

Sherry Burney - January 08, 2025 at 10:33 AM

BA

“ *Fifty weight is much too young. I was on the same team with Jeff several times at Cigna. He was always a joy to work with and most recently loved following his ski journey via Facebook. His upbeat updates during his fight with Cancer were a testament for his love of Jesus. Taken much too young; I am lifting the family in prayers. If the service will be live-streamed, please let us know. Beth Anne Pigge*

Beth Anne - January 08, 2025 at 10:10 AM

DJ

Condolences to the family. Praying 🙏 for you all. may God give you all the strength and comfort during this time. 🙏🙏 Diane and Walter Jones
❤️ 🙏🙏

Diane Jones - January 08, 2025 at 05:18 PM

JW

Jeffrey was always a light shining in the darkness. He exemplified Christ in his character everyday at work. His great attitude and laughter has and will continue to be missed

Jeanette Whitley - January 08, 2025 at 09:44 PM

PE

“ *Petrick lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Petrick - January 08, 2025 at 10:08 AM

GA

“ *Ganesh lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Ganesh - January 08, 2025 at 09:58 AM

MR

“ *Madan Reddy lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Madan Reddy - January 08, 2025 at 09:50 AM

NT

“ *Nelly Trapani lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Nelly Trapani - January 08, 2025 at 09:35 AM

RR

“ Rob Ribaric lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey



Rob Ribaric - January 08, 2025 at 09:26 AM

AA

“ Thankful for your friendship and fellowship in Accra, Ghana.



Amorette Aryee - January 07, 2025 at 06:47 PM

JC

“ Jackie Johnson Copeland lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey



Jackie Johnson Copeland - January 07, 2025 at 12:23 PM

KF

“ Krystal (Kris) McWhorter and Family purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Jeffrey Starkey.



Krystal (Kris) McWhorter and Family - January 07, 2025 at 12:16 PM

DD

“ *Della Drake lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Della Drake - January 06, 2025 at 04:08 PM

GH

“ *My condolences to the family. May God bless you and strengthen you during this difficult time.*



Geraldine Hendley - January 06, 2025 at 03:18 PM

ML

“ *Marsh Lawrence lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Marsh Lawrence - January 06, 2025 at 11:03 AM

SY

“ *I will miss you cousin Jeff . One thing I will definitely miss about you is your smile and the genuine love you had for people for all of us.
From Cousin Toya*

Shatoya Young - January 06, 2025 at 07:57 AM

AO

“ I love you Jeffery, and you will most definitely be missed. Thank you for always answering my calls just for advice or just to laugh. You are forever my favorite big cousin. It's never good bye but see you later❤️❤️



April Owens - January 05, 2025 at 08:16 PM

LY

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



LaShauna Young - January 05, 2025 at 08:12 PM

PY

“ So many good and lasting memories. You were and will always be remembered as a solid rock to this family. Always providing support and lending a helping hand. You were unselfish, caring, and always wanted what was best for yourself and your family. Nephew, you are truly missed and will never be forgotten. Love you Always, Uncle Elton

Pastor Elton Young - January 05, 2025 at 07:57 PM

CL

“ *Camellia Lee lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Camellia Lee - January 04, 2025 at 10:50 AM

VP

“ *Vincinrtta P.Brown lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Vincinrtta P.Brown - January 04, 2025 at 09:03 AM

CR

“ *Carlotta Richardson lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Carlotta Richardson - January 04, 2025 at 08:25 AM

LW

“ *Leslie Wise lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Leslie Wise - January 03, 2025 at 02:08 PM

WT

“ *Wanda Swafford Thurman lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



wanda Swafford Thurman - January 03, 2025 at 07:59 AM

LR

“ *Jeffrey will be missed by all who knew him. May the Lord give the Starky family strength and peace as they mourn their loss. We are praying for the family.*

Lebron and Menia Richardson - January 02, 2025 at 07:31 PM

TM

“ *Teresa McDaniel lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Teresa McDaniel - January 01, 2025 at 07:19 PM

KG

“ *Kimberly Guella lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Kimberly Guella - December 31, 2024 at 08:33 PM

AW

“ *Allene Ward lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Allene Ward - December 31, 2024 at 07:07 PM

MS

“ *Mary Spivey lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Mary Spivey - December 31, 2024 at 03:56 PM

MS

“ *May God keep the family during this difficult time.*

Mary Spivey - December 31, 2024 at 03:54 PM

MT

“ *Will miss your presence in the choir with your debonair style* 💜💜



Marva Taylor - December 31, 2024 at 08:25 AM

BM

“ We send our prayers and condolences to the family.

Ben & Glenda Morgan



Ben & Glenda Morgan - December 30, 2024 at 05:52 PM

AM

“ Rest in Heaven's Peace And Rewards
Classmate



Angela Maffett-Terry - December 30, 2024 at 04:05 PM

KM

“ Kathryn Morgan lit a candle in memory of
Jeffrey Starkey



Kathryn Morgan - December 30, 2024 at 02:05 PM

KM

I am so sorry to hear about Jeffrey's passing. I send my condolences and prayers to his immediate and extended family.

Kay Morgan - December 31, 2024 at 05:16 AM

TB

“ TBW lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey



TBW - December 30, 2024 at 01:05 PM

ES

“ May GOD HOLD this FAMILY in His ARMS..JAMES STARKEY&FAMILY 🙏🙏💗💗



Edie Starkey - December 30, 2024 at 11:33 AM

PA

“ In memory of Jeff, you will truly be miss on the tennis courts. 🙏



Patricia Akins - December 30, 2024 at 08:27 AM

AW

“ Alizia Worsham lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey



Alizia Worsham - December 30, 2024 at 08:20 AM

SK

“ *My deepest sympathies to Jeffrey's family. His positive and cheerful attitude and love of God has been an inspiration to many. He will be missed.*

Sue Kranske - December 29, 2024 at 08:05 AM

RS

“ *Renee Sharp lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Renee Sharp - December 29, 2024 at 06:48 AM

HC

“ *You will always be in my heart little brother! Rest in peace! See you soon.*



Helen Cox - December 28, 2024 at 10:16 PM

MS

“ *Jeff you were a true gentleman and great tennis player. I've followed your journey this last year, kept you in my prayers and admired your faith. Rest well my friend. You are a true servant*

Mary Beth Smith

Mary Beth Smith - December 28, 2024 at 09:49 PM

JG

“ *Joyce Gee lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Joyce Gee - December 28, 2024 at 09:46 PM

AT

“ *My tennis friend forever, Jeff rest in peace. Andrew Teague*



Andrew Teague - December 28, 2024 at 03:24 PM

JJ

“ *Jackie Johnson lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Jackie Johnson - December 28, 2024 at 02:53 PM

JB

“ *So saddened to hear of Jeff's passing! My prayers go out to the Starkey family. I'm praying that the peace of GOD and the comfort and Presence of the Holy Spirit will sustain you all. (1 Thess. 4:13-18)*

Janice Beard - December 28, 2024 at 02:39 PM

VS

“ Jeff, my brother in Christ Jesus. My heart is filled with sadness, but praising God you aren't suffering anymore. You have taken us on so many journeys of your life from skiing on the slopes to Christmas in Vegas, and it has been a pleasure in knowing you. I will forever miss your warm smile, your laughter, and your hugs. You never met a stranger because you made everyone feel as if they were your friend. My condolences to your family. Be blessed and rest with the Lord.



Vanessa Sewell - December 28, 2024 at 12:25 PM

AL

Dearest Jeffrey - as a co-worker and a friend I will miss your warm smile, positive attitude and kindness to everyone. May you rest in peace with Jesus. My sincere condolences to your family. 🙏❤️

Arlene Lizotte - December 28, 2024 at 01:01 PM

WS

“ Prayers of comfort and peace to Jeffery's family!
You are now healed in the mighty name of Jesus. Thanks for ministering to us through your journey!
Classmate, your presence will be missed! 🙏



Wendy Scruggs - December 28, 2024 at 11:25 AM

SD

“ Charles and Sharon Daniels



Sharon Daniels - December 28, 2024 at 11:16 AM

CB

“ *I will forever miss you my friend. My heart is broken. I send my sincere condolences to the family. May God grant you strength and comfort throughout this time of sadness.*

Cora Brown - December 28, 2024 at 10:52 AM

NC

“ *My condolences to the family, Jeffrey will be missed. Norma Cooper*



NORMA COOPER - December 28, 2024 at 12:21 AM

FA

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Trust in God for strength.*



Frankie Anderson - December 27, 2024 at 11:18 PM

AT

“ *Antoinette Thompson lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Antoinette Thompson - December 27, 2024 at 08:17 PM

SW

“ Sharon Walton lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey



Sharon Walton - December 27, 2024 at 07:48 PM

TL

“ Tony & Demetria Leak lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey



Tony & Demetria Leak - December 27, 2024 at 06:54 PM

TL

You will be missed...

Tony & Demetria Leak - December 27, 2024 at 06:57 PM

DS

“ Debra Shaw lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey



Debra Shaw - December 27, 2024 at 02:08 PM

JB

“ *Janice Beard lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Janice Beard - December 27, 2024 at 01:21 PM

KJ

“ *Khendra Jordan lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Khendra Jordan - December 27, 2024 at 01:01 PM

TW

“ *Tonya Whitten lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Tonya Whitten - December 27, 2024 at 12:50 PM

JJ

“ *Jackie Johnson lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Jackie Johnson - December 27, 2024 at 10:34 AM

AS

“ *Alyce Scott lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Alyce Scott - December 27, 2024 at 10:32 AM

GC

“ *Gwendolyn Creech lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Gwendolyn Creech - December 27, 2024 at 08:49 AM

DO

“ *Donna(Brown)Smith lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Donna(Brown)Smith - December 27, 2024 at 06:24 AM

LS

“ *Louvina Smith lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Louvina Smith - December 26, 2024 at 11:20 PM

LH

“ Jeffrey was the most happy and pleasant person to be around. I had the pleasure to work with him at Provident -Health source and Cigna. My prayers are with the family. He will be missed.

Lisa Higdon - December 26, 2024 at 07:09 PM

ET

“ Edna Talley lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey



Edna Talley - December 26, 2024 at 05:41 PM

SS

“ Stephanie Saxton lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey



Stephanie Saxton - December 26, 2024 at 05:41 PM

SS

Our Heartfelt Sympathy and Condolences to Terry Starkey and family. Praying that God will comfort you with his peace and his love during your time of sorrow.

Pastor & Mrs. Blevins B. Saxton III

Stephanie Saxton - December 26, 2024 at 05:58 PM

JG

“ *My deepest condolences for all he left behind. My time with CIGNA Jeffery was the true uplifting source that I and many others depended on.*

Joanne Smith Godsey - December 26, 2024 at 04:56 PM

KD

“ *Kelli Darden lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Starkey*



Kelli Darden - December 26, 2024 at 03:37 PM

KD

Prayers for the family of such a wonderful saved man!!! My friend!

Kelli Darden - December 26, 2024 at 03:39 PM

MB

Jeffrey was a very kind dearest man who I often referred to him as my 'Brother'....and he called me 'Sister'. He was always an up-beat, up-lifting person, with a contagious laugh and smile. There is dancing, singing and oh yeah skiing in Heaven. You're Sister, Marie Buffington!~

Marie Buffington - December 26, 2024 at 07:19 PM

KM

Sending heartfelt sympathy, love and prayers to the family. Jeff was a very dear and close friend who will truly missed!

Krystal McWhorter - December 29, 2024 at 09:42 AM

DH

I remembered the good old days when you first started working with Provident/Cigna....Jeffrey was smart, witty, and an excellent cook. It's so hard to say good-bye...Jeffrey truly lived a beautiful life on this side of time.

Darlene Houston - January 08, 2025 at 10:26 AM