



Dana L. Wooding

January 16, 1957 - May 10, 2026

Dana L. Wooding aka Lover, age 69, passed away May 10, 2026. Dana, affectionately known to family and friends as “Lover,” lived a life defined by hard work, kindness, and a genuine love for people. A proud graduate of Utica Free Academy (UFA), Dana began his professional journey working within the Utica School System, where he demonstrated dedication and a strong sense of responsibility early on.

While his career started in the school system, Dana became widely known and deeply respected for his exceptional talent in painting and landscaping. His work spoke for itself - transforming houses into beautiful homes, both inside and out. From New York to Georgia, to Florida, and eventually settling in Nashville, Tennessee, Dana built a reputation that crossed state lines.

Wherever he went, his craftsmanship followed, and many came to know that if they needed their home brought to life, Dana was willing to travel and deliver excellence.

Dana’s personality was just as impactful as his work. He was known for “playing basketball in church shoes,” a lighthearted reflection of his fun-loving and spirited nature. He arrived everywhere with a warm smile, an open heart, and a welcoming presence. To know Dana was to experience kindness - he truly never met a stranger. His ability to connect with others left lasting impressions on everyone he encountered. A devoted sports fan, Dana had a special love for the New England Patriots and enjoyed watching all types of sports whenever he wasn’t working. Whether cheering on his team or sharing

conversations about the latest game, these moments brought him great joy. In the final months of his life, Dana became especially intentional about staying connected with those he loved. He reached out, checked in, and made sure his presence was felt in meaningful ways. That effort did not go unnoticed, and his loved ones are forever grateful for the time, conversations, and memories they were able to share with him. Dana's life was one of service, craftsmanship, humor, and genuine love for others. His legacy lives on in the homes he beautified, the lives he touched, and the countless memories he leaves behind. He will be deeply missed, but never forgotten. Dana is preceded in death by his father, James Wooding. He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved mother, Edna Zimmerman; his children, Jacosha Alexander (Kareem), Dana Johnson (Robert), Charisse Wooding, and Levar Wooding (Willia); and his cherished siblings, Sandra Linen, Denise Jefferson, Sharon Driskell, Marcus Wooding, and James Marcus. He was a grandfather of 10 grandchildren and a great-grandfather to 4 great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and dear friends, all of whom he held close to his heart.