



Derek Dean Butts

February 7, 1967 - August 2, 2022

Derek Dean Butts, was born on February 7, 1967, in Gainesville, Georgia to his parents, Linda Joe Thorpe and Jessie Butts. He was surrounded by his brothers, Kerry, Gregory, Robert, III, Chris, Anthony, and his sisters, Kimberly, Apryl, and Stephanie. As a child he was nicknamed “Squeak” by his mother’s childhood friend, Felecia “Spud” Miller. She said Derek was so spoiled that when he didn’t get his way he would just cry and cry until it sounded like a squeaking noise. Growing up, Derek enjoyed running, playing baseball and basketball. He received his formal education in Gainesville, Georgia where he graduated from Gainesville High School. A fond high school memory was that of Derek being part of the basketball team who, after winning the championship, agreed to commemorate the win by painting their nails red for fun.

After high school, Derek enlisted in the United States Army. He served his country for over twenty years. Some of his tours of duty include being stationed in Korea, the Gulf War, two deployments in Iraq, and at Fort Carson in Colorado. While serving his country, he earned the Army Commendation Medal (2nd Award), the Army Achievement Medal, (4th Award), the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Army Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2nd Award), Global Medal on Terrorism Service

Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Commissioned Officer Professional Development Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Army Component Reserve Ribbon. He served with honor and distinction and was honorably discharged.

On May 4, 1991, Derek married the former Estelle Ealy in Denver, Colorado at New Hope Baptist Church. He was the proud father of two sons, LaVone and Dominick. He was a loving, devoted, husband and father. Dominick remembers the many nights of playing spades and other card games and enjoying seafood every weekend.

Derek was later blessed with three grandchildren, Khai, London, and Khloe who were an additional source of joy and pride in his life. They lovingly called him "Grandpa" and fondly remember the Sunday drives while listening to 90's music, cleaning his car, spoiling them with toys, and all the love he showed them.

By profession, Derek worked as an Aviation Aircraft Refueler while in the Army and later served in the Army National Guard. After his discharge, he became employed by Integrated Airlines, the Veterans Administration, and United Parcel Service. He was hard working, dedicated, and loved by his co-workers. He considered them all his family. He is remembered as having a kind heart and a smile that would light any room he entered.

Derek was a fun-loving man, who enjoyed life and those he encircled. In his free time, he enjoyed the quality time spent with family. He loved watching sports, listening to music, long drives, and collecting knives. His closest friend, Mike Smith will miss the many fun times they shared together and the fact that he was a true and trusted friend. He will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known this kind and wonderful man. To know Derek was to love him. Derek was never one to look for praises. He never was one to boast. He went about life working for those he loved so much.

Derek Dean Butts departed this life on August 2, 2022, in Centennial, Colorado. Those left to cherish his memory and mourn his loss include, 2 sons, LaVone Ealy and Dominick D. Butts-Ealy; his father, Jessie Butts; 5 brothers, Kerry (Cassandra) Butts, Gregory (Christi) Smith, Robert B. (Wendy) Thorpe, III, Christopher (Michelle) Thorpe, Anthony Thorpe,; 3 sisters, Kimberly B. Carithers, Apryl (Orenthal) Gates, and Stephanie (Demond) Jones; 3 grandchildren, Khai K Ealy, London L Ealy, and Khloe K. Ealy; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives, co-workers, classmates and many friends.

Cemetery Details

Alta Vista Cemetery

521 Jones Street
Gainesville, GA 30501

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 19. 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wimberly Funeral Home
325 Summitt St SE
Gainesville, GA 30501
(770) 536-3251
info@wimberlyjackson.com
<https://www.wimberlyjacksonfuneralhome.com>

Service

AUG 20. 1:00 PM (ET)

Memorial Park Chapel- North
989 Riverside Drive
Gainesville, GA, GA 30501

Tribute Wall



“ *Derek Dean Butts*

October 22, 2023 at 04:48 PM



“ *#3, it's me #4. I miss you more and more everyday. I am so proud to be your brother and friend. Spending those last few days at your side meant everything to me. The two of us hanging out again. You held on and fought for so long. You were always tougher than most. I remember the time you jumped into Fair Street pool when we were kids, you couldn't swim but you jumped anyway. I was so scared and came in to get you and was happy that turned out for the best. We had a good laugh. God we had so many good times together..... I didn't get to apologize to you for asking you to come back home so often. I am sorry. After meeting your kids and grands, I truly understand why you didn't. I get it. Your kids and grandkids are the best. They will be well cared for..... You were very important to a lot of people, your service in Denver and in Gainesville was filled with family and friends and classmates..... Where ever you are in the universe, we will reunite again..... I miss and love you #3..... Shrimp, I am #4*

Greg Smith - February 28, 2023 at 10:57 PM



“ *Wanda Tabor-Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Derek Dean Butts*



Wanda Tabor-Jenkins - September 27, 2022 at 02:47 PM

NN

“ May God grant you comfort and strength during this most difficult time. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. (Mat. 5:4)



Natalie D Niles - August 20, 2022 at 01:34 PM

Mika Young

“ Fly High Derek(Squeak) you will Never be forgotten. Our childhood memories will forever run deep in our hearts. May God give Strength & Peace to your Family during these perilous times. Rest on Bro



Mika Young - August 19, 2022 at 04:21 PM

NF

“ Nate Lewis & Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Derek Dean Butts.



Nate Lewis & Family - August 19, 2022 at 04:03 PM

NL

“ Nate Lewis & Family send our condolences to Greg Smith and Family!



Nate Lewis - August 19, 2022 at 03:58 PM

AP

“ *Angela Pruitt lit a candle in memory of Derek Dean Butts*



Angela Pruitt - August 19, 2022 at 01:50 PM

DB

“ *Deanna Burris-Rucker lit a candle in memory of Derek Dean Butts*



Deanna Burris-Rucker - August 19, 2022 at 11:15 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Derek Dean Butts.*



August 18, 2022 at 06:30 PM

JM

“ *John, Pat, and Mandy purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Derek Dean Butts.*



John, Pat, and Mandy - August 18, 2022 at 04:44 PM

ML

“ *Marion Lott lit a candle in memory of Derek Dean Butts*



Marion Lott - August 18, 2022 at 08:32 AM

SJ

“ *Star Johnson lit a candle in memory of Derek Dean Butts*



Star Johnson - August 17, 2022 at 12:21 AM

SJ

“ *Star Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Derek Dean Butts*



Star Johnson - August 17, 2022 at 12:19 AM

TR

“ *MET YOU @ THE BOYS CLUB A GUY WITH GREAT CHARACTER YOU WILL BE MISSED MY FRIEND. TROY /SHARON /TOYIA AND JOSH RANDOLPH*

TROY RANDOLPH - August 16, 2022 at 02:53 PM

BB

“ Betty Butts and Terence Bailey purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Derek Dean Butts.



Betty Butts and Terence Bailey - August 16, 2022 at 12:46 PM

AU

“ My classmate, Squeak to us, will truly be missed. We kept in touch all these years and I will miss speaking with you. Rest easy my friend. My sincerest and deepest condolences to the family. C/O '86 sends prayers. May GOD comfort you all



Adrian Usher - August 16, 2022 at 12:13 PM

TJ

“ Toni Johnson lit a candle in memory of Derek Dean Butts



Toni Johnson - August 16, 2022 at 11:38 AM

KC

“ Derek, You are Squeak to us:
Our hearts are aching with sadness and the
tears are flowing,
what it means to lose you, no one will ever
know. We hold you
close within our hearts, and there you will
remain to walk with
us throughout our lives until we meet again.
You made us so Happy, and so Proud!
This is from #1...you know and the other siblings know what that
means;
Rest in Peace #3, we love so much!



Kimberly Carithers - August 16, 2022 at 11:11 AM



“ Nana Neal sent a virtual gift in memory of
Derek Dean Butts



Nana Neal - August 16, 2022 at 09:48 AM

FR

“ Jessie Butts and Famiky sorry For your lost your son God Bless The
Family ❤️ not one Stand Alone love FayRackley Boston Mass.

Fay Rackley - August 16, 2022 at 09:32 AM

CN

“ *Charlene & Avery Niles lit a candle in memory of Derek Dean Butts*



Charlene & Avery Niles - August 16, 2022 at 08:19 AM

GM

“ *Gloria K. Maddox sent a virtual gift in memory of Derek Dean Butts*



Gloria k. Maddox - August 16, 2022 at 07:51 AM

MH

“ *Minister Phyllis Hollis-Smith sent a virtual gift in memory of Derek Dean Butts*



Minister Phyllis Hollis-Smith - August 16, 2022 at 06:38 AM

MW

“ *My condolences to the family of Derek Butts. My prayers will be with you. Misty Burris Whitfield.*



Misty Burris Whitfield - August 15, 2022 at 11:58 PM

JM

“ *Joyce Mitchell sent a virtual gift in memory of Derek Dean Butts*



Joyce Mitchell - August 15, 2022 at 10:32 PM

SD

“ *Stephanie Daniel lit a candle in memory of Derek Dean Butts*



Stephanie Daniel - August 15, 2022 at 09:48 PM

EB

“ *My condolences to the family during the passing of your beloved family member. May God continue to strengthen and comfort you all during this sorrowful time.*



Elisa Bonds-Ratliff - August 15, 2022 at 06:17 PM

AP

“ *Aprilcoleman lit a candle in memory of Derek Dean Butts*



Aprilcoleman - August 15, 2022 at 03:43 PM

SJ

“ *Such a sweet guy. Your smile will be missed.
Rest easy Squeak.* ”



Stephanie Johnson - August 15, 2022 at 03:36 PM

KL

“ *Kevin Littlejohn lit a candle in memory of
Derek Dean Butts* ”



Kevin Littlejohn - August 15, 2022 at 03:19 PM