

Welcome to the Home Going  
Celebration of a ReMarkable man

The One and Only  
**Larry E. Gentry**

*Processional*

Ministers,  
Funeral Directors, Family

*Scripture Reading*

Old Testament - Reverend Gerald Evans  
New Testament - James M. Williams

*Opening Prayer*

*Musical Selection*

Order My Steps  
Fifth Street Baptist Church

*Resolution and Acknowledgements*

*Remarks*

Please limit to 2 minutes

*Musical Selection*

I Shall Wear A Crown  
Saxophonist  
Bishop Charles Martin

*Eulogy*

Pastor Byron Coleman III

*Video Tribute*

*Recessional*

Ministers,  
Funeral Directors, Family

*Repast*

Serenity Outreach Ministries  
2717 N Missouri Ave.  
OKC, OK 73111



*Pallbearers*

Jalil Thurman  
Evan Hooks  
Titus Gentry  
Omar Williams  
Tremon Wells  
Glenn Josey  
DeCory Williams  
Jalil Abdul-Baggee  
Taylan Wells  
Tylan Wells

*Honorary Pallbearers*

Raymond Blanchey  
Aaron Crowder  
Harold Gentry  
James M. Williams  
Kenneth Williams  
Arif Abdullah  
Howard T. Brazel  
Victor Dotson

*Flower Bearers*

Tonya Rice  
Lori Moore  
Robin Mayes  
Jeanette Whitlow  
Blayre Redrick  
Chanda Robinson  
Quinnita Crowder  
Janise King  
Debra Richards

*Honorary Flower Bearers*

Yolanda Cooper  
Clarencetta Josey  
Taylor Wells  
Tyanne Wells  
Brandi Lemons  
Brittani Redd  
Tyler Gentry

*Interment*

Hillcrest Memory Gardens  
12813 N.E. 50th St., Spencer, OK 73084

*Acknowledgments*

We the family of Larry Eugene Gentry would like to thank each one of you for your calls, prayers, visits, food, or perhaps you just thought of us. We thank you and you will forever be in our gratitude. We will forever miss our father, grandfather, brother, cousin, and friend but there is so much comfort in knowing that he was loved and will be missed by others as well.

Family Entrusted Final Arrangements To:

**Temple & Sons**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS, INC.

2801 North Kelley Avenue • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111  
Phone: 405-427-8321  
"We Care" II Timothy 4.8



THE PRINT HOUSE OKC • 405.439.5083

# CELEBRATING

*The Life and Legacy of*

**LARRY**  
*E. Gentry*



*Sunrise and Sunset*  
May 21, 1953 - November 10, 2021

Saturday, November 20, 2021 at 12:00pm  
Fifth Street Baptist Church  
801 N. E. 5th St. • Oklahoma City, OK 73104





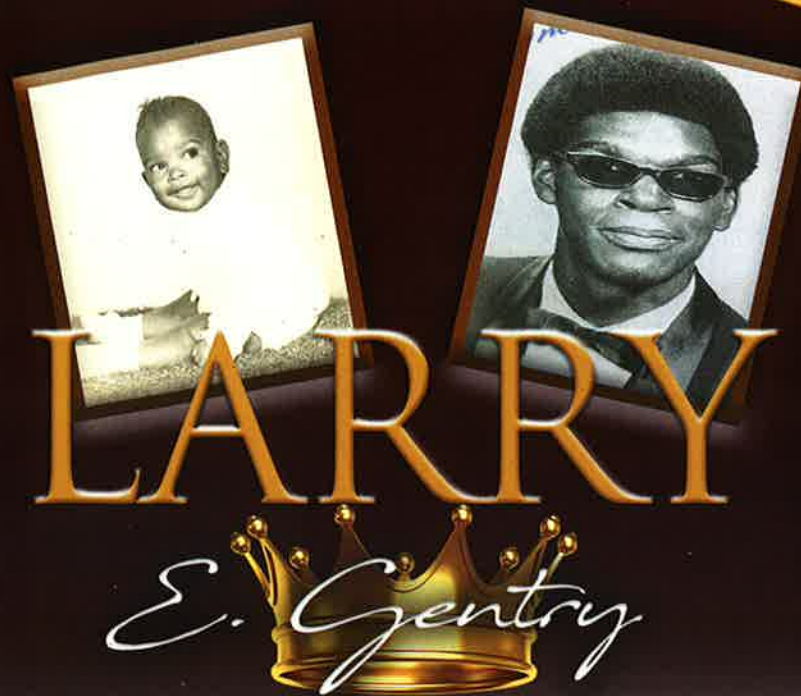
It was the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May 1953, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, that John Edward and Eva Mae Gentry welcomed the birth of their second child, a son, into the family and the world. John Edward and Eva Mae named their newborn son Larry Eugene.

Larry grew up to be a tall, slender youth. His elementary school days were spent at Truman Elementary School followed by Jr High School years at John F. Kennedy Jr High School. Once at Douglass Senior High School, part of the class of 1971, Larry gained popularity among his classmates as part of the school's basketball team. He was also a member of the Douglass Senior High School Choir under the directorship of Mr. Larry Hicks. Post high school graduation Larry attended Central State University for one year with a focus on Criminal Justice.

It was Christmas Day, December 25, 1974, that Larry and his high school sweetheart, Vickie Williams, married in the home of the bride's paternal grandparents. To their union, was born three children --- three daughters--- Breia, Yauntia, and Anyaae. During Vickie's first pregnancy, with both of them having full-time jobs, Larry discovered their "crockpot" ---a wedding gift most likely--- And boy did he make use of it! --- Ensuring that his wife would have a healthy dinner at the end of their workdays.

With their three daughters crowned with heads full of thick, long hair and each being "tender headed," the songs heard during morning dressing times were not songs of joy--- to say the least. Larry believed he could comb their hair without the tears and drama ---So what does he do--- he combs their hair specializing in braids! It eased the outcries, and he felt the hero. Larry and Vickie later divorced in 1984. In addition to his three girls, Larry also presumed the parenting role of his bonus children Evan, whom he affectionately called "ElRoy", Tyler, and Jalil by way of Vickie. He was also blessed with his first granddaughter, Aiyana, in November of 2002. Larry later remarried and divorced Amanda Phillips.

For over ten years, Larry worked at Wilson's Packing House--- a good steak or other meat, especially chitterlings, was a frequent find not only at their home table but at the tables of extended family. He also worked at Seagate Technologies where he gained knowledge about technology of the times and gained him an introduction to today's technology. He would often share his knowledge and aspects of the use of technology. For approximately five years, Larry was able to satisfy his interest in traveling and doing what he



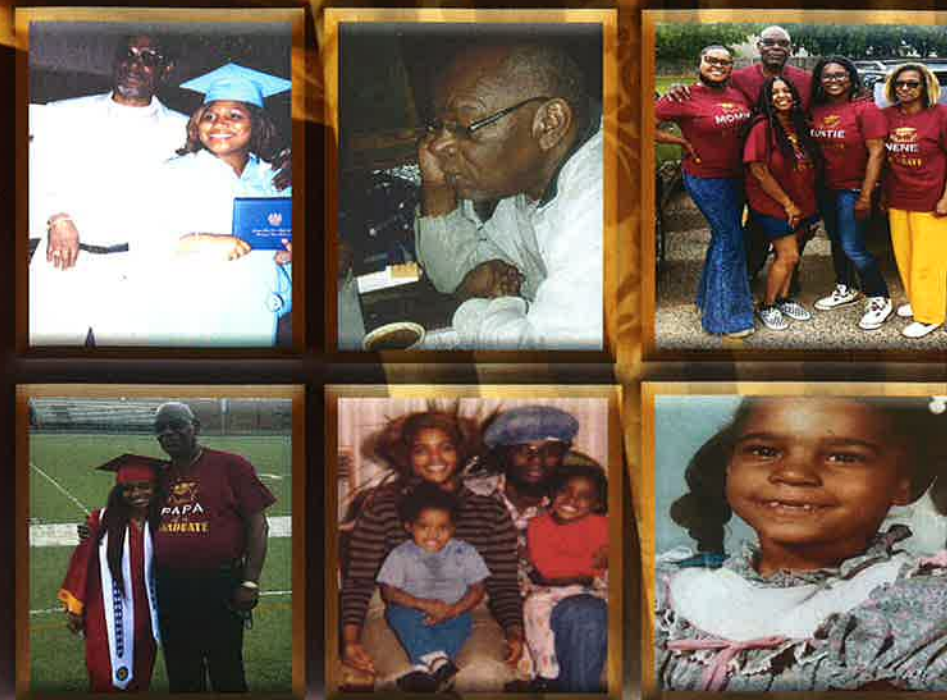
loved to do--- DRIVE --- through his employment as a national truck driver, in which he would often stop through Atlanta to visit with his daughter Yauntia. While there, they would often cook meals especially neckbones. After his truck driving career, he was employed over ten years and to the end of his life he as an Insurance Claims Representative with the Chickasaw Nation.

Larry was perfectly imperfect and fell to the addictive culture during the 70's and the 80's. His journey to recovery began March 10, 1990. It was on one of his truck driving trips that brought him to New York City in the early 2000's that he revealed to his sister-in-law during dinner why he began his journey to overcome addiction. He said he just got "sick and tired of being sick and tired". Through his struggle he found the strength, support, the emotional wherewithal through the 12 Step Program. Within the addiction and recovery community he was provided with an available and insightful support structure.

As Larry embarked on his journey to recovery, he was able to assume various roles within the addiction and recovery community including the title of Trusted Servant which then allowed him to assume the roles of both chairperson and treasurer. The satisfaction and accomplishments came from not only bettering himself, but also helping to better the lives of others who struggled with addiction. His involvement, as he helped himself and others, afforded him the opportunity to travel nationally to the yearly World Recovery Convention. Larry was 100% PLUS, dedicated to his recovery journey often expressing his enthusiasm and belief in the process itself. Having overcome addiction on a day-to-day course Larry created a fulfilling life for himself. He was an avid and active member of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church always willing to help in any way he could. He developed and maintained close relationships with his fellow church members, especially Bro. and Sis. Thomas Byrd.

Watching sports --- ALL SPORTS --- especially with his sister, Debra, and their mother before she passed in March of 2020, was a favorite pastime of theirs. He loved a good steak, trying new restaurants, home-cooked meals, and very much so cooking with his daughters and granddaughter in his home. He also never ceased in his passion to travel.

Spending time with family and friends was a great joy for Larry. One of his greatest and most recent joys was seeing his granddaughter, Aiyana, graduate



from high school this year in May followed by her beginning college in August at Alabama State University in Montgomery, Alabama. That was a happy car trip to Alabama with three cars packed to full with family and cargo. He was extremely supportive and patient (until he wasn't) --- sometimes using language that was full of colorful and descriptive adjectives.

Larry maintained regular contact with his daughters and granddaughter usually addressing each as "Lil Girl". By phone or in person, he greeted them asking "What's up Lil Girl". Fridays were his off day and was spent visiting family and friends. Throughout the week, he and his daughters in Oklahoma City often visited discussing meal plans for the weekend. On Sunday's, Yauntia, his second oldest daughter who lives in Atlanta, would get a phone call.

Being a supportive family member, Larry was also influential in the life of his niece, Myeesha Gentry whom he was extremely proud of and had great pleasure in moving her to college in 2004 to Grambling State University in Louisiana. He affectionately called her "Stink" and she affectionately called him "Uncle Stink". Upon her death in November of 2004, he felt as if he had lost a daughter rather than a niece. Larry was very dedicated to his family and did his best to spend an equal amount of time with all his aunts and cousins anytime he could and spent countless hours with his aunts especially Betty and Wanda.

Larry was very inclusive to all he considered family including his in-laws from his first marriage whom he always maintained close relationships with, and they were always included in holiday gatherings and family celebrations.

It was the night of Wednesday November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Larry, age 68, was found deceased in his home by his oldest daughter Breia, youngest daughter Anyaae, and sister Debra.

Larry is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents William and Birdie Honeybus, maternal grandparents Jeff and Laura Tubbs, parents John and Eva Gentry, niece Myeesha Gentry. Larry's life is also celebrated and survived by his children Breia, Yauntia, Anyaae, Evan, Tyler, and Jalil, grandchildren Aiyana Gentry, Taylan, Tylan, Taylor, and Tyanne Wells. Brother Harold, sister Debra, niece Yolanda Cooper (Keith), Nephew Titus Gentry along with a host of other aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family members and friends.