



Mr. Orestes Steed

March 2, 1956 - April 7, 2025

Orestes Damerio Steed born on March 2, 1956 to Reverend Matthew Steed and Velma Branch Steed, was a man whose heart was as expansive as his curiosity about the world. A devoted family man, Orestes Steed was a loving son, brother, and the best “Uncle “O” to his nieces and nephews. His zest for life was contagious, and he had an innate ability to make a friend out of every stranger he met.

Orestes accepted Christ at an early age and was a member of Phipps Chapel Baptist Church, where his faith grounded him throughout his life. He graduated from Vance Senior High School in 1974 and went on to attend North Carolina Central University, where he continued to explore his passions.

Beyond his education, Orestes had a rich and diverse life filled with creativity and connection. He was a skilled percussionist, playing the Djembe and thumb piano with the West African Percussion, Drum, and Dance Troupe. He loved to travel, immersing himself in different cultures, meeting people, and leaving a positive impact on every room he entered.

A man of many interests, Orestes was fascinated by history and technology. He enjoyed exploring these topics in conversation and shared his knowledge and insights with everyone he met. He had a love for music that spanned genres, from Anthony

Hamilton to DJ Black Coffee, Tupac, Sounds of West Africa, Steel Pulse, and beyond.

Photography was another of Orestes' passions, whether it was developing film, capturing moments through digital photography, or exploring the sky with drone footage. He also believed deeply in wellness and yoga, and was always striving to live a healthy and balanced life.

Orestes had a love for the simple pleasures—spicy cocktails, decadent desserts, and good company. He will be remembered not only for his deep intellect and artistic spirit but also for his unwavering kindness, his curiosity, and the joy he brought to those around him.

He is survived by his daughter Olivia Steed, his life Partner, Colette Thurston, his mother, Velma Steed, his sister, Shyvonne Steed-Foster(Ralph), his brothers Sonjario Steed, Victor Steed (Sharon) and Ellery Steed. He also leaves to mourn a host of nieces and nephews: Courtney Barfield, Jessica Steed, Victor Steed Jr., Jabari Matthews, Sonjario Steed Jr., Sierra Daniels, Matthew Foster, and Mark Foster. Preceding him in death is his father Reverend Matthew Steed. Orestes will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A memorial service will be held May 17, 2025, 12:00-1:30 PM at North Star Church of the Arts, 220 Geer Street Durham, N.C. 27701, where we will come together to honor and celebrate the life of a truly remarkable man.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the North Star Church of the Arts to honor Orestes Damerio Steed's memory.

<https://www.northstardurham.com/support>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 17. 12:00 PM (ET)

North Star Church of the Arts
220 Geer Street
Durham, NC 27701

Tribute Wall

BW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bill Ware - October 27, 2025 at 02:57 PM

BW

“ Orestes my friend will be missed.I knew him from NCCU and Duke.He was always there to help or just listen.He loved to help people who were in need.He will be missed.

Bill Ware - October 26, 2025 at 01:28 PM

LV

“ Lorenzo Vaughan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Orestes Steed



Lorenzo Vaughan - August 24, 2025 at 11:55 PM

VM

“ Fond memories from our employment at Duke Radiology.

Vera Mills - May 16, 2025 at 10:50 AM

SR

Greetings Family and Classmates Of Vance Senior High School Class of 1974 💕💕 Much Love And Loving Peace To All Of You As We Memorialize Our Friend Orestes Steed.

Steven Rogers - May 17, 2025 at 12:53 PM

AS

“ *I'm really sad to hear about your passing. You will be greatly missed.* ”



Adriana Saurer - May 03, 2025 at 06:59 PM

AW

“ *Alfreda Brown Ward lit a candle in memory of Mr. Orestes Steed* ”



Alfreda Brown Ward - April 28, 2025 at 08:52 PM

AW

My Sincere condolences to the Steed family.

Alfreda Brown Ward - April 28, 2025 at 08:54 PM

SJ

“ *My condolences to Olivia and the family. Orestes was a joy to be around. There was always laughter with him. We worked together at Duke hospital and had many good times in Radiology. God has gained a good soldier. Peace and blessings. Sandra Canady Jamison*

Sandra Jamison - April 24, 2025 at 09:16 PM

FW

My condolences to the family. He was a classmate of mine from the class of 1974. When we would get together he would be the light of the class. When we get together now it's like something is missing. It's Orestes. Yes God has gain a beautiful angle. I know that he is there lighting up heaven with our other classmates. Keep shining Orestes.

Ferbie Watson - April 29, 2025 at 08:43 AM

BH

“ *Brenda Hill lit a candle in memory of Mr. Orestes Steed*



Brenda Hill - April 17, 2025 at 02:36 PM

MF

“ *My condolences to the Family of Orestess Steed! You all are in my thoughts and prayers!*



Marilyn Fitts - April 16, 2025 at 11:53 PM

VM

“ Praying for your family. May God strengthen the Sneed family during this time.

Veta McNeill-Best - April 16, 2025 at 09:04 AM

B)

“ Oreste was always known as the Southern brother because I lived on the Northern end of Bullock Street. Many years of memories and neighborhood LOVE!!! I am going to miss our connection because that was as always the way we greeted each other. ❤️

Barbara (Brodie)Pollard - April 15, 2025 at 06:45 PM

FW

Classmate you will truly be missed. During our class gathering for lunch or whatever you and Brian was always the life of the party. I really don't know how they are going to be now. This is a hard one here. We loved you but God loved you more. Sleep on Orestes now and take your rest.

Ferbie Watson - April 15, 2025 at 07:16 PM

EH

Orestes you will be missed. You meant so much to our beloved Class of '74. You were always there with a kind word and so much fun to be around. Most of all, you were a friend. May God continue to keep you close by, and while you have transitioned out of this earthly realm, you will never transition out of our hearts. Rest in peace old friend and childhood neighbor.

Praying for the Steed family.

Elaine Baskerville Hendking

Elaine Hendking - April 15, 2025 at 08:34 PM

RF

Orestes ,I will miss thev good times we had together, rest with God, my brother.

God bless your family.

Ronald Floyd - April 16, 2025 at 10:19 AM

GM

Sleep well, my friend. Enjoy your next adventure.
Gwen Levister McNeill

Gwen Levister McNeill - April 28, 2025 at 09:44 PM



O, thank you for your friendship and I am so glad we were able to work together if only for a minute. I thank you for your openness and willingness to help me fully embrace the digital divide. You were a wealth of knowledge and though we didn't get a chance to put our plans into action, you were an awesome leader. Rest well my friend, I'll see you on the other side. Our prayers continue for Olivia and the rest of your family.

Theresa Wright - April 28, 2025 at 09:45 PM

CH

“ *Christine Hawkins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Orestes Steed*



Christine Hawkins - April 15, 2025 at 05:44 PM

EB

“ *Ernestine Bullock Brodie lit a candle in memory of Mr. Orestes Steed*



Ernestine Bullock Brodie - April 15, 2025 at 05:23 PM

KP

“ *Kathy Perry lit a candle in memory of Mr. Orestes Steed*



Kathy Perry - April 15, 2025 at 06:16 AM

KP

My condolences to the family and he was a childhood friend and classmates❤️

Kathy Perry - April 15, 2025 at 09:32 AM

LH

“ *Leeann H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Orestes Steed.*

Leeann H. - April 14, 2025 at 04:37 PM

KW

“ *Kimberly Weaver lit a candle in memory of Mr. Orestes Steed*



Kimberly Weaver - April 14, 2025 at 12:36 PM

CI

“ *My deepest condolences. wishing you beautiful memories to be the light that guides you forward. I will miss my neighbors smile & kindness. I know he is at peace. Thank you Jesus.*



Cindy - April 13, 2025 at 08:19 PM

BS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bobbi Shedd - April 12, 2025 at 10:11 PM

BS

“ *Bobbi Shedd lit a candle in memory of Mr. Orestes Steed*



Bobbi Shedd - April 12, 2025 at 10:10 PM

BS

“ *Oreste was a a very kind sweet soul always there for his family and friends. I will always cherish my time with him in San Clemente CA. He always loved and cared. Iam still in shock as many many are. Love, light and deep deep sympathy to his dear family. Love always Bobbi Shedd San clemente calif.*

Bobbi Shedd - April 12, 2025 at 10:05 PM

LC

*Mrs. Velma Steed and Family: I am so sorry to learn of Orestes passing.
May you and the Family*

Linda F. Crews - April 16, 2025 at 12:53 PM

LC

*Condolences and prayers
are with you all*

Linda F. Crews - April 16, 2025 at 12:54 PM