



Walter Jerry Lewis Royal

May 18, 1956 - May 22, 2023

Walter Jerry Lewis Royal 67, a resident of Durham North Carolina formerly of Elmore County, Alabama transitioned May 22, 2023. Funeral Service will be Sunday May 28, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. at Peace and Goodwill Baptist Church, Rockford, Alabama burial to follow in Church Cemetery.

Mr. Walter Jerry Lewis Royal, affectionately known by his childhood nickname “Pete”, was born on May 18, 1956 to the late Mrs. Ida Mae Reynolds and Mr. Columbus Felix Ransaw. He confessed Christ at an early age and joined Peace and Goodwill Baptist Church.

Pete loved football and was an outstanding athlete at Elmore County High School as well as Alabama State University. After College he went onto follow his life’s passion when he started his culinary journey in the Triangle at the Fearington House in Pittsboro in the early 1980s. He then moved on to Durham, helping to start the award-winning Magnolia Grill before finding the place that he loved and touched so many, The Angus Barn, and becoming first-ever executive chef in 1997. His career took him across the country, including a victory in a 2006 episode of Iron Chef America, becoming the first ever African American 5 star Chef of the Year, and earning an Honorary Doctorates Degree in the field of Culinary Arts from N. C. Central State University.

Pete was preceded in death by his father Mr. Columbus Ransaw, His mother Mrs. Ida Reynolds, stepfather Mr. Willie Reynolds, and sister Ms. Beatrice Golden.

Even though he had so many accomplishments and had reached so many people, his biggest pride and the joy of his life was his only grandson Walter Lacey II, and his very close-knit family.

Walter was called into eternal rest by God on May 22, 2023.

Walter leaves to forever cherish his memories his son Walter (Tamela) Lacey:

Grandson Walter Lacey II: siblings Maxine Birmingham, James E. Royal, Reginald (Stephanie) Royal, Michael (Judy) Golden, Stephanie Meadows, Wilma Leonard, and Johnny Golden: two adopted children Bernard (Joann) Birmingham and Beverly Jackson: two uncles James Royal and Bobby (Shirley) Royal: a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Also, extended family Glenda F. Lacey, Rev. Dr. Wilbert & Diane Richardson, Lorenzo & Margaret Huggins, and Angus Barn staff, with Hillside Memorial and Gardens directing.

Cemetery Details

Peace and Goodwill Cemetery

188 Co. Rd. 30
Rockford, AL 35136

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAY 28. 2:00 PM (CT)

Peace and Goodwill Baptist Church
188 Co. Rd. 30
Rockford, AL 35136

Tribute Wall

RR

“ I will never forget the time I saw Chef compete on tv. It was then I became fascinated with the journey he had taken to become such an amazing chef. I will always remember dining at Angus Barn, when my husband asked the waiter if Chef Royal could visit our table for my birthday. Well, Chef Royal made an appearance at our table to say hi and to tell me happy birthday. The food was amazing but the visit from Chef Royal at our table was the highlight of the evening.



Relonda Richard - June 01, 2023 at 08:28 PM

SE

“ Walter has been my friend since his Cresent Cafe in Durham both former restauranteurs. I had so much admiration for him and his talents which were many. We talked on the phone frequently just to keep up with each other. A true friend and southern gentleman. He will be missed and he leaves a hole no one can feel. Edwina Shaw

Shaw Edwina - May 30, 2023 at 11:55 AM

MF

“ Walter was a great friend and colleague at Angus Barn and the Walk for Hope, who will be greatly missed. Sincere condolences to the family.

Marcia & Jon Felton - May 29, 2023 at 08:13 AM

TM

“ Tina Mitchem lit a candle in memory of Walter Jerry Lewis Royal



Tina Mitchem - May 28, 2023 at 03:33 PM

TM

Purple the color of royalty.

Tina Mitchem - May 28, 2023 at 03:35 PM

RM

“ Walter lived beside our father/grandfather Harold Carter for years in Durham! He was always a pleasant man a great neighbor and a loyal friend to our father/grandfather ! When we where without power for 2 weeks he brought us a a portable stove to cook on he made sure that we would be able to eat! He always brought us the most amazing food over he was an excellent cook! He was there when our mother/grandmother died and when our father/grandfather died and he was a honorary pallbearer at his funeral. Our father/grandfather loved and appreciated Walter! Our sincere condolences to the family as they go through this hard time!

Rachel Mcdade - May 28, 2023 at 03:12 PM

EE

“ E. John Elmore lit a candle in memory of Walter Jerry Lewis Royal



E. John Elmore - May 28, 2023 at 02:05 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Walter Jerry Lewis Royal.*



May 28, 2023 at 03:19 AM



“ *Walter and I became good friends in the mid-80's through our mutual restaurant connections. He was always very kind to me and everyone he met. Everyone always knew that Walter would be a great success in the restaurant world and he proved that many times over. His presence will be sorely missed.*

Mark - May 27, 2023 at 06:17 PM



“ *Walter Phyllis and Mary Leonard and family you will never be forgotten. Sorry you had to leave us but we know God Got you wrapped in his arms. We love you.*

Phyllis Leonard - May 27, 2023 at 01:19 PM



“ *Loved working beside you for over 6 yrs at the Barn. I never considered you my boss. You were family...You were the best!!! RIP my friend.*

Jj Parker - May 27, 2023 at 09:46 AM



I just found out Walter Royal died he was a great chef taught me many things I work with him at the crescent Cafe he left and Don took over as executive chef great memories

Rawn Henderson - December 14, 2023 at 07:01 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Walter Jerry Lewis Royal.

May 27, 2023 at 07:49 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Walter Jerry Lewis Royal.



May 27, 2023 at 07:49 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Walter Jerry Lewis Royal.



May 27, 2023 at 07:49 AM



“ Gayle Hardy lit a candle in memory of Walter Jerry Lewis Royal



Gayle Hardy - May 26, 2023 at 08:05 PM

TK

“ Tony & Denise Koscica lit a candle in memory of Walter Jerry Lewis Royal



Tony & Denise Koscica - May 26, 2023 at 06:30 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Walter Jerry Lewis Royal.



May 26, 2023 at 11:36 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Walter Jerry Lewis Royal.

May 26, 2023 at 09:27 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Walter Jerry Lewis Royal.



May 26, 2023 at 09:27 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Walter Jerry Lewis Royal.



May 26, 2023 at 02:24 AM



“ Man i just got the phone call about Walter . I am so sad to hear this . Walter and i were friends in school . We played ball . On weekends and summer i worked at kowliga marina and Walter worked at the restaurant . We hung out on our lunch break . Walter went from humble beginnings to the Top . He was so so special in his morals and ethics . May Elohem shower down understanding and blessings among Walter’s family and friends . My hope is to see you again my friend Walter . Shalom .

Arthur Lindsay - May 23, 2023 at 03:45 PM



“ Deepest condolences to Chef Walter's family. I just saw him Saturday evening at the restaurant.



James Bice - May 22, 2023 at 08:58 PM



This was taken Saturday May 20, 2023 at The Angus Barn.

James Bice - May 22, 2023 at 08:59 PM

AL

*What a great picture of a life long workin dedicate devoted God
Fearing Chef Man and James Bice*

Arthur Lindsay - May 23, 2023 at 04:17 PM