



## Mr. Dana J. Davis

September 25, 1956 - October 3, 2012

Memphis Grizzlies VP of Basketball Operations

Dana “Double D” Joe Davis, 56, a resident of Peoria, IL passed away at his home in Memphis, TN on October 3, 2012.

Dana, a local Peoria basketball icon, the “JJ.” Camp Founder and a Memphis Grizzlies VP of Basketball Operations, was born to the late William “Mecie” and Shirley “Jean” (Meischner) Davis in Peoria on September 25, 1956.

Dana is survived by his loving and devoted family all of Peoria; Virginia Alexander, James Watson, John Davis (Renada) Fitzgerald, Juanita Sherry Mason, Marie Taylor, Alphonso Alexander, Jr. and Jo-Ann (Manzell) Alexander-Lawson; special friends, Graylin McLeod, Bobby Humbles, Mitchell “JJ” Anderson and Wayne McClain; and a host of other relatives and friends who adored him. He is preceded in death by his parents.

During his life time, Dana was afforded great career opportunities which included: Vice President of Basketball Operations Vancouver/Memphis Grizzlies, Tour manager for entertainer, Bootsie Collins; in Peoria District 150 Basketball Coach at Manual High School and Football Coach at Woodruff High School, IHSA Basketball/Baseball official, Widmer Office Supply and GR Becker Companies.

As a result of his dedication to and his accomplishments in giving back to his community, Dana was awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Commemorative Service Award and an inductee of the Peoria African

American Hall of Fame.

A Manual High School graduate, he worked on the staff of head basketball coach Wayne McClain. He graduated from Bradley University in 1978 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and Administrations.

Dana was Founder of the Mitchell "JJ" Anderson All Star Basketball Camp, member of the Bradley B Club Board of Directors, PCCEO Board Member, Peoria Tri-County Urban League Board of Directors, Peoria Boys and Girls Clubs and Board Member - Peoria County Board. Dana was also on the Board of Directors of the National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN.

Dana was a member of St. Paul Baptist Church, Peoria, IL.

Memphis, TN funeral service will be held at 2:00 pm, Sunday, October 7, 2012 in the sanctuary of Mt. Olive Cathedral CME Church, 538 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Linden) Avenue, Memphis, TN. A three hour visitation will be held the day before from 3:00 pm to 6:00pm, Saturday, October 6, 2012 at the church. Memphis, TN arrangements handled by Dignity Memphis Funeral Home and Memorial Gardens, Memphis, TN.

A hometown celebration of life funeral service will be held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at the Bradley University Renaissance Coliseum at 1600 W. Main St., Peoria, IL 61606. A three hour visitation will be held from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm prior to the funeral service. Rev. Deveraux Hubbard, Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church will officiate. Dana will be laid to rest at Lutheran Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Mitchell "JJ" Anderson All Star Camp or The Peoria Boys and Girls Clubs at Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc. (PCCEO) c/o McFarland A. Bragg, II, 711 W. McBean St., Peoria, IL 61605, (309)671-3911. Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the [simonsmortuary.com](http://simonsmortuary.com) website.

# Cemetery Details

## Lutheran Cemetery

914 S Pleasant St  
Peoria, IL 61604-5954

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **10**. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Bradley University Renaissance Coliseum  
1600 W. Main St.  
Peoria, IL 61606

## Service

OCT **10**. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Bradley University Renaissance Coliseum  
1600 W. Main St.  
Peoria, IL 61606

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Dana J. Davis*



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**Simons Mortuary** - October 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *I miss you and think of you every day! You are greatly missed.*

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**Graylin Mcleod** - October 18, 2024 at 05:30 AM



“ *Mr. Dana J. Davis*

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January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mr. Dana J. Davis*

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January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *0 file added to the tribute wall*

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**Darlene** - November 07, 2012 at 05:04 PM

DN

“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Darlene Nance-Sykes - November 06, 2012 at 01:27 PM

SM

“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Simons Mortuary - November 06, 2012 at 12:58 PM

CM

“ I can't believe you an Angel now, Dana. You will be truly missed. --  
Candy

Candy Munn - October 11, 2012 at 02:32 PM



“ 9 files added to the album Journal Star Photo's



Simons Mortuary - October 11, 2012 at 01:05 PM



“ 4 files added to the album *Funeral Program*



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**Simons Mortuary** - October 11, 2012 at 11:00 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Dana & Friends*



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**AJ PETTY** - October 09, 2012 at 05:10 PM



“ *Heavenly Light* was purchased for the family of *Mr. Dana J. Davis.*



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October 09, 2012 at 10:11 AM

AL

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



alphonsoalexander12 - October 08, 2012 at 07:35 PM

AL

*Dana Davis- Aunt Sherry Davis- Alphonso Alexander, Jr*

alphonsoalexander12 - October 17, 2012 at 08:11 PM

SS

“ *sorry to hear about the passing of dana. he was a really great guy and fellow school buddie.*

steve brandt sr - October 08, 2012 at 01:45 PM

AM

“ *Almon J. Mayze lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dana J. Davis*



Almon J. Mayze - October 08, 2012 at 10:04 AM

CH

“ *Clara Hooks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dana J. Davis*



Clara Hooks - October 07, 2012 at 04:55 PM

CG

“ 3 files added to the album *Dana & Friends*



**ck gipson** - October 07, 2012 at 02:41 PM

BR

“ We are saddened by the loss of Dana Davis. RIP! --- The Bernie Rutherford Family

**Bernie & Mimi Rutherford** - October 07, 2012 at 11:19 AM

JC

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Dana Davis. We go all the way back to Lincoln grade school. We lived on fourth and Sheridan. Then on to Manual High. We always had sports in common he will be missed.

**Janis Clayborne** - October 07, 2012 at 10:42 AM

CJ

“ Carol Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dana J. Davis



**Carol Jones** - October 06, 2012 at 10:33 PM

CJ

*Dana's generosity to his family, friends, and community will always be remembered. My condolences to Dana's family and friends.*

*Peace and Blessings, Carol Jones*

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**Carol Jones** - October 06, 2012 at 10:38 PM

VB

“ *Vicci Brooks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dana J. Davis*



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**Vicci Brooks** - October 06, 2012 at 07:26 PM

ML

“ *To the Davis family...I am still stunned and saddened by this loss. I have known Dana since our days as kids playing baseball at State Park, through Roosevelt Jr. High and Manual High School....he was always kind, considerate and willing to help anyone. I will keep each of you and all of us in prayer as we seek to continue his legacy of service to young people. God has truly brought home a champion. Peace.*

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**Mark Lampkin** - October 05, 2012 at 11:36 PM

EJ

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Earlene Jenkins** - October 05, 2012 at 10:09 PM



*These three guys grew up in the same neighborhood and enjoyed being together!*

**Earlene Jenkins** - October 06, 2012 at 12:24 PM



*These three guys grew up in the same neighborhood and enjoyed being together!*

**Earlene Jenkins** - October 09, 2012 at 09:12 PM



“ *My family met Dana when his mom and dad moved in a home on Fourth St and we stayed on Sheridan Rd. Right away him and my brothers were friends. We were all small children, playing outside all day, we went to schools together and ate at each others homes. Dana was a very kind person, always smiled and enjoyed life, he was very friendly to everyone he met. He loved sports and brought a lot to Peoria, to share with the young people. Thank you for bringing so much joy and laughter into our lives, you will be missed. May our Lord and Savior welcome you in His kingdom until we meet again.*

*Earlene Braggs Jenkins  
Houston, Tx*

**Earlene Jenkins** - October 05, 2012 at 10:07 PM



“ *Being around Dana and JJ taught me the true meaning of friendship. No one had a bigger smile or heart than Dana. Always doing something for someone else or connecting people. He was a champ who will be greatly missed by so many. I am honored to have called him a friend. May he rest in peace. - Laura Herlovich*



**laura herlovich** - October 05, 2012 at 08:16 AM

RW

*Dana was always around some coach or with some team ,he loved sports ,and shows us if you want to achieve you have to commit to be the best.*

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**Ronnie Williams** - October 05, 2012 at 02:25 PM

SV

*Dana made a great impact for Peoria sports industry. Long way from us on Martin Street.Good Guy.*

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**Sandra Vann-Dyson** - October 05, 2012 at 03:29 PM

CS

*Dana you will be well missed I remember Dana through the music world. If it was not for Dana alot of concerts that came to Peoria would not have happened God Bless You*

*Charlene and Edward Sidener*

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**Charlene Denise Sidener** - October 05, 2012 at 11:51 PM