



## Terence Van Heflin

April 4, 1959 - July 9, 2021

Minister, Pastor and Trailblazer Terence Van Heflin (Van the Man) was the first born son of the amazing Della Mae Powell Heflin (Mother Della) and the late Horace Van Heflin. Van has two brothers who preceded him in death, Victor Heflin, and Anthony (Skeeter) Heflin. And one brother, whom is still living, Kieve Leonard Heflin. And his childhood friend and sister in law Deborah Heflin.

Born in Grady Hospital and raised in Mechanicsville, GA and Thomasville heights, where he attended Atlanta public schools Dobbs Elementary and Fulton High School, known as black magic in athletics. He was an all around athlete that specialized in Football, Basketball, Baseball, and Track winning all regional, All State, and All-District. Also academically he was outstanding, standing out in his class. He proceeded to acquire a full scholarship to Vanderbilt where he was reknown for his work ethic, continuing to dominate the playing field and becoming the first starting black Quarterback at a predominantly white and southern college institution, gaining a PH ED and a minor in Drama.

He continued, after 5 years at Vanderbilt, to the NFL in 1985 to the Cleveland Browns, after that he was traded to the Washington Redskins, and continued to join the USFL, joining the Memphis Showboats. He retired soon after the USFL was canceled, although he could've went to the Green Bay Packers, he joined the car industry.

He was named Mr. Sincerety in college, and was said to be the most honest,

faithful and sincere. His faith was stronger than most, the lord called him to preach his word, later becoming a minister and pastor along side his late brother Victor. He worked faithfully through the word of god, only coming to the side of anyone and everyone who needed him. And held that faith, unquestionably, until his last breath. He had a love for the lord and the word of god that was unparalleled by those who surrounded. He was an inspiration to be around, always quiet but always attentive, having an intellectual philosophy that only deepened his selflessness and love for those he cared for.

In 1982 he married Christyna Ferrell and welcomed his first daughter Francesca Heflin, whom he loved with all his heart.

In 1993, with Carolyn Haywood, he was blessed welcomed his second daughter Terraya Haywood.

In 1998, in his marriage with Deborah Ann Elizabeth Heflin, had his first son, Tyler Van Heflin.

During his marriage with Deborah Ann, he fathered his non-paternal sons and daughter, Andrew Maurice, Jamie Maurice, Patrick Deshaumps, Joël Deshaumps, and Brianne Maurice, showing them love and empathy when they had just come into the country from Canada.

He was tremendously loved by so many, including his loving family, Kieanna Heflin, Johnathon Heflin, Tobias McCrary, Antoinette Heflin, Jamal Heflin, Brianna Spanne, Jackie Jeter, Natasha Jeter' Fountain, Cedric Jeter, Brandon "BB" Heflin, and a host of amazing nieces, nephews, aunts, cousins, neighbors, childhood friends, and people he simply took the time to help when he didn't have to, and the countless people he inspired as the trailblazer he was.

Van the Man Heflin was a loving, devoted and caring father and son who only wanted the best for those he loved with all his heart and being.

Terence Van "the Man" Heflin leaves behind a tremendously groundbreaking, loving and impacting legacy, also leaving behind countless loved ones who will miss him.

May you rest on Van Heflin, your work here is over, fly high old soldier.

You'll always be our hero.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JUL **15.** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

W.D. Lemon & Sons Funeral Home - McDonough Chapel  
300 Griffin Street  
McDonough, GA 30253  
(770) 957-4337  
info@wdlemonfuneralhome.com

## Graveside Service

JUL **16.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Rose Garden Cemetery  
743 Iris Lake Rd.  
McDonough, GA 30252

# Tribute Wall

GH

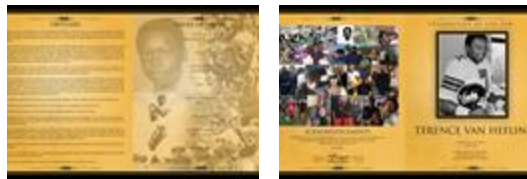
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Gwen Horne - September 16, 2021 at 01:04 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Program



W.D. Lemon & Sons Funeral Home - July 16, 2021 at 05:54 PM

GH

*My condolences to the Heflin family. I met Van in the mid '90's. He was full of life & always found a way to make me smile. He loved his family more than life itself. I loved hearing him reminisce about his football days at Vanderbilt & with the Steamboats. He was a talented Quarterback and a dedicated athlete. May he Rest In Peace. 🙏 Gwen Horne*

Gwen Horne - September 16, 2021 at 12:58 PM

CH

“ *Van you were the best brother in law anyone could ask for. Such a great listener! Always funny. Johnathan loved all the advice you gave him about life and choices. You were a great uncle to him. We will always love you and miss you. Cathy Heflin*

Cathy Heflin - July 16, 2021 at 09:33 AM

HJ

*Lord I didn't know Van had got his wings RIHP HE WAS A VERY HONEST MAN AMEN*

**Harold Jordan** - January 14, 2023 at 12:19 AM

DH

*“ I met Van Heflin in the fall of 1979. I was a walk-on in the football program at Vanderbilt. My brother was a scholarship athlete in the program, so I had heard about Van before I enrolled at Vandy. What I remember most about Van, besides his tremendous athleticism, was that he was one of the few people who welcomed me in my attempt to join the program. He was very focused in practice sessions, but he always took the time to offer words of encouragement to me and other younger players. He did not allow his status as one of the team leaders to detach him from friendliness and respect for others. Away from the gridiron, we had conversations about football, but most of our conversations were about life and the future. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to meet him, and I shall never forget his kindness. Rest in eternal peace with the Lord, my brother.*

*Dana Harris*

**DANA HARRIS** - July 16, 2021 at 01:48 AM



*“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Terence Van Heflin.*



July 15, 2021 at 12:24 PM

WJ

“ My name is William Judson and I first met Van while competing against him in high school. I went to a rival high school (Sylvan High). Ironically, I was the starting QB at Sylvan and we had many memorable battles. The biggest was our clash our senior year on the last regular season game of the year to decide the sub-region championship. Although we won 7-6, Van terrorized us all night. Van and I were also recruited by Vanderbilt together as QBs but he won that competition as they chose him for the scholarship. I'm so proud of his accomplishments at Vandy and of him as being a really good friend of mine on and off the football field. Van RIP, I'll always remember you as a person that helped to make me the man a person that I am today!

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**William Judson** - July 15, 2021 at 12:19 PM

DR

“ I first met Van in 1977 my first year at Fulton High, I was the water boy on the varsity football team. I was amazed watching Van play QB, saying he was dominant force on the field, would be putting it likely. He motivated me to want to play football. I truly can say he was one of the main reasons I played football at Fulton High. Thanks Van, for paving the way for so many of us who came behind you. RIP

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**Danny Robinson** - July 14, 2021 at 05:43 PM

RD

“ When I first met Van I was told he looked like Emmitt Smith. When I layed eyes on him I had to look up pretty high as he was like 6foot 5 inches. Now I know most know Emit was only 5 foot something so you could imagine my confusion on my face. He was like a gentle giant. It was a pleasure to know him. In my eyes he was like that Legend you hear about and whom is someone you'd look up to or ask for advice. My heart goes out to his son and his family. RIP Van the Man

Robyn Deschamps - July 13, 2021 at 11:26 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Terence Van Heflin.



July 13, 2021 at 10:32 AM

KC

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall

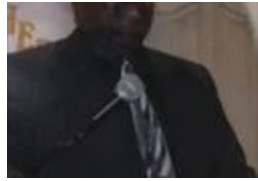


Kenny Cole - July 13, 2021 at 09:40 AM



Natasha  
Nicole

“ *Uncle Van I'll miss you so much. You were the uncle who you could call on a whim and you'll be there. Always giving great advice. I will miss you so much. Love Tasha!*



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**Natasha Nicole** - July 12, 2021 at 05:43 PM

DH

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**Deborah Heflin** - July 11, 2021 at 07:39 PM

DH

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**Deborah Heflin** - July 11, 2021 at 07:38 PM

DH

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**Deborah Heflin** - July 11, 2021 at 07:36 PM

DH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Deborah Heflin** - July 11, 2021 at 07:36 PM

CH

“ *Dearest Hef. It's been about 30 years since the first time we met. The life that you lived has touched many. Mighty man of God I'm so glad for the many memories we share. I will cherish them forever. I'm going to miss you terribly. Rest on. I will see you on the other side*

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**Carolyn Haywood** - July 11, 2021 at 12:39 AM