



W. D. CROWDER FUNERAL HOME

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Michael "Mike" DeWayne Thomas, Jr. was born on September 15, 1974, to Michael Thomas, Sr. and Cherry Ann Cantrell in Springfield, Tennessee. Mike professed a belief in Jesus Christ at an early age at St. Matthew Baptist Church.

Mike was a loving son, brother, cousin, uncle, and father. A loyal and loving member to his family, both immediate and extended. Mike was also a loyal fan to his beloved Chicago Bears Football Team. No matter how rough the season was Mike always chanted "Go Bears."

Mike attended school in Robertson County, graduating from Springfield High School Class of 1993. Mike was an outstanding and proud member of both the basketball and football teams. Mike found his true passion on the football field and excelled in the sport. Mike was a very versatile football player that excelled both offensively and defensively as well as with special teams. Mike was one of the most decorated football players in Springfield High School's history, earning numerous individual honors culminating with his selection as the recipient of

the 1992 TSSAA Mr. Football award which is given to the state's most outstanding player for Class AA. Springfield High School Athletic Association quotes "The Mike Thomas era represented deep postseason runs for Yellow Jackets football in the early 1990's." Mike was the key component to Coach Donnie Jones wing T offense averaging nearly seven yards per carry and two touchdowns per game. After graduating High School, Mike went on to play football at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in Murfreesboro, Tennessee where he majored in Health/Physical Education and Recreation.

Mike later went on to Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee where he was named Mid-State All Conference in 1997. Mike's compassion and dedication for the sport followed him wherever he went and was evidenced in his performance.

Mike, post college days, went on to work for Metro Government Parks and Recreation where he served as a Recreational Leader for several different locations throughout the Nashville Metropolitan area. The Elizabeth Park Senior Center was his last place of employment where he educated, help train and motivated seniors to adapt to the benefits of a healthier lifestyle.

Mike leaves to cherish his memories: loving parents, Cherry Ann Cantrell and Michael (Maria) Thomas, Sr; loving children, Cameron Thomas, Leilani Thomas; loving, devoted girlfriend, Patricia "Trish" Leavell and her loving daughter, Jurnee Boone; loving siblings, Sonja Thomas (William Sawyers), Chalesse (Bill) Townsend, Chase Thomas and Michelle Ayala; cherished cousin/brother. Eric Leavell and Cherished uncle Danny Thomas; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and special friends, Corey Bigsbee, Marques Johnson, and Chris Snorton as well as mentors Harold Barbee and Greg Bell.