



## William "Tony" Austin Sr.

April 9, 2023

William Anthony Austin, Sr., age 53, was called to his heavenly home early Easter morning, April 9, 2023, after an extended period of illness.

Tony, as he was lovingly referred to, was born on July 6, 1969, to Karen Carter and Robert Austin in Philadelphia, PA. His family later moved to Lancaster, PA, where Tony graduated from JP McCaskey High School. At age 11, he accepted Christ as His personal Savior and was baptized by his stepfather, Reverend Ronald Taliaferro, at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in York, PA. At the time of Tony's transition, he was employed with Crescent Park.

Tony was a fun-loving person who was very protective of his family and friends. He truly lived up to the nicknames "Big Daddy" and "Big Tony." While Superman was Tony's favorite fictional action hero, his children and grandchildren saw Big Daddy as their real hero. Tony took great pleasure in the simplest things in life, like wrestling with his cousins, playing basketball with his friends, repeatedly watching Forest Gump and Major Payne with his family, cuddling up with his dogs, Max and Roco, and sitting quietly listening to all types of music.

He enjoyed such hobbies as traveling on cruises and sampling various cuisines. He was a sports enthusiast who passionately cheered for his Philadelphia Eagles and 76ers teams.

Tony was predeceased by his grandmother, Mrs. Joan Wiggins and his beloved brother, Mark Austin. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Danielle; a son William Austin Jr., and a daughter, Victoria Parrish; 4 grandchildren, Landon Austin, Malaya Austin, Skylar Austin, and Marcquese Parrish; his parents, Ronald and Karen Taliaferro; his brother, Robert "Bob" Austin, (Wendy), and his sister, Faith Taliaferro; a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins; his godmother, Novella West, his faithful companions Max and Roco; and beloved friends.

He was a big man with a big heart who will never be forgotten. Now in the arms of God, you rest, with the one we know loves you best.

A Going Home Ceremony will take place on Friday, April 21, 2023, at The Groffs Family Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 at 12 Noon. Friends are welcome to greet the family at 11:00 a.m. until the time of service. Interment will follow at Mellinger Mennonite Cemetery, 11 Greenfield Road, Lancaster, PA 17602.

With Loving Hearts,  
The Family

# Cemetery Details

## Mellinger Mennonite Cemetery

Lincoln Hwy East  
Greenfield Road  
Lancaster, PA

# Previous Events

## Viewing

**APR 21.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc  
528 W Orange St.  
Lancaster, PA 17603  
(717) 394-5300  
admin@thegroffs.com  
<https://thegroffs.com/>

## Homegoing Service

**APR 21.** 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc  
528 W Orange St.  
Lancaster, PA 17603  
(717) 394-5300  
admin@thegroffs.com  
<https://thegroffs.com/>

## Burial

APR 21. 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM (ET)

Mellinger Mennonite Cemetery  
Lincoln Hwy East  
Greenfield Road  
Lancaster, PA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Willam "Tony" Austin Sr.*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Sending prayers n condolences to my good friends Rev T/Karen/Taliaferro/Austin family members,friends. I am truly sorry for the lost of your son Tony. May God continue to bless your family n provide extra strength to your family during this time of losing a love one.*

**Earl Papa Boots** - April 20, 2023 at 01:54 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Willam "Tony" Austin Sr..*



April 20, 2023 at 08:24 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Willam "Tony" Austin Sr..*



April 18, 2023 at 08:14 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Willam "Tony" Austin Sr..



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April 18, 2023 at 07:54 PM



“ I'm so glad I got to meet you Tony. I loved having you over for the few holiday meals at our house. You became family to us since Wendy and Bob are family to us. Rest In Peace Tony. Until we meet again. Love, Sandy,Donielle,Keith and Taylor.

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**Sandy Welk** - April 17, 2023 at 10:47 AM



“ To My Best Friend

Tony,  
My friend gone too soon I am sad and heartbroken to see you go. I had to say goodbye to the father of my children and the grandfather of my grandchildren. As I write this letter the tears that flow from my eyes, but I also smile knowing you are watching over us I will always cherish the time we had together the memories we made it was all so fun. Although we went our separate ways, we never stopped being friends and parents to our children and they blessed us with our beautiful four grandchildren. Although you are now gone from this earth you will live on though us all, watch over your grandchildren and your children I promise to do my part. Until we meet again rest in paradise my friend.

Love, Net Net.

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**Annette** - April 17, 2023 at 10:42 AM

LA

“ *To Big Daddy*

*You were full of great advice that we sometimes ignored, but in the end, you were right. Regardless of the advice, you have always sought our best interest, and we will forever be grateful. You are our hero.*

*Love,  
Your Children & Grandchildren*

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**Landon** - April 17, 2023 at 10:40 AM

FT

“ *A Brother Is Special*

*We wish to have you back, but knowing we cannot, you will remain in our hearts forever. We hope that you know how much we respect and admire you. We thank God for the memories no one can ever take from us. Since our lives belong to God, we thank Him for loaning you to us. Dear brother, you are special. We will think of you every day and always miss the best brother anyone could ever have.*

*Love,  
Faith*

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**Faith Taliaferro** - April 17, 2023 at 10:37 AM

RT

“ *Precious Son*

*God, I know You gave your precious Son to give us life with You.*

*But we didn't want our son to leave because he was precious too.*

*We know our time on earth is for learning, and when our lessons are through,*

*You will choose the time we leave, and we will return to you.*

*We know our precious son is with you, and there will be a day,*

*We, too, will leave this earth, and You will light our way.*

*Your arms will be wide open, and the wait will be worthwhile,*

*When we see our precious son again and the splendor of his smile.*

*Love, Mom & Dad*

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**Ronald Taliaferro** - April 17, 2023 at 10:33 AM