



Rory Emeric Woodford

April 18, 1981 - November 6, 2020

Rory's Journey

April 18, 1981—November 6, 2020

Rory was born in Gary, Indiana to Gwendolyn Marie (Woodford) Miller. He was named by our family matriarch, Mrs. Rost (Auntie Janice) Washington. He accepted the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as his personal savior at an early age and was baptized at New Salem Missionary Baptist Church. He sang in numerous choirs throughout his life and was known as a “powerhouse tenor”. He was also gifted in dance and sports. He attended North High School and earned the name “Big R”.

As a child, Rory had quite the reputation for imitating many people. His impersonation of Michael Jackson and Usher left the family crazy with laughter. He was especially fond of cartoons, DC & Marvel comics, Legos, signature caps, nice suits and ties and gaming. When watching his favorite cartoon (Thundercat), Rory would replicate everything done by the lead character “Lion-O”. His siblings called him “serial killer”.

Raised in the church, Rory established his own fictional character and alias named “Rev. Sprinkle”. He would anoint, lay hands, baptize, and pray for his siblings when they were just about to get in trouble.

The last decade of Rory's' life was his greatest challenge. We remember him for his courage and strength throughout his battle with kidney and heart disease. His campaign for a kidney transplant lasted nearly 9 years. This

much needed surgery never came to pass. Rory had a conversation with God on November 6, 2020 and gained his wings at 1:48am with his mother at his side.

Rory is survived by his Mother-Gwendolyn (Woodford) Miller; siblings Sean (Lisa) Cooley, Charmiqua Pham, Roshaunta (Marques) Williams, LaTish LaBroi, and Jasmine Miller; children Tavion, Savion, Arajah, and Taryona; fiancé, Michelle Moody; and a host of other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his nephew, Ricardo E. DeJesus.

Rory embraced extended/other very special people in his life that he called family. He affectionately referred to Pam & Randy Moody as “Mom & Dad”, Scott as “Brother & Best Friend”, and Gregory S. Miller as “Pops”.

A message from Rory’s Mother: “If Rory told you he loved you, He Meant It”

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **22**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

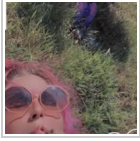
Estes Funeral Chapel
2201 Plymouth Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55411
(612) 521-6744
<https://estesfuneralchapel.com>

Funeral Service

NOV **22**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Estes Funeral Chapel
2201 Plymouth Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55411
(612) 521-6744
<https://estesfuneralchapel.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Forever in my heart & Pickles & Zabrina. You changed my life. Kindest soul and dearest friend.*



Chawna Dimich - October 27, 2022 at 12:56 AM



“ *Rory, Life is just not the same with you not here with us!! We miss you everyday!! Your Michelle is having a really hard time without you, She just can't seem to go on without you, She loves you so much & misses you like crazy. Christmas 🎄 just won't be the same without you here with us. Dad & I will watch over Michelle for you. Until we meet again. Love you!!*

Pam Moody - December 12, 2020 at 12:10 AM



“ *i miss you my cousin i know now god is watching over you i wish i had more time to too spend with you. but you are no longer in a pain god has sent for his falling angel love and miss you you are loved and truly missed*

Keisha Boyd - November 25, 2020 at 01:00 PM

RJ

“ Rory was a very kind and talented young man. Sincerity is a vital aspect of good character and, over the years, Rory was always sincere. Rory will be dearly missed and my prayers and condolences go out to the Family. The same GOD that delivered the last time will, no doubt deliver this time as well. He is sure. Proverbs 34:17-18 says,
"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears,
And delivers them out of all their troubles.
18 The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart,
And saves such as have a contrite spirit."

REV. EZRA EZEKIEL RODGERS, JR - November 23, 2020 at 10:06 AM

GM

Thanks so much my friend. To God be the Glory. I am so heartbroken but I have every intent to praise my way through. Take care

Gwenn Miller - November 24, 2020 at 06:03 PM

TB

“ Tekoa Boyd lit a candle in memory of Rory Emeric Woodford



Tekoa Boyd - November 23, 2020 at 12:43 AM

GM

Thanks pumpkin

Gwenn Miller - November 24, 2020 at 06:03 PM

JM

“ I am so sorry for Your loss. I too have only spent a short time with Rory and I also want to say he truly was a Godly man. With the exception of the last time I saw him he always had a smile on his face and cheerful spirit even to those he did not know well. The service was beautiful as was his soul which is evident from the memories shared. My heart hurts for you all and especially my family who loved him dearly. Jill Moody

Jill Moody - November 22, 2020 at 04:40 PM

PG

“ Deepest Sympathy for the family of Rory Emeric Woodford.



Pamela Gray-Williams - November 22, 2020 at 04:31 PM

IG

“ Sorry for your loss, May God richly bless you all in your grief and comfort you with his love for his people. we will miss Rory at our Holidays as we was a special man and so good for Michelle. He called me "grandma Iva". I'm Pam mother.

Iva Grussendorf - November 22, 2020 at 04:20 PM



“ Ghirardelli Galore was purchased for the family of Rory Emeric Woodford.



November 22, 2020 at 03:24 PM



“ Words cannot express the sorrow I feel but I know there is no comparison to what you all feel as mother, siblings, children and extended family. I pray that you all look to the strength of the Lord as you celebrate and remember Rory’s life. God bless and keep you all.

Auntie Aledria “Lee” and Uncle Ben

Lee Buckley - November 22, 2020 at 02:58 PM

GM

You are truly amazing. We love you

Gwenn Miller - November 22, 2020 at 10:09 PM

CP

“ This one hurts really bad. I have loved you so much since the day you was born. Today I will say goodbye and I don’t want to. The only peace I have in this is knowing you are not suffering anymore. I miss you and will continue to miss you until we are reunited in heaven. Please kiss my son and know that I love you.
Big sis Miqua

Charmiqua Pham - November 22, 2020 at 02:09 PM

GM

You have been my rock. I love you forever

Gwenn Miller - November 22, 2020 at 10:10 PM

KM

“ Michelle, Pam and Randy my heartfelt sympathy goes out to you. Rory was an amazing man and it was very hard to watch him get sicker and sicker. Love you all 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Kathy Maloney - November 22, 2020 at 02:04 PM

BH

“ To our beloved bonus family:
Our hearts grieve with you at Rory's transition, but we also know that his passing from this earthly dwelling was the gateway to eternity. Rory is resting in the everlasting arms of Jesus. And for that, we also rejoice with you - as we thank the Lord for His supreme love and grace.

Sharing these words of encouragement as you go through this very difficult time:

Snuggle in God's arms. Let Him cradle you, comfort you, reassure you of His all-sufficient power and love. ~Kay Arthur

God walks with us...He scoops us up in His arms or simply sits with us in silent strength until we cannot avoid the awesome recognition that yes, even now, He is there. ~Gloria Gaither

May the God of all comfort be with you.

*Love you all dearly,
Bill and Valeda*

Bill and Valeda Huff - November 22, 2020 at 01:36 PM

GM


Hey family. Thanks for being in our lives for decades. Rory enjoyed every book from Uncle Bill and every expression of love from Aunt Valeda.

Gwenn Miller - November 22, 2020 at 10:12 PM

MP

“ Michelle, Rory's family, Moody Family. Can't even imagine the Grief you are all feeling. Rory was a pleasant, soft spoken Man. Michelle, my heart aches for you. Losing the love of your life. Pam and Randy, it's like you lost a son. Please cherish the memories you had with him. Rory's family, you are all in my thoughts and prayers! Love and Blessings for you all. Mary Perkins Cottage Grove, MN.

Mary Perkins - November 22, 2020 at 10:25 AM

 Andrew Rohrbacher

“ Here I am. Up at 730 AM on a Sunday, getting my game face on. I never did get up early until I met you. The most unlikely pair, we were...Rory & Andy...acting like we were Rob & Big...and just like Rob, the Lord took my best friend home too soon. Idk what I'm going to do without you Rory. The world has truly become a little darker, a little less hopeful without you in it. I'm so proud that you got to see me get sober and get my life back on track. I love you, my big brother. I'm crying as I type...I'm going to miss you every day until we meet again. Rest in paradise, Big R. You've earned your place.

Andrew Rohrbacher - November 22, 2020 at 08:55 AM

BC

“ Uncle Rory! We love you fr! Every time you seen us you cried tears of joy! God got you now baby. No more pain! Kiss Ricky and grandma Grey for us. We love you soooooo MUCH! Rest in paradise 🙏🏾

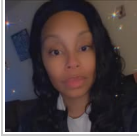


Brea Cooley - November 21, 2020 at 10:35 PM

GM

Awwwww. Super sweet. You all are so much fun

Gwenn Miller - November 22, 2020 at 09:58 AM



“ Rory,

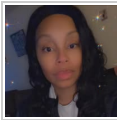
You know sometimes it's hard for me to find the right words in these times. But I want you to know I love you sooo. You always kept in touch no matter what you were going through. I was just telling my mom the other day I'm going to miss my Happy Birthday you always gave me on my birthday. Our birthdays are a week apart, and we always always always told each other happy birthday. I'll miss the times growing up when I always came to spend time with you all during spring break. I love you cousin..I miss you. But I'm glad you have no more pain. Until we meet again.

Jasmine Mitchell - November 21, 2020 at 09:39 AM

GM

Awwwww. Beautifully done. Love you

Gwenn Miller - November 21, 2020 at 10:09 PM



Love you too auntie. Always and forever. Never forget that.

Jasmine Mitchell - November 22, 2020 at 01:43 AM

GM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Gwenn Miller - November 20, 2020 at 11:57 AM

GM

This is my God Daughter Jaunica. Versed in praise dance and all other styles of dance, she dedicated this video to Rory. Thanks pumpkin. Beautifully done.

Gwenn Miller - November 20, 2020 at 03:21 PM



Marianne Deacon

♥♥♥♥ lovely

Marianne Deacon - November 22, 2020 at 01:43 PM

GM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album

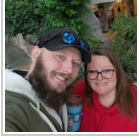


Gwenn Miller - November 20, 2020 at 11:55 AM

AM

“ I know that there are no words that can ease the pain of your absence felt by so many. You were one of the most friendly and positive people that I knew despite all that you were going through. You were a big kid at heart which is why Ethan and Josie enjoyed being around you. You appreciated every moment of life that was given to you and you made your gratitude known each day. Family gatherings won't be quite the same without you there. Now you are probably cracking jokes with grandpa Gary and I know you are watching over your family.

Angela moody - November 20, 2020 at 10:40 AM



“ *Rory,
You will be missed the happiness you brought to my sister and everyone who you meet will never be forgotten. My kids have know you as uncle Rory and you are still in their hearts as josie says. We will all miss you and love you as family.*

Matthew Moody - November 20, 2020 at 09:40 AM



“ *I have only met Rory a few times and he always had a smile on his face and a friendly heart. Was saddened to hear he had lost his battle. He will be sadly missed by my niece Michelle (he was her world) and family to my brother Randy and his wife Pam. ✨✨*

Diane Gorr - November 20, 2020 at 08:09 AM



Big thanks to the entire Moody family for loving my baby.

Gwenn Miller - November 20, 2020 at 12:10 PM



“ Rory, Dad & I want to thank you for loving our daughter Michelle. Michelle, Dad & I are going to miss you dearly. You are and were a BIG part of our (Moody) family. I want you to know that we all loved you so very much. The holidays are coming and you were a blessing to me and helping in the kitchen and we all know just how much you and I loved cooking and enjoying food. I loved watching you opening Christmas gifts, But you were always more excited to watch family open their gifts. Rory thank you for loving us all and being part of our family. You will always have a place in my heart. The lord took you away to soon from us. We all know that you had the most positive attitude of someone that was going thru so many health issues, You can now rest in peace my son with no more pain!! I love you and I'm going to miss you!
Pam Moody (Your 2nd Mama)

Pam Moody - November 19, 2020 at 01:07 PM

GM

Beautiful

Gwenn Miller - November 19, 2020 at 05:34 PM

ZM

“ The mother-son, brother bond is very special and I know you all will miss Rory deeply. I am here for you and the family during this time and want to express how sorry I am for your precious loss. I love you all to pieces and always will!!!!

With Love & Condolences!
Zee Mitchell

Zandara Mitchell - November 18, 2020 at 05:22 PM

GM

Thanks cousin. You are a jewel to us

Gwenn Miller - November 19, 2020 at 10:57 AM

GM

“ To all who read tributes to Rory....Due to COVID 19, our celebration of life is now a private viewing by immediate family. This service has been changed to November 22, 2020 @ 2:00 pm. The funeral that was originally scheduled from 3:00-4:00 is cancelled. My sincerest apologies to all who are impacted by this change. I appreciate all who have shared their tributes and love for Rory. God is in control.

Gwenn Miller - November 15, 2020 at 10:53 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rory Emeric Woodford.



November 13, 2020 at 08:50 PM

GM

“ Ephesians 2:10 NIV. "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do". My beautiful Angel Rory. You have finished the race with courage and incredible strength. Everyday you managed to carve out the good in your journey. I thank God for you but I am so hurt. I trust God to restore and comfort us in your absence. We will be together again. To my family and friends reading this post. Take care of yourselves and know that if Rory told you that he loved you, HE MEANT IT!!!!
I am without adequate words to thank the hospital staff at the U of M hospital, Davita Dialysis, and members of Rory's immediate and extended family. Bless you all.

Gwenn Miller - November 12, 2020 at 03:13 PM

SD

Much love to you

Steve Deacon - November 13, 2020 at 08:55 PM

RW

“ I'm so hurt you're not physically with us, but I'm incredibly happy you are with our Lord Jesus Christ. You had such an amazing outlook on life even with all difficulties and illness. I will miss you brother, God is giving us his peace because we know you're not suffering. I know all those life burdens have been lifted from you and you can embrace your new presence in heaven. We love you so much. Until we meet again "Boo" keep watch over your children and your fiance. Rest well, Rory! Love always and forever

Roshaunta



Roshaunta Williams - November 12, 2020 at 12:37 AM

GM

I love you with all of my heart. Rory loved you all soooo much. Thanks to you and Marques for demonstrating nothing but the best for your brother.

Gwenn Miller - November 24, 2020 at 06:07 PM

LL

“ Rory words cannot express how much I miss you. Even while not feeling the greatest you kept your faith and tried to remain positive. I never felt unsafe as a child when you were around me. I knew you would never allow me any harm. You looked tough but you were just a teddy bear and my boo! I'll miss hearing you say “hey Tishy” the world lost a great one for sure. Love you brudder. Tishy Ayanna and Aurielle

LaTish LaBroi - November 11, 2020 at 10:37 PM

GM

I love you sweetheart. You have been a tremendous blessing to me and have helped me to be what family should be with Rory's children. Thanks will never be enough.

Gwenn Miller - November 24, 2020 at 06:09 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dallas Barnes - November 11, 2020 at 05:17 PM



That smile will be missed. I love you big bro

Tank Barnes - November 22, 2020 at 10:15 AM

DB

“ Big brother!! I miss that times we hung out and went on our adventures. I miss working at Coldstone as well. I've always had your back and a ear to listen to your struggles. Rest easy bro! You fought well!!

Dallas Barnes - November 11, 2020 at 05:15 PM

CR

“ Oh Rory, I remember how you and your sisters and my son, Kellen would keep me and your mom in stitches! You were so funny and talented. I didn't see you much when you grew into a man, but you always think of you as one of 'my kids.' You are with Jesus now, and don't have to suffer any more. Rest well prince.



Ms Cheryl

Cheryl Reeves - November 11, 2020 at 04:26 PM

GM

"It Is Well, With My Soul". Thanks my dear sister. Love you

Gwenn Miller - November 24, 2020 at 06:09 PM

SD

“ Always excepted me in the family. Gonna miss our conversations on social media bro. I know your in a much better place now. Shine your spirit on us all. Let us know your near. Love you.

Steve Deacon - November 11, 2020 at 03:33 PM


Marianne
Deacon

“ *I remember your kindred spirit, you were kind, funny, sweet, caring. Could hold a conversation for days, and told the best jokes. We drifted apart as we got older. It was nice to reconnect with you and we kept in touch often as we could. You always spoke so uplifting and positive no matter the situation and advised me to do the same, because as you'd say it's always better to have a positive attitude about things, rather than be negative. I will forever be grateful for your kind words and your encouragement. I still cannot believe this is real, this is happening, this is final. You will forever hold a special place in my heart, I love you so much and miss you beyond words. My heart is so heavy with such a tremendous loss, you touched alot of lives in your time here on earth. Keep watch over us, your family, they need your bright shining light beaming down on all of them. Rest well now, your work here on earth is done. You've earned your time to rest.*



Marianne Deacon - November 11, 2020 at 03:18 PM

GM

Big kudos to you for the photo we used to design Rory's obituary. Every event we have had, you and Steve made sure you attended. I love you my sweet niece.

Gwenn Miller - November 24, 2020 at 06:11 PM

MM

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Mathew T. Mitchell - November 11, 2020 at 11:19 AM

GM

I just love this photo. Rory has a blast at our family reunion. He loved his uncle.

Gwenn Miller - November 20, 2020 at 12:09 PM

MM

“ *Mathew T. Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Rory Emeric Woodford*



Mathew T. Mitchell - November 11, 2020 at 11:00 AM

GM

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Gwenn Miller - November 11, 2020 at 09:26 AM

GM

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Gwenn Miller - November 11, 2020 at 09:12 AM

LL

Love my brudder

LaTish LaBroi - November 11, 2020 at 10:32 PM

AW

“Rory was a tough cookie. He pushed hard this past year to get where he wanted to be for transplant. Sharing many stories of family and his avid love for grilling out foods for his friends and family. He always shared how much his mom meant to him. Rory always lit up when he seen his “peeps” at dialysis. We all really enjoyed being the ones there for him when he walked through those doors 3 days a week. Rest easy Rory! I will miss you at ERR!!!!

Ashley Weber - November 10, 2020 at 02:33 PM