

In Loving Memory of
Brian Boykin

February 17, 1970 – July 9, 2026



Tuesday, July 28, 2026 - 11:00am

Maranatha Baptist Church

112-42 Springfield Blvd., Queens, New York

Pastor Akim Beecham, Officiating

Dashawn Moore, Organist

Obituary

Born on February 17, 1970, Brian entered the world alongside his twin sister, Briana, to the late Thurman Boykin and Helen Marie Mabry Boykin. Briana arrived first and weighed more than Brian. Although they were twins, they looked nothing alike. From the beginning, however, they shared a unique and lifelong bond.

As a proud American Descendant of Slavery, Brian carried forward a family legacy of strength, perseverance, faith, and resilience. His great-great-great-grandfather, Robert Maye, was born enslaved in North Carolina in 1847. At only 15 years old, Robert's life, labor, and future were assigned a monetary value of \$1,150—an enduring record of a time when his humanity and freedom were denied. Brian honored the ancestors who came before him and helped carry their legacy forward to future generations.

Growing up in Queens, New York, Brian attended a Catholic elementary school in Jamaica, Queens. He was intelligent, curious, and eager to learn. As a child, he could rarely resist helping others blow out the candles on their birthday cakes—a playful habit that became one of the family's fondest memories of him.

In 1983, at just 13 years old, Brian was already showing the confidence, talent, and love of music that would remain part of him throughout his life. During those years in South Jamaica, Queens, he often followed Storm to the park, where Brian would DJ. Their mother would allow Brian to go only if Storm promised to watch over him. Despite his young age, he confidently challenged older boys in rap battles and won many of them. His love of music continued into adulthood. Performing under the rap name **Deva B**, he recorded the song **“Gotta Have Faith”** with his brother Leon. He also continued to enjoy DJing and often used his equipment to provide music at celebrations and at home.

After graduating from Thomas Edison Career and Technical Education High School, Brian attended York College. During that time, his cousin Boyce helped him obtain a position at IBM, where he received training in information technology. That opportunity marked the beginning of his lifelong career in IT—a field he genuinely enjoyed and took great pride in throughout his life.

Independent, hardworking, and accomplished, Brian became a homeowner and took great pride in caring for his home and providing for his family.

He shared an enduring love with Shula, the love of his life. Together, they welcomed two beloved sons, Brian Alexander and Gavin Christopher. As a devoted father, he treasured spending time with his boys and took great pride in watching them grow. He enjoyed attending their activities, celebrating their birthdays, traveling with them, and creating lasting family memories.

Luxury automobiles were another of Brian's great passions. He loved restoring, repairing, and meticulously maintaining his cars, often performing the mechanical work himself. No one could ever guess their age because he kept each one so beautifully maintained. There seemed to be almost nothing Brian could not fix. Whether someone needed help with a car, computer, or something around the house, he was often the first person they called. Resourceful, knowledgeable, honest, and generous with his time, he enjoyed using his many skills to help the people he loved.

Travel brought Brian great happiness, and he always looked forward to family cruises and island getaways. He frequently traveled to California, where Storm and Vickie eagerly anticipated his visits and cherished the time they spent together. Whether gathering in California, cruising to Mexico, or enjoying an island vacation, these trips became treasured family traditions.

In his own special way, Brian remained closely connected with his family. He regularly sent humorous TikTok videos, photographs, and messages. He also reached out to his sister Vickie with questions about his laboratory test results. Those everyday communications—sometimes funny, sometimes thoughtful, and sometimes seeking reassurance—are now precious reminders of his presence.

Following a catastrophic medical event and a prolonged hospitalization, Brian suffered a severe and irreversible brain injury and later developed multiple life-threatening complications. Despite extensive treatment, his condition did not improve. After careful discussions among his medical team and family, the decision was made to allow him to pass peacefully and with dignity, consistent with what those closest to him believed he would have wanted.

During his illness, family and friends surrounded him with an outpouring of love, prayer, encouragement, and support. Their presence and kindness brought comfort during an extraordinarily difficult time, and the family will remain forever grateful.

Brian was preceded in death by his mother, Helen Marie Boykin; his father, Thurman Boykin; his brothers, Derrick and Leon; and his sister, Alisha.

He leaves to cherish his memory the love of his life, Shula; his beloved sons, Brian and Gavin; his twin sister, Briana; his siblings, Storm and Vickie; Vickie's husband, John; Shula's sister, Tracy; his nieces, Angie and Lillian; his nephews, Jurel and Bernard; as well as a loving extended family and cherished circle of lifelong friends.

Although his time with us ended far too soon, his memory will live on through family vacations, birthday celebrations, shared photographs, and the stories told by those who loved him.

Brian, we will miss your smile, your love, and your hugs. You will remain forever in our hearts.

The Family

Order of Service

Processional

Song “You Know My Name” - Tasha Cobbs Leonard

Scripture Old Testament..... Proverbs 3:5
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.

Scripture New Testament 1 John 5:11
“God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”

Prayer of Comfort

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Song “Never Would Have Made It” - Marvin Sapp

Reflections from Family & Friends 2 minute please

Family Tribute “A Sister’s Tribute” - Vickie Y. Mabry-Height, M.D.
Brian’s Sister

Acknowledgements

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Benediction

Recessional

Interment.....Maple Grove Cemetery, Queens, New York

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day.

To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it up with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much.

Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.

Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free!

-author unknown

Acknowledgement

The family would like to express their profound and heartfelt gratitude for every act of love and kindness extended to them during these most difficult days. In the days ahead, we will need your continued prayers and support.

The Family

Professional Services Provided By:

E.L. George Funeral Services

769 Elmont Rd, Elmont, NY, 11003-4035

Ph (516) 285-0080 • Fax (516) 285-0393

Email: egeorge64@aol.com

