



Mr. Elijah Anthony King "Lighter Man" McDonald

February 8, 2004 - June 17, 2024

UTICA – Mr. Elijah Anthony King “Lighter Man” McDonald, age 20, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, June 17, 2024, in the comfort of his home.

Born in Utica on February 8, 2004, Elijah was the son of Gerard “Jerry” McDonald and Evelyn Watkins. He attended T. R. Proctor High School. After high school, he worked various jobs at the Utica Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Burlington Coat Factory, and lastly at FedEx as a package handler at their Marcy warehouse.

Elijah was a sweet person who wanted everyone to be happy. He had a strong personality and at times could be quiet and affectionate. Naturally athletic, he excelled at basketball and football, especially standing out as a running back for the Proctor Raiders. He wanted to carry his love of the game forward in his life through coaching.

Elijah enjoyed music, but most importantly, he loved spending time with his family. His dream was to one day own enough land to farm, and have his family live next to each other. He also desired to travel and see the country. He always wanted his boys by his side to show them the world as they grew.

Elijah is survived by his father, Jerry McDonald and his wife Stephanie; his mother Evelyn Watkins and her companion Gregory Ager; his sons, Amari

Henderson, and Jah'Quior McDonald; his love, Isyss Pemberton; his siblings, Adrienne McDonald, Azaira McDonald, Cheyenne McDonald, Romeaire Mathis, Kaison Randall, Alayah Watkins, and Gionni Ager; and his paternal grandmother, Carol McDonald. He also knew the love of grandparents in Tammy and Anthony Nevith. He leaves his memory to a host of aunts, uncles, great-aunts, great-uncles, and cousins too numerous to mention. Throughout his life he cherished many friendships, especially with his life-long friends, Alex, Jalon, Ferris, and Jayden. He was predeceased by his paternal grandfather, Gerard McDonald; his maternal grandmother, Cynthia Mathis; and his cousins, Steven Mathis (November 2021), and Jamal Mathis (December 2015).

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Elijah's Home Going Service and Celebration of Life will commence at 1:00 p.m. at the funeral home. For those unable to attend, you may be present virtually at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87693663429>

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 26. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Home Going Service

JUN 26. 1:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
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Tribute Wall

GD

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family 🙏🙏💖*



Grace V DeCastro - August 02, 2024 at 01:22 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Elijah Anthony King "Lighter Man" McDonald.*



June 25, 2024 at 08:14 AM

JH

“ *You were a great kid growing up in the terrace, always respectful! My prayers for your family and friends..*



Jasmine Horstead - June 24, 2024 at 07:55 AM

JH

“ *You were a great kid growing up in the terrace, my prayers go out to your family and friends!*

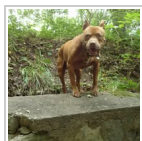


Jasmine Horstead - June 24, 2024 at 07:53 AM

SM

“ You brought me more joy than you will ever know. Watching you grow up into the young man you are has been an honor, one that I will always cherish. You have had a piece of my heart since the day I met you, and that will never change. I will carry you with me always, in my heart, until we meet again. I love you with my whole heart, Elijah.

Stephanie McDonald - June 22, 2024 at 03:40 PM



“ From watching you taking your 1st Breath till the day I take My Last, You made a home in My Heart. And not even the end of forever can change that. No one will ever understand the Love We have for each other. Far Beyond Forever.



Bdk Simba - June 22, 2024 at 01:34 PM

WI

“ Eli, was a great man was always smiling and happy would always make anyone who was sad or having a bad day smile or laugh you would always be there for people 24/7 without having to, he was a great man/Father RIP 🕊️



Wine - June 22, 2024 at 11:42 AM