



Curtis LeGrant Cottingham

May 12, 1963 - August 1, 2023

Curtis LeGrant Cottingham (60)

Curtis LeGrant Cottingham was born in Ferndale, Michigan to the late Lee Shelby Cottingham, Sr. and Edna Mae Cottingham. He was the youngest son of 13 children born to this union. Five siblings preceded him in death, three brothers (Roger, Leslie, and Michael), and two sisters (Fannie and Mary). Curtis was educated in the Ferndale School System, and graduated from Ferndale High School in 1981, where he played varsity football.

In 1985, Curtis enlisted in the United States Marines, serving eight years, and was honorably discharged, receiving the Rifle Expert Badge, Pistol Sharpshooter Badge, Southwest Asia Service Medal, and National Defense Service Medal as some of his decorations. He was happy to serve his country as a U.S. Marine, and remained in Virginia, as his last duty station was Quantico, Virginia.

After leaving the military, Curtis worked for 28 years for the United States Postal Service, first as a rural courier, until he was transferred to the mail handler position, working at the Merrifield Post Office passionately, and meticulously.

On July 27, 2014, Curtis married April Charese Blake-Cottingham (Blake).

April was the single mother of two sons (Jalen Kristopher and Zion Marques). Curtis not only loved April but fully loved her sons as his own, and a blended family was formed. Curtis did not consider Jalen and Zion to be his stepsons, he said on more than one occasion that, "Those are my sons". In 2019, Curtis and April became proud grandparents to one granddaughter (Mila Emerie).

Curtis was a kind, considerate, humble, hardworking man. He had his quiet moments, but Curtis was truly a clown at heart that loved making family and friends laugh and have a good time. He loved spending time with his family, whether it was traveling and spending a weekend away, or staying at home binge watching movies or TV shows. He was an avid baseball fan as well and was fully committed to all Detroit sports teams (Lions, Tigers, and Red Wings). And being a Michigander, he loved The University of Michigan football team. In fact, it was a hard time in the household when University of Michigan played Ohio State, as Zion is a long-time fan of Ohio State (so imagine the in-house rivalry that went on!).

Curtis was diagnosed with thorax angiosarcoma on March 31, 2023. A rare form of cancer, doctors warned that the prognosis was not promising, but Curtis held on to his faith in God and knew that even if God decided that it was his time, that he was ready to be in the arms of Jesus, although he would miss his family. At 9:24 pm on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, Curtis took his last breath and peacefully made his transition. Curtis leaves to cherish his memories: his loving wife of nine years, April C. Blake-Cottingham; two sons, Jalen Young and Zion Blake; one granddaughter, Mila Emerie Young; four sisters, Ellen Durr, Delores Cottingham, Lottie Boose, and Shelby Crawford (Lawrence); three brothers, Rance Cottingham Sr. (Ingrid), Eddie Cottingham, and Lee Cottingham Jr. (Tonya); a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and many, many friends.

Relatives and friends may attend the funeral at Jefferson Funeral Chapel,

5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315, on Saturday, August 12, 2023
at 11:00 am. Please view and sign the family guestbook at www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com.

Previous Events

Viewing

AUG 11. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Dr
Alexandria, VA 22315-5516
(703) 971-7400

Funeral Service

AUG 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Dr
Alexandria, VA 22315-5516
(703) 971-7400

Graveside Service

AUG 12. 12:00 PM (ET)

Mount Comfort Cemetery
6600 S Kings Hwy
Alexandria, VA 22306
(703) 765-3800

Tribute Wall



“ *Jefferson Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Curtis LeGrant Cottingham*



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - August 11, 2023 at 02:20 PM

AB

“ *To my daughter, April and family
My heart is saddened to hear about your loss. The LORD says when a person is grieving, we also should grieve with them and when a person is happy, we also should be happy with them as well. There is a time for all things. A time to be born, a time to die a time to be happy and a time to let GOD be GOD. GOD have our days in HIS Hands and HE knows what is best for us. My dear daughter I sent up a special pray for you and my family. It is okay to cry, it is okay to stare, it is okay to reminisce just remember when GOD wants to say HE loves you HE will send someone to hug you, comfort you and let you know HE is right there in your presence always. May GOD continue to surround you with HIS Love like the Tallest Mountain, The Deepest Valley and The Widest Sea. May GOD of All Ages keep watch over you and my family always.*

From Anthony C Blake, (Daddy)

Anthony C Blake - August 12, 2023 at 01:37 PM



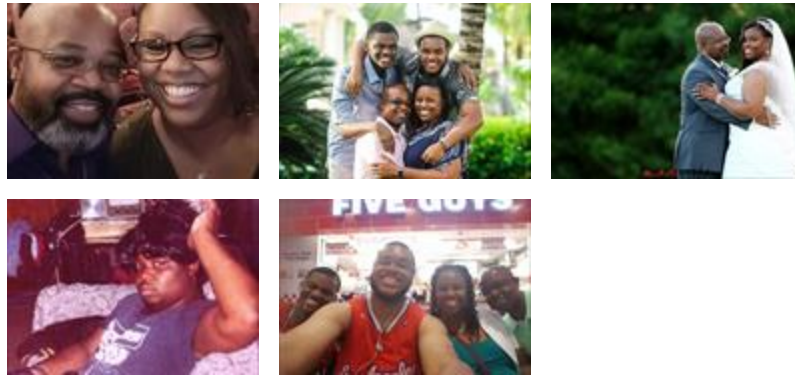
“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Curtis LeGrant Cottingham.



August 11, 2023 at 01:41 PM



“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



April Blake-Cottingham - August 10, 2023 at 06:05 PM



“ Pastor Jeremy Christ Fellowship Church purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Curtis LeGrant Cottingham.



Pastor Jeremy Christ Fellowship Church - August 10, 2023 at 12:07 PM

TW

“ Curtis, you will truly be missed. 💔 God has called you home & although no one was ready to see this day so soon, we know that He has plans for you...your purpose on earth has been fulfilled. Get your rest, MY FRIEND! 40+ year friendship strong.

Cottingham Family, continue to trust in God, never wavering your faith & He will provide you with everything you need to get through this season. I will continue praying for each of you. Love all of you!



Tonda White

Tonda White - August 09, 2023 at 11:16 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Curtis LeGrant Cottingham.



August 09, 2023 at 10:54 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Curtis LeGrant Cottingham.



August 09, 2023 at 10:33 PM

GE

“ Glen and Samantha Ethridge purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Curtis LeGrant Cottingham.



Glen and Samantha Ethridge - August 08, 2023 at 08:08 PM

GE

“ Glen and Samantha Ethridge planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Curtis LeGrant Cottingham.

Glen and Samantha Ethridge - August 08, 2023 at 08:08 PM

SC

“ We Love You Curtis and you will truly be missed. Love always & forever!!! Your brothers & sisters❤️. We are COTTINGHAM strong



Shelby Crawford - August 06, 2023 at 07:35 AM

SC

“ Curtis thank you for being one of the best big brothers a girl could ask for. I will cherish all our memories forever and you will forever be in my heart. I LOVE YOU ALWAYS and I can hear your voice saying “I LOVE YOU MORE”



Shelby Crawford - August 06, 2023 at 07:24 AM

SC

Curtis thank you for being one of the best big brothers a girl could ask for. So many memories that I will forever cherish. I LOVE YOU ALWAYS & FOREVER YOU WILL BE IN MY HEART. Love your baby sister❤️

Shelby Crawford - August 06, 2023 at 07:28 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Curtis LeGrant Cottingham.



August 06, 2023 at 07:17 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Curtis LeGrant Cottingham.



August 05, 2023 at 01:29 AM

RR

“ ROCK REICHARD purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Curtis LeGrant Cottingham.



ROCK REICHARD - August 04, 2023 at 08:29 PM

RR

“ ROCK REICHARD planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Curtis LeGrant Cottingham.

ROCK REICHARD - August 04, 2023 at 08:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Curtis LeGrant Cottingham.

August 04, 2023 at 07:13 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Curtis LeGrant Cottingham.



August 04, 2023 at 07:13 PM

KK

“ *My deepest condolences to April and the boys. You could tell in every post, every photo how much Curtis and April loved each other. Their relationship was the kind that everyone always hopes for. Sending all my love, always.*

Khristina

Khristina Kerekes - August 04, 2023 at 05:53 PM