



Mr. Don Anthony Vallien

December 26, 1974 - May 5, 2019

Don Anthony Vallien, astute businessman, entrepreneur, loving husband and caring father passed unexpectedly at his home on Sunday, May 5, 2019, in Opelousas, Louisiana at the age of 44.

Don is survived by his loving and supportive wife, Alishia Richard Vallien and son, Antonio Vallien of Opelousas, LA; his siblings, Angie Fields (Howard “Joe”), Opelousas; Lisa Moore (Ken), Jacksonville, Florida; Gina Readore (Manuel), Opelousas; and Tykee Jackson (Les), Birmingham, Alabama; his father and mother-in-law, Lionel and Gloria Richard; and his sister-in-law Daphne Richard and brother-in-law Isaac Bo Richard, all of Iowa, Louisiana. Don is also survived by his aunt, Audrey Vallien Noble (Charles) of Houston, TX; three uncles, Andrew Vallien (Theresa) of Natchitoches, LA, Robert Morrison (late, Laura Vallien) of Opelousas, LA and Yusuf Muwwakkil (late, Theresa Vallien) of Atlanta, GA. He was adored and admired by his nieces (Lindsey, Niyah, Christian, Loren, and Sheliyah) and nephews (Johnathan Ray, Michael, Joseph, Sterling, and Anderson). His parents, John Anthony Vallien and Gloria Louise Clark Vallien, precede him in death.

Don was born on December 26, 1974, in Opelousas, Louisiana to the late John and Gloria Vallien. He attended Grambling State University and earned a degree in Hospitality Management. He also attended Remington College and earned a degree in Electronic Engineer Technology. Don also graduated from Opelousas School of Cosmetology and became a licensed barber. He opened his barbershop/salon, City of Stylez in 2007, in Opelousas. Don had many

talents that he shared with family, friends, and his community. He was blessed with a beautiful singing voice, charm, and personality that brought out the best in people. He was a generous, witty, and a honest man who loved people and was passionate about bringing awareness to sickle cell disease.

Don's dedication to making a difference in his community, state, and the world will continue to live through the work he did on Sickle Cell Awareness. He was no stranger to legislators at the capital, where he lobbied for legislation to be passed to legalize medicinal marijuana in support of those with chronic illnesses. In addition to his advocacy work, he launched a Water Bottle Challenge that gained nationwide recognition.

The documentary, "Sickle Cell Warrior" captured his battle with sickle cell, kidney failure, and his "miracle" kidney transplant surgery. Don was not new to the big screen, having had guest appearing roles in television shows, "Queen Sugar", 'N.C.I.S New Orleans", and he can be seen in the NETFLIX hit-movie, "Highway Men". As a man of multiple talents, Don also held the title of "Master Craft Barber" earning this title by creating unique and one-of kind hairstyles on young men in and around the Opelousas community. The greatest role Don cherished was that of husband to wife, Alishia and father (role model) to his son, Antonio. Don could be seen camping, fishing, hunting, and teaching his son life skills that will serve him, a lifetime.

He was an active and dedicated member of the Holy Family Catholic Church in Lawtell, Louisiana. He also was an active member of the Knights of Peter Claver, Council 40, and a former member of the Holy Family Church Choir. He received the honor as 2015-16 "Volunteer of the Year" from Southwest Louisiana Sickle Cell Anemia, Inc. He was also inducted into the National Association of University Women Black History Hall of Fame in 2016. He served as President of Southwest Louisiana Sickle Cell, Inc of Acadiana and spearheaded sickle cell awareness walks in both Opelousas and Lafayette. He also worked in collaboration with St. Landry Parish Children and Youth Services Planning Board for Sickle Cell Warrior Documentary Screening. He worked at Total Health Care Clinic as executive administrator.

Don leaves behind a host of family, friends, and people whose lives have been impacted in some fashion by his compassion. Don also leaves a legacy of work for the sickle cell anemia community as he always said, "It's not about me; it's about the sickle cell warriors."

Viewing is scheduled for Saturday, May 11, 2019, at Holy Family Catholic Church, Lawtell, Louisiana from 8:00 am to 10:45am followed by a funeral mass at 11:00 am. A Rosary will begin at 9:30 am followed by reflections at 10:00 am. Rev. Borgia Aubespain, SVD will officiate the ceremony. All are welcome to attend and to celebrate Don's life. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Fidelity c/o Antonio Vallien College Fund.

<http://go.fidelity.com/wekzp>

Condolences can be sent to Williams Funeral Home, Opelousas, LA.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas, 337-942-2037.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 11. 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Family Catholic Church
291 Thibodeaux St
Opelousas, LA 70570

Service

MAY 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Family Catholic Church
291 Thibodeaux St
Opelousas, LA 70570

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Don Anthony Vallien*

January 28, 2023 at 08:52 AM



“ *Alishia and Family,
I am so sorry to hear of your loss. May God
continue to bless you all.
Your cousin Brenda Richard Covington*



Brenda Covington - June 02, 2019 at 02:04 PM



“ *To Lisa & Angie,*

I just learned of your brother's passing from my cousin (Len). I am so sorry to hear Don's gone. After reading his obituary online, I see he was quite a special person. His story is very inspirational. I have fond memories of how welcoming he was to my parents & me during our visits to Opelousas for our family reunions. I hope I get a chance to see the Sickle Cell Warriors documentary at some point. May you have peace and comfort during this difficult time.

Denise Batiste (Rochester, NY) - May 15, 2019 at 08:06 PM



“ *From the Gallow Family, GERALYN, Shontez Denise, and Gilbert. Our thoughts and prayers we send your way for we truly feel your pain for we have walked in your shoes. Remember you're not alone, for God is with you. Love Always!*

Geralyn Charles - May 13, 2019 at 05:27 PM

LC

“ So sorry for your loss. Sending my deepest heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family.

Larry & Wanda Caillier

Larry & Wanda Caillier - May 12, 2019 at 04:06 AM

AG

“ Heartfelt condolences to the Richard and Vallien family. I didn't know Don, however his father Mr. John Vallien was principal at my elementary school. Everyone loved him such a very kind man. I know he loved his family, and so very proud of his children. Keeping the family in prayer. May God bless and keep his wife and son in his loving care.

Alonda Gobert - May 11, 2019 at 12:19 PM

SM

“ I was sadly informed of Don's passing and deeply touched. I am related to Don on his mother's side and our entire family have always loved and respected the Vallien families. I was so happy to follow his story via my cousin Eman Boyd 's documentary "Sickle Cell Warrior". His story was truly inspirational and educational, it will forever touch many hearts. My family's prayers and thoughts are with his beloved wife , son, and sisters. May our God of all comfort guard your hearts in Christ Jesus name!



Shirley Roberts McGinty - May 11, 2019 at 12:13 PM

LA

“ Don, you are an inspiration to others and definitely me. Your spirit of giving is rarely seen in today's world. You are a warrior imbued with a desire to excel in all you have done. You have been a pillar of support and strength. At the same time, you have been a blessing to others. These blessings will continue to fall upon us like roses falling from the sky... Leonard Augustine-Fraternity Brother.

Leonard Augustine - May 11, 2019 at 10:31 AM

SH

“ My condolences to the family. May God comfort you and walk with you. You are in my prayers.



Sonya Joseph Helaire - May 11, 2019 at 09:32 AM

KW

“ Karla West lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien



Karla West - May 11, 2019 at 09:07 AM

RA

“ In memory of Don Vallien. Prayers goes out to his family & friends. 🙏🙏🙏



Rachel Avilla - May 11, 2019 at 12:56 AM

NA

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the Vallien Family. From Kevin and Natalie Angelle*

Natalie Angelle - May 10, 2019 at 11:07 PM

GC

“ *Deepest condolences.*



Gloria Chevis-Smith - May 10, 2019 at 09:22 PM

 Connie Keys

“ *Connie Keys sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien*



Connie Keys - May 10, 2019 at 08:38 PM

 Connie Keys

“ *Connie Keys lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien*



Connie Keys - May 10, 2019 at 08:38 PM

LM

“ *Lori Major lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien*



Lori Major - May 10, 2019 at 07:30 PM

JP

“ *Jacqueline Powell sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien*



Jacqueline Powell - May 10, 2019 at 02:48 PM

BA

“ *R. I. P . You will be truly missed.*



Brenda Andrus - May 10, 2019 at 12:38 PM

TA

“ *The Adams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien*



The Adams - May 10, 2019 at 07:37 AM

AA

“ April & Elysa Adams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien



April & Elysa Adams - May 09, 2019 at 10:25 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien.



May 09, 2019 at 01:39 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien.



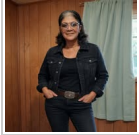
May 09, 2019 at 11:25 AM

VC

“ VICKIE COMEAUX lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien



VICKIE COMEAUX - May 09, 2019 at 09:12 AM



“ *Odelia Angelle lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien*



Odelia Angelle - May 09, 2019 at 01:37 AM



“ *Written in the Stars was purchased for the family of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien.*



May 09, 2019 at 01:22 AM



“ *Ommanda Babineaux lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien*



Ommanda Babineaux - May 08, 2019 at 10:24 PM



“ *Not just my Barber... Also my Friend.*

Algernon Pitre - May 08, 2019 at 10:05 PM

JF

“ Always kind and respectful. All our parents were educators. He always had a kind spirit with anyone he met. He’s a warrior for God, and will continue to look out for us in this world. Rest In Peace My Brother.

Jacinta Frank - May 08, 2019 at 08:31 PM

BP

“ Bradley Pickney lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien



Bradley Pickney - May 08, 2019 at 07:24 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien.



May 08, 2019 at 06:16 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien.



May 08, 2019 at 06:05 PM

TK

“ *Tonja Keys lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien*



Tonja Keys - May 08, 2019 at 04:13 PM

JS

“ *DON, YOUR LIGHT IS FOREVER SHINING IN MY HEART . YOU DID IT. REST SWEET ANGEL REST...YOUR SMILE WILL ILLUMINATE WITHIN US ALONG WITH YOUR HARD WORK FOR EVERYONE.. PRAYERING WITH THE ENTIRE FAMILY. JOHNNIE B.SIMMONS AND FAMILY WITH PLENTY OF LOVE*

JOHNNIE B. SIMMONS - May 08, 2019 at 11:47 AM

JS

“ *JOHNNIE B. SIMMONS lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien*



JOHNNIE B. SIMMONS - May 08, 2019 at 11:46 AM

JC

“ *Jill and Carsyn purchased the Simply Elegant Sp athiphyllum for the family of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien.*



Jill and Carsyn - May 08, 2019 at 11:31 AM

CR

“ *Job well done strong warrior. May these words comfort his family in their time of bereavement. Rest in heaven Classmate of 1992.*

Chantel Robinson



Chantel Robinson - May 08, 2019 at 10:51 AM

BT

“ *Barbara W Thomas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien*



Barbara W Thomas - May 08, 2019 at 10:21 AM

MC

“ *Marsha and Charlotte Combre purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien.*



Marsha and Charlotte Combre - May 08, 2019 at 08:54 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien.*



May 08, 2019 at 08:06 AM

LL

“ I did not know him, but yet I have been hearing so many wonderful things about him. What a role model to people! May he rest in peace and your family feel comgorted by our Lord.
Lolita Lemelle



Lolita Lemelle - May 08, 2019 at 02:39 AM

BG

“ PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY.



Brenda Green - May 07, 2019 at 10:51 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien.



May 07, 2019 at 08:11 PM



“ Cathy Washington lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien



Cathy Washington - May 07, 2019 at 08:11 PM



“ Our heartfelt condolences and prayers for comfort and strength goes out to the family, extended families, and friends.



Cathy Washington - May 07, 2019 at 08:10 PM

DV

“ David N. Smith Richmond, VA purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien.



David N. Smith Richmond, VA - May 07, 2019 at 06:24 PM



“ Janet Colson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien



Janet Colson - May 07, 2019 at 06:09 PM

RM

“ Rosalie Meullion lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien



Rosalie Meullion - May 07, 2019 at 05:42 PM

TP

“ *Teresita Prince lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien*



Teresita Prince - May 07, 2019 at 05:01 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien.*



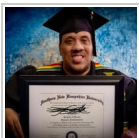
May 07, 2019 at 04:18 PM

GS

“ *Gloria Sam lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien*



Gloria Sam - May 07, 2019 at 03:44 PM



“ *To my cousin and the family You'll in my thoughts and prayers Rest well Don you deserve it You fought the great fight*

Dominique Morgan - May 07, 2019 at 03:41 PM

CC

“ *CONDOLENCES. He fought a good fight & may he Rest in Heaven. Comfort, peace & love to the family. Camella Carrier.*



camella carrier - May 07, 2019 at 03:32 PM



“ *Dime with my neighbor for a good while and I saw him when he was little and this so proud of all his accomplishments that you made as a grown man. Living next door to him and his family was sheer pleasure~~~the nicest neighbors you could ever ask for! I guess God needed him more.*



Iris Ballard - May 07, 2019 at 03:26 PM

BS

“ *Brandon & Kesha Stewart purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien.*



Brandon & Kesha Stewart - May 07, 2019 at 03:23 PM

MP

“ *Melinda Pitre sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien*



Melinda Pitre - May 07, 2019 at 03:12 PM

MP

“ *Melinda Pitre lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don Anthony Vallien*



Melinda Pitre - May 07, 2019 at 03:10 PM

MP

“ *Don you are a warrior. You will truly be missed Classmate. I will continue to pray and ask God to watch over your Wife and Son. You will be missed.*
Mz. Byrd

Melinda Pitre - May 07, 2019 at 03:10 PM

MC

“ *An awesome young man! We pray the love of God that enfolds during this difficult time. Mike Chavis*

Mike Chavis - May 07, 2019 at 03:09 PM

DL

“ *Be strong and find peace in knowing that Don is now free from any hardships of life. May the work he's done speak for him. Rest in Heavenly Peace*



Delbert Lewis - May 07, 2019 at 03:05 PM