



W. Vance Cotten Jr.

April 28, 1975 - May 26, 2021

Obituary Willie Vance Cotten Jr. was born April 28, 1975, in New Haven Connecticut to Bishop W. Vance Cotten, Sr. and the late Julie Ann Bell Cotten. He departed this life on May 26, 2021.

Vance was educated in the New Haven School system and graduated from Notre Dame High School in West Haven, CT. During his time at Notre Dame, Vance played basketball and football. He was a star athlete during his years in Middle School and High School. Upon completion of high school, he attended Hampton University in Hampton, VA, where he studied music. After college, he served as the director and musician for the Eastern Connecticut University Gospel Choir.

Vance was baptized at a young age at St. Matthews UFWB Church in New Haven, CT. He later joined Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Middletown, CT, where he served as a Trustee and a faithful musician and was recently added to the church's Security Team. In addition to being a musician at Shiloh, he also shared his gift of music to various churches around the state and was a highly sought-after keyboard player for many weddings and special events. As busy as he was, he always found time to teach anyone who showed an interest in learning how to play the keyboard. Vance Jr. dedicated his life to running the family business for over 20 years and was also a serial entrepreneur. In the New Haven community, he was known as "VPoint Man".

He volunteered his time as a board member for the non-profit organization Unashamed Inc. Much like his mother, Vance believed that anything worth doing was worth doing right.

Vance was a die-hard Patriots and Lakers fan and it wasn't uncommon to see him wearing his Los Angeles Lakers or his New England Patriots attire. One of Vance's many favorite hobbies included cooking. He would sometimes share his love for cooking by feeding the church members on Sunday afternoons. Some of his signature entrees included meatloaf, yams, and red velvet cake. In the last few years, Vance became an advocate for healthy eating and would constantly call his parents and siblings to make sure they were eating properly. If you are a friend of Vance, you automatically know that his latest business venture was stocks and investments. He had found his niche and was dedicated to building generational wealth. Much like his father, Vance loved the Lord, serving people, and was determined to leave a legacy behind for his family. He took great pride in empowering those around him by sharing his knowledge of stocks. Vance desired to see his community thrive.

Vance leaves to cherish his memory, his father, Bishop W. Vance CottenSr. and his bonus mother, Rev. Dr. Kim L. Cotten; his son Isaiah, his daughters, E'moni and Averi; his siblings, Jonathan (Danielle), Joshua (Sana), JonPaul, and JulieAnne; his grandparents, Mrs. Jessie Powell, and Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Browning and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. Vance was predeceased by his mother, Julie Ann Bell Cotten; his grandfather, Bishop Jonathan Powell, his grandparents, Deacon, and Mother Edward Lee Cotten, gone but never forgotten. Vance will live on in all of our hearts.

Cemetery Details

Beaverdale Memorial Park

90 Pine Rock Avenue
New Haven, CT

Previous Events

Wake

JUN 1. 6:00 PM (ET)

St. Matthews UFWB Church
400 Dixwell Ave.
New Haven, CT 06511

Calling Hours

JUN 2. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Siloh Missionary Baptist Church
346 Butternut St.
Middletown, CT 06457

Funeral Service

JUN 2. 10:00 AM (ET)

Siloh Missionary Baptist Church
346 Butternut St.
Middletown, CT 06457

Tribute Wall

WR

“ Vance was a great man and awesome athlete! We were victorious many times on Notre Dames relay track team. A great guy so around. He'll be missed.

Warren Rush - May 04, 2024 at 02:36 PM



“ W. Vance Cotten Jr.

October 09, 2023 at 06:14 AM

SJ

“ Condolences to Cousin Jessie, Vance Sr, Caleb and rest of our NHCT family. Your loss is our loss in the passing of Vance Jr.
-Sheila & Daughter Minna Joyner-Pritchard,
GA



Sheila Joyner-Pritchard - August 27, 2021 at 10:20 PM

DD

“ Was so sad to hear such a young vibrant Vance has gone on before us, but we know we'll see him again. He was a fun loving and talented musician who loved the Lord. My fondest memory of him was I believe helping at the Family Day Camp and when we would go back to Hampton (my alma Mata also) and he would strike up a tune as he'd play for the Gospel Choir there. I know his mom Julie was happy to see him though.

My sincere Condolences and prayers for God's strength and peace to Bishop Cotton, Josh, Jonathan and the family.

Deborah Dozier - June 11, 2021 at 08:33 AM

KM

“ I will never forget this mans kindness when i moved here from N.Y. He has always been respectful, kind & giving. I will miss my dear friend. His spirit speaks for itself. Rest in Peace, gentle soul.

Kalimah Maurice - June 07, 2021 at 12:39 PM

WC

“ You have our sincere condolences, call us if you need us, we are here for you God bless.

With Our Love,
Cousin Bill & Debbie Carney



Willie Carney - June 02, 2021 at 07:39 PM

FW

“ Bishop Cotten and family, my deepest sympathy on the loss of your son.
Praying for strength and comfort. It is the wonderful memories that help in the darkest times. May Gods blessings cover you.

Frances Watley - June 02, 2021 at 03:36 PM

KD

“ IM GOING TO MISS YOU ALWAYS
BOTHERING ME AND ME AGGRAVATING
YOU PURPOSELY IN THE END WE
ALWAYS LAUGHED AT OUR JOKES ABOUT
EACH OTHER. S.I.P VANCE WE ARE
GOING TO MISS YOU..



Kiya Dupree - June 02, 2021 at 09:33 AM

LB

“ *To the Cotten Family and all of those connected to the family.*

Sending you my heartfelt condolences. It was a pleasure having known Vance at a very early age, growing up in St. Matthew's U.F.W.B. Church singing on the choir and participating with the YPCL. It has been an inspiration watching him grown into the man that he became. Although our hearts are heavy we know that wonderful memories remain in our hearts.

Know that we are continually praying for all of you!

*Latrecia Bromell
Hamden, Connecticut*

Latrecia Bromell - June 02, 2021 at 08:54 AM

JA

“ *Bishop Cotten, Kim, Caleb & Josh;*

Please accept my deepest sympathy. Vance was loved by many. I pray that the memories will keep you during this time of mourning and in the days to come after. Please know that I am praying for you all. Love you.

*Janet Void
Raleigh NC*

Janet - May 31, 2021 at 08:59 PM

JA

“ *Sis. Powell, Julieann & JonPaul*

Please accept my deepest sympathy on the passing of Vance Jr. I remember when he use to come to the church and play for us. We love Vance. I am praying for you all. Love you

*Janet Void
Raleigh, NC*

Janet - May 31, 2021 at 08:56 PM

TI

“ *Sis. Powell, Julieann & JonPaul,*

We are praying for you all during this time of bereavement. We are truly at a lost for words, but please know we are here for you. We love you and we will continue to keep you in our prayers.

*Deacon John and Ernestine Void
English Chapel Cathedral of Miracles*

Tina - May 31, 2021 at 08:53 PM

AE

On behalf of the Epps family I offer my sincere condolences we love you we're praying for you sincerely Andre Epps and family.

Andre Epps - June 02, 2021 at 09:54 AM

TI

“ *Dearest Cotten Family;*

Our deepest sympathy on the passing of Vance Jr. We remember Vance when he would come back and forth to English Chapel and whenever we visited Shiloh. We are praying for you. May God give you all strength during this time. With Love

*Deacon John and Ernestine Void
English Chapel Cathedral of Miracles*

Tina - May 31, 2021 at 08:49 PM

RF

“ *My sincere condolences to the families. I was a patron and talked with Vance all the time. We would have great conversations. I enjoyed when he would be talking with his child on the phone while working, so cute. He will be greatly missed, I am in shock about his death. May God bless you and heal you at this time.
Ms. Becky Ford and Matthew. Again, my condolences.*



Rebecca Ford - May 31, 2021 at 03:56 PM

SD

“ *I was a classmate and teammate of Vance at Notre Dame. I remember him as a great athlete and a better person. My condolences to the Cotten family.*

Sean Dargan - May 31, 2021 at 01:36 PM

CB

“ We grew up in Junior choir with Vance Jr and his Cousins knew his Mom was Supervisor of choir , Bishop Vance Cotten and family we will be praying for you all But when you feel sad God will lift you up, he will never leave you or forsake you The Quicksey



Colette Quicksey Beamon - May 31, 2021 at 03:41 AM

RW

“ To: Cotten Family
Ours condolences, and may God strength you during this time.
Epps Family
Lady Rosa, Dominique, Shaquille

Rosa Williams-Epps - May 30, 2021 at 05:18 PM

DS

“ *Bishop Cotten,
Just a few words of comfort to you and your
Family in the lost of your Son, W. Vance
Cotten Jr. The Bible tell us that He will never
leaves us alone for He will send us (you) a
Comforter. Bishop I can't tell you what it feels like in losing a Child, I
never have but I know as you know He (God) will see you through
this as you have been then for many other Families. My Family is
Praying for you and your with the belief that Our Payers will be
heard and answer by Our Almighty God in Heaven. Bless you as
you have Bless Me two years ago will I sat before you and my
Pastor Reese and others when I addressed The Council on
becoming a Deacon that Saturday Morning a Grace Baptist Church
in Waterbury, Connecticut.
Faithfully Rooted In Christ,
Deacon James R. Sanders
Grace Baptist Church
Waterbury, Connecticut*



Deacon James R. Sanders - May 30, 2021 at 05:03 PM

PL

“ *I'm gonna miss not only playing alongside Vance, but also our
conversations about various things. He was like a big brother to me,
and I'll definitely cherish that as long as I live. Sleep well, Vance.
You are in the arms of God. The best place anyone would want to
be. Til we meet again.*

Paul L. - May 30, 2021 at 04:48 PM



“ Love Everlasting Bouquet was purchased for the family of W. Vance Cotten Jr..



May 30, 2021 at 04:46 PM



“ Gm. To mr. Vance family also remembering Mr.vance as friendly man always had something funny to say. To someone when remember being a member at St.mattfew.chuch dixwellave years ago. Always was at church if the church was having. Something going on lord bless the family now and father family stay blessed donald whitted. Forest park.ga.

Donald whitted - May 30, 2021 at 07:58 AM



“ Gm to mr.vance cotton family just now seeing the passing of mr.vance long time no see Mr.cotten but I do remember the gotten family long time member at. St.mattfew.chuch 400 dixwellave new haven Mr.cotten always had a smile his face even after delivering a morning message at church also remember his mother and father mother leltha cotton and Decon john cotton and brother john cotton Barbara shop man but never has see after start a church in Middletown.ct.family please remember god's knows when call us home .donaldwhitted late rev.james.green. foster son. Forest.park.ga.

Donald whityed - May 30, 2021 at 07:39 AM

MP

“ Maceo Patton lit a candle in memory of W. Vance Cotten Jr.



maceo patton - May 30, 2021 at 06:25 AM

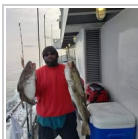
WK

“ Cousin, you will be sadly missed and your mom, Julia was such a nice woman. I'm so sorry you had to leave but I know God had a better plan for you. Rest now my fam in Paradise.

Love,

Wanda Kelley-Jones/ Keir Jones

Wanda Kelley-Jones - May 29, 2021 at 04:06 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Shannon Denny - May 29, 2021 at 12:19 PM



“ The Ave will never be the same Cottenball...you will be forever loved and missed...I love you bro 🇺🇸

c - May 29, 2021 at 12:08 PM

RR

“ *Roosevelt&Wannetta Rankins lit a candle in memory of W. Vance Cotten Jr.*



Roosevelt&Wannetta Rankins - May 28, 2021 at 05:24 PM