



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.

Tribute Wall

DJ

“ My heartfelt condolences to the Wooding family. I am saddened that I've lost my friend, my teammate, my confidant, and the many memories we shared in youth. Needless to say, for a while, if you saw Love, you saw Wass. My mile relay's stellar anchor was the truth in his quarter. We were one, I love and will miss you tremendously Love, as I know many of your fellow Utica, New Yorkers will as well. Rest, Heavenly brother, Wass.



Dr. Julius Gonzales Jr. - June 07 at 10:04 PM

IC

“ I remember lover playing ball in miller park always a winner 🏋️ rock creek park forever. May he rest in peace 🙏💙 sending my sincere condolences and prayers for his family 🤝🙏💙



ida cook - June 07 at 12:45 PM

DH

“ Lover will truly be missed. My condolences to the family.



Dorothy Holloway - June 07 at 08:54 AM

SB

“ Susan Green Bynum lit a candle in memory of Dana L. Wooding



Susan Green Bynum - June 06 at 08:09 PM

PF

“ Praying For The Families Sending Our Love and Condolences To Your Families 🙏🏻💕💕



Prince Workman & Jackson Families - June 06 at 07:10 PM



“ Shelly Brown lit a candle in memory of Dana L. Wooding

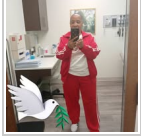


Shelly Brown - June 06 at 04:27 PM

KW

“ SIP Brother in law. Your impact you had on the communities you served and on my life early in my youth will never be forgotten. ❤️🙏🏻

Keith Webb - June 06 at 09:30 AM



“ *Sending prayers and condolences. RIP lover.*



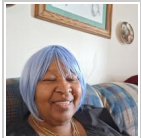
Benita Rucker - June 06 at 09:19 AM



“ *Sheila Holliman lit a candle in memory of Dana L. Wooding*



Sheila Holliman - June 06 at 08:58 AM



“ *Rest peacefully Lover.
I still see you riding your bike though UT back in our younger days. Thats my memory of you. Rest.*



Rose Patterson - June 06 at 08:57 AM

MM

“ To my beloved Uncle Lover, I love and miss you dearly. Your infectious smile and laugh always cheered me up. Your unwavering support no matter what I did, you always let me know how proud of me you were. You were/are more than an uncle to me, you were a father as well. I'll forever cherish our memories 💔🕊️💔🕊️ Continue to watch over us.....



Mecca Mitchell-Ervin - June 05 at 08:24 PM