



Judge Dewayne Charleston

June 30, 1963 - June 3, 2025

Judge DeWayne Everett Charleston, 61, entered into eternal life on Tuesday, June 3, 2025.

DeWayne was born on the historic campus of Prairie View A&M University on June 30, 1963, to the late Cube and Nellie Charleston. The fifth of six children, DeWayne discovered his calling for activism and public service early in life, inspired by towering figures such as Thurgood Marshall, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and W.E.B. Du Bois.

A graduate of Waller High School in the Class of 1981, DeWayne went on to pursue higher education at North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas), where he majored in political science and minored in history. In the spring of 1982, he became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., joining alongside his older brother, Carlen—a milestone that further solidified his commitment to leadership, scholarship, and service.

After completing his degree, DeWayne moved to Austin, Texas, to serve in the administration of Governor Ann Richards. He would later relocate to Dallas, where he deepened his spiritual journey by enrolling at Dallas Theological Seminary.

In 1993, DeWayne married Amy Henderson, and from that union two children

were born—Christiana DiNell and Christopher DeWayne—both of whom were raised in Prairie View, continuing the family’s deep-rooted connection to the town their father so dearly loved.

DeWayne seamlessly balanced fatherhood with civic leadership, serving as publisher of Prairie View Magazine, engaging the community as a sought-after lecturer, and mentoring youth as a dedicated Pee Wee football coach.

In 2003, DeWayne made history by becoming the first African American judge elected in Waller County, Texas. In that role, he merged his political vision with his unwavering commitment to civil rights and grassroots organizing.

His relentless advocacy against voter suppression earned him widespread recognition, most notably in 2004 when he helped organize a march of over 8,000 people in defense of voting rights—a testament to his ability to mobilize, inspire, and lead.

DeWayne played a vital and courageous role in the pursuit of justice following the death of Sandra Bland. Drawing upon his experience as both a judge and civil rights advocate, he emerged as a leading voice in demanding accountability and transparency from local authorities. His words pierced through institutional silence, offering the public a rare and unfiltered glimpse into the realities behind the scenes.

Even as he advocated for others, DeWayne waged a battle of his own. In 2009, he was diagnosed with stage IV prostate cancer and given only months to live. Anchored by unshakable faith, he underwent a series of surgeries, treatments, and experimental trials, ultimately defying every prognosis for 16 years. His remarkable survival story became the groundwork for the DeWayne Charleston Foundation, an organization devoted to raising awareness, promoting prevention, and advocating for equitable prostate cancer research

—particularly in the African-American community.

Though he no longer walks among us, DeWayne's legacy lives on—through his children, through his foundation, and through the many lives he touched, doors he opened, and barriers he broke.

DeWayne was preceded in death by his parents, Cube and Nellie Charleston. He is survived by his beloved children, Christopher and Christiana; his brothers, David, Carlen, and Craig; his sisters, Phyllis and Kathleen; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins; and a host of family members and friends who will continue to honor his legacy.

Cemetery Details

Prairie View Cemetery

Prairie View, TX 77446

Previous Events

Viewing

JUN 14. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Johnson-Phillip All Faiths Chapel
Campus of Prairie View A&M University
Prairie View, TX 77446

Funeral Service

JUN 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

Johnson-Phillip All Faiths Chapel
Campus of Prairie View A&M University
Prairie View, TX 77446

Tribute Wall

BM

“ *BEVERLY WALKER MURRAY lit a candle in memory of Judge Dewayne Charleston*



BEVERLY WALKER MURRAY - June 28, 2025 at 09:29 AM

CS

“ *Amy you and the Charleston Family are in my prayers.*



Caroline Stevenson - June 14, 2025 at 02:22 PM

TH

This little boy is in so many of my childhood memories.....the fun...the laughter...his smile...before life got to serious..I just found out he had gone before us..so unexpectedly☐ And his mother was an Angel 😊...I saw Dwayne on a few occasions in town,we weren't close as adults, but I was heart broken to hear ,I wouldn't see that amazing smile..that little head tilt.....TEARS are streaming down my face as I write this....Soooo to you Dwayne...there is SADDEST..in knowing I am unable to run into your anymore....but THANKS for some of the sweetest memories and laughter...always RESPECTFUL and a GENTLEMAN 🧡☐💙☐💚☐🧡☐

Terri Jo McFarlin Heath - June 20, 2025 at 04:02 PM

LD

“ To The Family of Dewayne Charleston; what a truly notable man, Dewayne was, I meet him in July 2015 when I was Pastoring Hope AME Church.

Prairie View, TX His loving commitment, and passion for the community, as a whole to be treated fairly, and to be met with the same grace as others made him an outstanding man, to be honored, respected, and looked up to. He ran a good race, kept the faith, and never gave up.



Sleep In Power Dewayne, Get Your Rest Brother

Lenora Dabney - June 14, 2025 at 10:42 AM

LD

“ Lenora Dabney lit a candle in memory of Judge Dewayne Charleston



Lenora Dabney - June 14, 2025 at 10:28 AM

IC

“ To the Charleston Family, Dwayne and his family were my neighbors when he lived in Hempstead. He had a great smile and was kind and friendly. He wanted things to be done fairly regardless of who you were. He will be missed for his fight for fairness. My prayer is that his family will be comforted by the many memories, the prayers and all the acts of kindness shown during this time. RIP Dewayne because you fought a great fight. Join your family and get all the rest and time that you need.



Ida Beal Campbell - June 13, 2025 at 10:25 PM

RS

“ *In loving memory of an incredible man whose life was a testament to service, compassion, and strength. A tireless advocate for the community, a voice for the voiceless, and a devoted father and friend—his impact will live on in every life he touched.*

Beyond all he gave to the world, I was blessed to know him in a personal way. In his strength, I found safety; in his presence, I found peace. Though ours was a special bond, it was deeply real—and I will cherish him always.

Let the White Standing Wreath that I've sent, be an expression of the love, kindness, authenticity and selfless-ness that was so Dewayne. Sending condolences and prayers to the Charleston Family.

Love Renae Shorts & Family

Renae Shorts - June 13, 2025 at 07:44 PM



“ *Lorrie Roberson sent a virtual gift in memory of Judge Dewayne Charleston*



Lorrie Roberson - June 12, 2025 at 11:36 AM



“ *Sending love prayers and condolences to the Charleston family* ❤️
🙏

Lorrie Roberson - June 12, 2025 at 11:35 AM

VJ

“ Charleston Family, in my thoughts and prayers for comfort



Vernessa Jones - June 11, 2025 at 04:05 PM

DR

“ Debra Ray lit a candle in memory of Judge Dewayne Charleston



Debra Ray - June 11, 2025 at 03:05 PM

TE

“ The Alpha Kappa Alpha EM purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Judge Dewayne Charleston.



The Alpha Kappa Alpha EM - June 11, 2025 at 01:48 PM

ML

“ Marie Lewis lit a candle in memory of Judge Dewayne Charleston



Marie Lewis - June 11, 2025 at 10:44 AM

ML

My God shall be our strength for days ahead.

Marie Lewis - June 11, 2025 at 10:49 AM

CK

“ *Cheryl King lit a candle in memory of Judge Dewayne Charleston*



Cheryl King - June 10, 2025 at 10:09 PM

BM

“ *Brenda Mathis sent a virtual gift in memory of Judge Dewayne Charleston*



Brenda Mathis - June 10, 2025 at 01:13 AM

BM

“ *Brenda Mathis lit a candle in memory of Judge Dewayne Charleston*



Brenda Mathis - June 10, 2025 at 01:13 AM

VW

“ We were childhood friends, family. Our village was surrounded by love, support, encouragement and discipline...our parents nurtured like no others...I remember our times of playing in the empty field between Charleston Hargest and Henderson Streets which included lots of baseball and kickball...marching up and down our streets as the pvamu band played. Lots of memories, good memories. I thank God for our friendships; the love that will never be forgotten. We will continue to pray for comfort and strength for the entire Charleston Family, our Family...lots of love. The Hargest Sisters, Beverly, Debra and Veronica.

VERONICA WEATHERSPOON - June 09, 2025 at 09:06 PM

NW

“ We have lost a fine local role model and child of the community and are all diminished by his transition. He will not be forgotten by those of us who knew and admired him. Nolan Ward & Gayle Ward Collins

Nolan Felton Ward - June 09, 2025 at 11:38 AM

NG

Prayers And Condolences To The Family. Be Blessed. Norma

Norma Gross - June 09, 2025 at 01:12 PM

DK

“ Dorothy F King lit a candle in memory of Judge Dewayne Charleston



Dorothy F King - June 09, 2025 at 01:18 AM



“ *Chollett Smith lit a candle in memory of Judge Dewayne Charleston*



Chollett Smith - June 09, 2025 at 12:26 AM



Praying for all of the Family members, may GOD bless you all

Chollett Smith - June 09, 2025 at 12:27 AM

SR

“ *Sarah Reese lit a candle in memory of Judge Dewayne Charleston*



Sarah Reese - June 08, 2025 at 05:24 PM

BC

“ *Sending Love to the Charleston Family.
Love,
The Chews*



Billie Chew - June 08, 2025 at 05:03 PM

SR

“ *Sandra Rutledge-Mosley sent a virtual gift in memory of Judge Dewayne Charleston*



Sandra Rutledge-Mosley - June 08, 2025 at 01:52 PM

JJ

“ *From your childhood until your last day, we have been allies. From your love for FAMILY to your love for people, you were always an advocate. You will be missed my brother. My love and condolences to the Charleston family. Job well done my good and faithful servant.*

Johnny Johnson - June 07, 2025 at 05:22 PM

HM

“ *Your numerous contributions to the City of Prairie View, County of Waller, the State of Texas, and beyond will long be remembered with appreciation. We extend our love and deepest sympathies to the Charleston Family.*

Hortense, Madison Jr., and Kollye Kilpatrick

HMK - June 07, 2025 at 02:35 PM

FE

“ My deepest sympathy and condolences to the Charleston Family on the passing of Dewayne Charleston.



I've known Dewayne since 1974 when he was in the Boy Scouts Troop and always admired his penchant for leadership and commitment to helping others. He graduated high school and went off to North Texas State University and we stayed in touch whenever he returned home. We furthered our friendship when he was initiated into Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Eta Epsilon Chapter.

Dewayne was a people person and was steadfast in his advocacy for what was right and would do anything that would further that cause because he believed in fairness. He always believed that things ought to be right for all people.

He got married to Amy, a fellow Gilpin Player and I was endeared with his family - Christiana and Christopher - they included me in all the special dinners, snacks, games and just plain talk on how we would better Prairie View.

Dewayne fought the good fight when he was diagnosed but never gave up on his passion for fairness in the news, fairness in voting and advocating for business development.

Brother Dewayne Legacy will continue to live on in the lives of those who he was acquainted and those in far away land.

Farewell Brother Charleston, transcendent art though. Thy memory shall live with us now, your goodness will be revered and the Glory of God shall reign because you followed the principles of good fellowship and respect for humanity at large.

Frederick V. Roberts Esquire

Frederick V. Roberts Esquire - June 07, 2025 at 02:16 PM

RD

“ A "forever" advocate working tirelessly and selflessly...until the day is done. Your efforts will never be forgotten.. Condolences to the family .

Romona Wright Dillard - June 07, 2025 at 01:30 PM

PB

“ My deepest condolences to the Family and Friends of Mr Charleston



Pamula Brooks - June 07, 2025 at 11:40 AM

TS

“ Tysha Smith lit a candle in memory of Judge Dewayne Charleston



Tysha Smith - June 07, 2025 at 11:09 AM

PH

“ Sending our heart felt condolences and prayers to the family of this remarkable man
Paul and Doris Hurst

Paul Hurst - June 07, 2025 at 10:37 AM

JR

“ *Condolences & Love To The Family*💕

Jill Robertson - June 07, 2025 at 09:35 AM

SW

“ *CONDOLENCES and PRAYERS for the FAMILY and FRIENDS of Dewayne Charleston. May GOD BLESS you all through this difficult time. The WATSON FAMILY OF WALLER.*



Sandra Watson-Wenzy - June 07, 2025 at 09:26 AM

FF

“ *Wishing you a peaceful journey into eternity my east side brother. May your soul rest in peace!*

Fronsoir Fontenot - June 06, 2025 at 10:18 PM

DV

May God bless the Charleston family with strength, courage, and comfort as you trust God to walk this journey with you. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Rev Paul and Dianne Veazie

dianne veazie - June 09, 2025 at 09:48 AM

GT

TO: THE CHARLESTON FAMILY

FROM: GLORIA MARIE THONPSON

I was deeply sadden to hear of Dewayne Charleston's passing but God's will has been done. He's with the Lord. Trust God's timing, He knows what he's doing. We may never understand his wisdom but we simply have to trust his Will. Let today be a testament of your strength, especially for his children and siblings during this very difficult time.

Gloria Marie Thompson - June 09, 2025 at 11:42 AM