



## Mr. Mark Terrance Denson

March 24, 1964 - April 6, 2024

Mark Terrance Denson was born March 24, 1964 in Detroit to parents Herman and Christine Denson. Mark is the middle of three children, joining the family shortly after his older sister Venus, with younger brother Christopher following 12 years after.

Mark is a Cass Technical High School alumni from the class of 1982. He was known and loved as his senior class president, track star, and overall friend to everyone. After high school, Mark went on to study Business Management at Wayne State University. During his studies, he pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Incorporated. Mark served as president of Alpha Upsilon Chapter at Wayne State. Mark recently celebrated the chapter's 40th anniversary with his line brothers, the 11th Hour. He is remembered and survived by many of his brothers, and will live on in their memory forever as a brother and friend.

Affectionately named by the Detroit City Counsel as "Mr. Detroit", it is evident that Mark's biggest passion in life was the city of Detroit. Upon concluding his education with Wayne State, Mark began working for Senator Donald Riegler until shortly after, moving his professional focus back to the city, where he worked in economic development for 35 years. Most recently, Mark served as the Senior Director for Strategy and Operations for the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, with the aim to help better the future of the city through financial wellbeing. Mark worked for the DEGC for 14 years, fulfilling many roles for the company. He is highly respected in the city not only for his work with the DEGC, but for his continual devoted effort to various other

professional and personal endeavors throughout his life. Mark even owned a segway tour business, “D-Tours”, with the goal of filling the streets of Detroit and the minds of tourists and locals with knowledge, laughter, and genuine love for the city. Mark loved to give back to the city in any way he could: Detroit was one of the biggest loves of his life.

When Mark was not working, volunteering, or dedicating his time to bettering the city, he continued to give back through his support and admiration of local artists. Mark was an avid collector of art of many kinds, but filled the walls of his home with beautiful paintings and photos. Mark also loved to enjoy fine cigars and bourbons, especially in the company of friends. He is fondly remembered by all for his genuine friendship and infectious personality.

Mark passed away on April 6, 2024 peacefully in his home. He leaves behind in his memory his children: Jasmine, Michael, and Luke. He was also a loving grandfather to his grandson, Cairo. Mark also leaves in his memory many nieces and nephews, family, and friends. He will be laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit amongst other fellow proud and prominent Detroiters. He is thoroughly missed by his family and friends and will forever live on through the impacts he made and the lives he touched.

# Cemetery Details

## Woodlawn Cemetery

19975 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48203

# Previous Events

## Visitation

Thursday, Apr. **18**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home  
17600 Plymouth Road  
Detroit, MI 48227  
(313) 838-9770  
info@pyefuneralhome.com

## Family Hour / Visitation

Friday, Apr. **19**. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Kadesh Baptist Church  
20361 Plymouth Rd  
Detroit, MI 48228-1266  
(313) 272-7887

## Celebration of Life

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Friday, Apr. **19**. 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM (ET)

Kadesh Baptist Church  
20361 Plymouth Rd  
Detroit, MI 48228-1266  
(313) 272-7887

# Tribute Wall

VI

*“ Mark was truly a sincere and loving friend... I met mark close to 10 years ago and I still have the pics and videos of him joking around and goofing off when he is in a non professional role.... I will truly miss you.....  
Miss V*

viv - May 01, 2024 at 08:21 PM



*“ We were so sorry to hear of Mark's passing. Mark assisted us in finding a building in 2012 for our business, spending many hours of his own time helping us. Dinners with Mark were always entertaining and enjoyable, as Mark was a funny and personable person, who always wore a smile. We give our deepest condolences to his family. He will be greatly missed.*

Kim Casteel - April 29, 2024 at 10:14 PM

LB

*“ Mark was truly the wizard behind the curtain when it came to navigating Detroit. No matter who claims to be 'in the know', Mark was your key to doing development in the city. We were friends and comrades downtown our whole careers. What a major loss for all of us in our tight little community. Big condolences to his family and huge friend circle.*

Lynnette Boyle - April 22, 2024 at 07:42 PM

MH

*“ Mark was an important part of the best Detroit Regional Chamber generation ever. His warm light made every day better. You will be missed, Mark.*

Michele Hodges - April 22, 2024 at 06:48 AM

RF

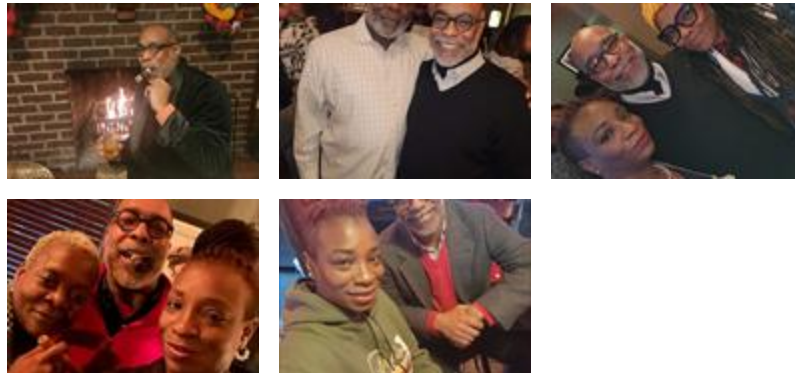
“ *My sincerest condolences to the family of Mark Denson. Mark was a kind and brilliant man with a warm smile! We will forever keep Mark in our hearts! Rhoda Henderson Fields and Al Fields*

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**Rhoda Henderson Fields** - April 19, 2024 at 11:18 PM

MA

“ *8 files added to the album tribute wall*



**Marisa** - April 19, 2024 at 12:17 PM

DJ

“ *Rev 21:4 NKJV And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away....*



*40 years of fraternal brotherhood is nothing compared to spending salvation with those who God has called HIS OWN. Rest well in Omega Chapter Sands.*

*David Johnson #7 The 11th Hour, Mystic Foundations of the Sphinx ~ Alpha Upsilon Chapter ~ Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. ~ Wayne State University Winter 1984*

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**David Johnson** - April 19, 2024 at 12:16 PM

MA

“ *... we were supposed to link up for your 60th bday, and somewhere in our texting, the plans got lost. You then called and fussed saying let's reschedule soon. We did! I last saw you on March 26th at our watering hole, Honest Johns...*

*Everything seemed normal, but I now believe you knew you weren't well. I keep replaying our conversation, and you kept telling me how proud you were of me being happy and finally focusing on me 1st!*

*You've been my friend through it ALL work, marriage, divorce, dating cigars & health!*

*After over 18 years of friendship, this is gonna be hard going on without you, I know you'd say, "Stop being a punk." I'll do my best*



*Your eastside girl Marisa Burrell Pryor*

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**Marisa** - April 19, 2024 at 10:48 AM

MW

“ Mark was an amazing ambassador for Detroit and was able to “sell” the city when it was truly tough to accomplish. His genuine passion for Detroit and his willingness to support my growth in becoming the professional that I am today will never be forgotten. Have one on me my friend! I thank God that our paths crossed.

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**Mrs. Wells** - April 19, 2024 at 09:29 AM



“ I was lucky to have met Mark 23 years ago as a new college grad and was blessed to have learned so much from him as a mentor and friend over the years. The impact his life has made in the lives of so many will never be forgotten. I pray God's peace, comfort and blessings to the family and all of his friends during this time.

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**Nicole Brown** - April 19, 2024 at 08:23 AM

NB

“ Nicole B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Mark Terrance Denson.

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**Nicole B.** - April 19, 2024 at 08:01 AM

DT

“ I attended Cass with Mark - he was always a very kind and caring classmate. My condolences.

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**DARYL L THOMPSON** - April 18, 2024 at 05:46 PM

PN

“ Pat Nemeth purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Mr. Mark Terrance Denson.



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Pat Nemeth - April 18, 2024 at 03:43 PM

PN

“ Pat Nemeth planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Mark Terrance Denson.

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Pat Nemeth - April 18, 2024 at 03:43 PM

FF

“ From Norman B Anderson & Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Mr. Mark Terrance Denson.



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From Norman B Anderson & Family - April 17, 2024 at 07:07 PM

FF

“ From Norman B Anderson & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Mark Terrance Denson.

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From Norman B Anderson & Family - April 17, 2024 at 07:07 PM

YA

“ WOW! This hurts so bad. Mark and I went to Cerveny Elementary and graduated higher together as well. The last time we talked/message was last year after his father passed away and sister that passed six weeks later. His story was always, “Yacedrah beat me up and stole my bike when we were kids.” Whenever introducing me to anyone. I said Mark stop saying that LOL, of course he didn’t. My dearest friend, ‘Il love you and miss you forever 📄📄📄.

Yacedrah - April 17, 2024 at 01:21 AM

SW

“ Sandra W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Mark Terrance Denson.

Sandra W. - April 16, 2024 at 03:23 PM

RF

“ Remembering Mark With Love - DEGC Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Mark Terrance Denson.



Remembering Mark With Love - DEGC Family - April 16, 2024 at 09:42 AM

RF

“ Remembering Mark With Love - DEGC Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Mark Terrance Denson.

Remembering Mark With Love - DEGC Family - April 16, 2024 at 09:42 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Mark Terrance Denson.*



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April 15, 2024 at 02:12 PM



“ *I met Mark through the Leadership Detroit program in the mid 2000s; we were roommates on the overnight retreat and hit it off immediately. As someone my senior, Mark was gracious and took me under his wing. Over that year Mark was so generous with his advice, insights, and connections; I really appreciated him for that. And while we didn't see each other regularly in the years since, whenever we'd run into one another, we had an easy rapport and enjoyed catching up on each other's life and work. My sincere condolences to Mark's friends and family. Mark was such a special person and worked tirelessly for the city he loved; I'll miss him.*

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**Francis Grunow** - April 15, 2024 at 01:07 PM



“ *I am honored to have known Mark. Mark was a true gentleman and well as professional. Class act is the best way to describe him, he will be sorely missed*

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**Anthony Stafford McDonald** - April 15, 2024 at 11:30 AM



“ I am so grateful to have met you and that you came into my life. It was my pleasure to have spent your last days together. Pure happiness!  
I will truly miss our daily talks and text.  
You were truly loved and will be miss by me forever.  
Thank you for all the lessons, laughter, kindness and unconditional acceptance; our time was cut too short.  
So many experiences and plans undone.  
What a great inspiration you were for so many.  
Praying for family and friends.



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**Kimberly Keith** - April 15, 2024 at 12:24 AM

LC

“ Leisa Celestin purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Mr. Mark Terrance Denson.



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**Leisa Celestin** - April 14, 2024 at 01:06 PM

LC

“ Leisa Celestin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Mark Terrance Denson.

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**Leisa Celestin** - April 14, 2024 at 01:06 PM

LS

“ Love, Doris LaGrone and Sonia purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Mr. Mark Terrance Denson.



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**Love, Doris LaGrone and Sonia** - April 13, 2024 at 06:14 PM

LS

“ Love, Doris LaGrone and Sonia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Mark Terrance Denson.

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**Love, Doris LaGrone and Sonia** - April 13, 2024 at 06:14 PM



“ Mark thank you for your unconditional friendship, stories, and jokes that resulted in bent-over-belly laughter, relationship and professional advice, and the introduction to many other great people like you. You are tremendously missed. Rest in peace, my friend. May your family also find peace and healing during this difficult time.



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**Nicole Scott** - April 13, 2024 at 05:16 PM

RH

“ Rest well Bro. Denson

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**Reginald Howard** - April 13, 2024 at 03:43 PM

TS

“ Mark was a great man. I am very happy that I got to know him over the years. i will miss his sense of humor and all of the banter that we had. My meemies will remain with me like a handprint on my heart. There were so many things left for us to share and experience together. I love you Mark, aka Governor, and will miss you very much. Until we meet again.

Toni Speir - April 13, 2024 at 01:29 PM

TS

“ Toni Speir lit a candle in memory of Mark Denson



Toni Speir - April 13, 2024 at 01:26 PM

TS

“ Mark was one of my favorite people. I will miss him and will always cherish his great sense of humor and the memories that we shared. The banter that we had was amazing and Mark will always have a special plae in my heart. I love him and will miss him very much. Thanks for the laughs and beautiful memories. Toni

Toni Speir - April 13, 2024 at 12:49 PM

AG

“ Anika Goss purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. Mark Terrance Denson.



Anika Goss - April 13, 2024 at 09:03 AM

AG

“ Anika Goss planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Mark Terrance Denson.

Anika Goss - April 13, 2024 at 09:03 AM

LA

“ Sincere condolences and prayers for the Family, and may God give you strength during and after this time of grief. From LaVette Anderson-Cooper



LaVette Anderson-Cooper - April 12, 2024 at 11:07 PM

SA

“ Prayers and Condolences to the family of Mark Denson. My Detroit person who could tell you anything Historical about Detroit and have wonderful stories of his childhood and the famous people he grew up around and met. He had a love for Detroit that I have enjoyed to hear and see. His love of Detroit was evident in his work life. His love for Detroit and the transformation into a better Detroit was his mission in life. He always wanted to see Detroit recover from the past. He wanted the best for Detroit's future. He is going to be greatly missed by all of his friends and family as well as his fraternity brothers. Detroit just lost a rare gemstone. Rest well my beloved. Until we meet again. Just know I am heartbroken and I am mourning with you, praying each precious memories softens the ache in our hearts.



Sandra

Sandra - April 12, 2024 at 02:26 PM

RH

“ *Our sincere condolences to Brother Mark Denson, Family & Friends*

Reginald Howard - April 12, 2024 at 12:30 PM

EF

“ *Sending condolences from The Fisher Family, Brother Edar/Edward Fisher a coworker for many years working with Mark on various projects at DEGC/DDA, he will be missed, praying for you all*

edward fisher - April 12, 2024 at 11:27 AM

VG

“ *My deepest condolences to Mark's family and friends. Mark was truly a remarkable individual, and I feel privileged to have worked alongside him as co-chairs of a committee. His unwavering dedication, kindness, and passion for Detroit were truly inspiring. May his enduring legacy bring comfort and strength to his loved ones, serving as a guiding light through this difficult time.*

Vito Grammatico - April 12, 2024 at 10:34 AM

MM

“ *Something unusual happened on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, between Mark and me at the end of the workday. This something had never happened before. The two of us walked to the parking structure together and Mark began to share his reflections of his past few days. He waved, and greeted the guard, and day porter while sharing the number of years of their acquaintance. As we walked to our cars, I found it uncanny noticing how near we had parked. We saluted one another, "have a good evening, see ya' later!" As we parted ways. Live on purpose!*

Monika McKay-Polly - April 12, 2024 at 08:54 AM