



## Alonzo Joel Pickens

October 29, 1959 - August 28, 2025

Alonzo Joel Pickens, 65, of Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood, passed away on August 28, 2025.

Born and raised on Chicago's South Side, Alonzo was a proud graduate of Wendell Phillips High School. A gifted and powerful vocalist, he shared his talent on stages across the country, most notably in Las Vegas with his group Next Movement. In Chicago, Alonzo also lent his voice to the Brotherhood Chorale Men's Choir at the Apostolic Church of God, where his music touched many hearts.

Alonzo was known for his vibrant spirit, sense of humor, and natural charisma. Alonzo could connect with anyone and light up any room he entered. With his keen sense of style and magnetic personality, he left lasting impressions wherever he went. For many years, Alonzo worked as a concierge on Chicago's Magnificent Mile, where his warmth and charm shone just

as brightly as on stage.

Even in Alonzo's final days, his faith and music remained strong. From his sickbed, Alonzo serenaded his church deacon with "I'm a Soldier on the Battlefield", the very song he had so often performed at homegoing celebrations—a fitting testament to his enduring spirit.

Alonzo was the beloved husband of 38 years to his childhood sweetheart, Cheryl, whom he met in the third grade. Alonzo was a devoted father to Deontai (Angela), Christi, and Amir (David), and a proud "Papa" to his cherished grandchildren: Deontai Jr., D'Angelo, Brooklyn, Antonia, Asia, Alex, Athai, Nadia, Sanaí, Noor, Aya, Amir, and Fajr. He was also the loving "Uncle Lonzo" to many nieces and nephews.

Alonzo is survived by his siblings Denise, Victor (the late Josette Eddings), Kelvin (Valerie), Rochelle (Nathaniel), and Florestine. He was preceded in death by his parents, John Henry and Henrine Morris Pickens, and by his brothers John and Randolph (Vanessa) Pickens.

Wake Wednesday, September 17, 10:30am (service begins 11am) at Apostolic Church of God, 6320 S. Dorchester Ave., Chicago, IL 60637.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or [www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com](http://www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com).



# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

SEP **17**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Apostolic Church of God  
6320 S. Dorchester Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60637  
<https://acog-chicago.org/>

*10:30am wake; 11am service begins*

# Tribute Wall

TM

## “ TRIBUTE TO ALONZO PICKENS

*I never thought this day would come while growing up as a little girl on the south side of Chicago. The loss of a loved one ( A LEGEND). I realize.. This is all a part of God's plan. How can I describe Lonzo (Lonz). Cousins are often the first friends we have. The ones who share family holidays, childhood stories, great adventures and whispered jokes. My cousin Lonz was full of warmth and had such a contagious smile. An influential personality that automatically commands respect from people the moment he walks into a room. Lonz took bold steps in achieving what the vast majority of the world thinks is unattainable (music/The Next Movement). He didn't follow the conventional norm, which is the one thing that set him apart and that could be seen in his body language and his presence. Lonz contributed to everyone he came in contact with through a Song or a Praise. He never ceased to be an inspiration to all. Lonz you are an amazing person and you left a Legacy that will inspire generations to come. The song ended, but the melody will forever linger on. A life so beautifully lived. Cheryl and the family, his spirit lives on in every smile and act of kindness. Memories of the Good Times we shared together will forever remain a treasure. WE will remember your laughter and beautiful smile. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday. Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts. A shining example of strength and compassion. A life lived with Faith, Grace, Purpose, and Dignity. Your light that lives in us will never Dim. You not being here with us leaves a heartache 💔 no man can heal but Love leaves a Memory no man can steal. Alonzo, Rest gently in the arms of Our Savior. ❤️❤️*

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**Tonya Morris** - September 23, 2025 at 03:27 PM

DH

“ *First Conversation With Alonzo Was That Of Endearing Stories Of He And His Wife.....A Man Who Cherished Life And Family..... Praying For Family.*

Deirdra Hatter-Jordan - September 16, 2025 at 09:18 PM

SM

“ *Squeaky Moore sent a virtual gift in memory of Alonzo Joel Pickens*



Squeaky Moore - September 16, 2025 at 04:13 PM

SM

“ *Uncle Alonzo was always one of my favorites. So spirited and loving! God bless you in your next life! Praying for peace and understanding to Aunt Cheryl, Krista, & Deontai. Love y'all! Squeaky.*

Squeaky Moore - September 16, 2025 at 04:09 PM

RH

“ *Praying for you and the family Cheryl.....*

Rhonda Harbin - September 11, 2025 at 05:14 PM

YP

“ *Your Friends at 210 E. Pearson purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Alonzo Joel Pickens.*



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**Your Friends at 210 E. Pearson** - September 11, 2025 at 10:23 AM

YP

“ *Your Friends at 210 E. Pearson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alonzo Joel Pickens.*

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**Your Friends at 210 E. Pearson** - September 11, 2025 at 10:23 AM

TE

“ *I have memories of visiting the Pickens family with my aunts during my childhood. Alonzo was a fixture in my childhood because of the deep bond of friendship and family between my aunts and the Pickens family. I am deeply saddened to hear that he'd passed. His wife and family and the Pickens family has my sincerest condolences. I pray the Lord comforts and strengthens the family during this difficult time.*

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**Tricia Erby** - September 06, 2025 at 12:40 PM

PH

“ You were infamous for your smile, never did I ever see you and not return a smile.

By far, you were truly a shining star ✨ husband, father, brother and friend a spectacular vocalist within.

My memories connect back to the 🎵 Next Movement Group that you joined as a kid 🎵 singing was one of the most phenomenal things that you did!!!!

My sincere prayer today is that as we “Concentrate on you” that you continue to spread “ More Love” in heaven with your melodic “Love Ballads”

Rest in Heaven, Man of God ☐☐ Job well done!!

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**Phelida Hughes** - September 05, 2025 at 04:59 PM

TG

“ Alonzo I will miss you soooo much. I believe you have sung at every special occasion in my life. You truly supported me and loved me and I will never forget that. The Colbert-Grays will always remember you and keep your spirit alive

Tenisha Gray and Family

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**Tenisha Gray** - September 04, 2025 at 01:03 PM

CO

“ Alonzo was such a shining light in everyone’s life he came in contact with. He had such a jovial illuminating spirit and it was contagious. If you were down he could make you laugh. My family and I considered him and his family an extended part of our family and he will be greatly missed. Rest in Peace Alonzo ❤️

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**Camille Odom** - September 03, 2025 at 09:40 PM

DB

“ *What do I remember about Alonzo?  
I have many answers to that question...  
His laughter, his radiant smile, the way he would joke with his wife,  
and his beautiful voice when he would sing. Alonzo love to  
sing. However,  
It's hard to speak about Alonzo without speaking about his wife  
Cheryl. Whenever I saw Alonzo, I saw Cheryl. Whenever I saw  
Cheryl, I saw Alonzo. It was that way the Entire time I've know  
them. Beautiful couple. I remember when I would call Cheryl,  
Alonzo would also speak with me. I could hear Alonzo say Dorcas  
don't tell her that and laugh. In addition to his vibrant personality,  
Alonzo was also a trendy and sharp dresser. Cheryl and Alonzo  
were definitely the couple that made a statement without words  
spoken. Cheryl Alonzo is smiling on you ... even now;)  
I know the family and the many friends will All miss this wonderful  
person Alonzo.  
My prayers are with the Entire family.  
~Dorcas~*

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**Dorcas Boykin-King** - September 02, 2025 at 10:05 PM

LR

“ *Lord God comfort the grieving family and friends of Mr. Alonzo  
Pickens, a soldier and Ambassador for Jesus Christ, with blessed  
assurance that he is present with the Lord! Thank you Lord for  
sending him this way to be a blessing to his family, marriage,  
children, grandchildren, community, and the household of faith all in  
the name of Jesus and for the glory of God, thank you Jesus for his  
life and ministry Amen.*

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**Luther Rivers** - September 02, 2025 at 09:36 AM

ER

“ Lonzo was not what I considered a awesome but also a awesome neighbor he was a good mentor to my son's and a awesome family man my condolences goes out to the family he's another angel in the sky rest in peace my brother

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**Eric** - September 02, 2025 at 01:29 AM

JS

“ I have fond memories of Lonzo, Guy, Cornell, Sam, and my brother, Earl practicing at our apt in Stateway Gardens. I loved his rich voice, and could dance too! He will always be my brother from another mother.

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**Janis Shelby** - September 01, 2025 at 10:20 AM

MC

“ Alonzo and I had the best phone calls and visits whenever I was in town. The last visit we watched a movie and had his favorite orange sherbert. Alonzo could sing like no other and sung at my wedding, vow renewal and mom's service. He had a strong faith in God and had no problem praye with and for us. Cheryl, Deontai and Christi I'm praying for your strength & comfort. You know I'm just a phone call away and if I can't get there, I'll send someone who can. Love you all. Alonzo will truly be missed.

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**Michelle Colbert-Jones** - September 01, 2025 at 08:47 AM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Alonzo Joel Pickens.

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August 31, 2025 at 02:07 PM

SC

“ Deontae, I'm sure there was plenty of dancing, singing, and rejoicing when your dad got to the pearly gates. From the obituary, it sounds like he was a fabulous man. He will be truly missed by so many; you have big shoes to fill, but I know you're well on your way. Please give my sincere condolences to your mom and family. He's in my thoughts and prayers, as are you. Sincerely, Sharon Cikanek.

Sharon Cikanek - August 31, 2025 at 10:37 AM

T-

Condolences to the entire Pickens family. Alonzo was my brother in law. I lvvveeed to hear him sing.

Theresa Pickens -Govan - August 31, 2025 at 11:22 PM



“ Condolences to the family I remember when I saw you perform in Las Vegas a memory etched forever. Cheryl from Las Vegas

Cheryl Moody - August 30, 2025 at 09:31 PM

SP

“ I'm so deeply sadden to hear of your passing Mista P! From the time you fist met me at the tender age of 15 you've always shown me love and respect. I cherish the memories we shared together, you'd call me and say Sho'nuff what time do you get off work? I'd walk outside my job and you'd be there waiting for me. We always went to my favorite pizza place, wine tasting or shopping! Every time you picked me up we would sing our song Love said not so! I could go on for hours just speaking about the fun times we had. You were truly one of a kind and I'm gonna miss you dearly! You'll always have a special place in my heart. Take ya rest, you fought the good fight 🙏💔😭🕊️  
May GOD OF ABRAHAM ISAAC AND JACOB be pleased. Love Always Shona AKA Sho'nuff

Shona Pickens - August 30, 2025 at 08:44 PM

RH

“ Lon I will never forget the time you and I went to look for Cheryl's engagement ring. Wow, the smile on your face was priceless! You were the best brother n law anyone could ever have! RIP  
Roncita



Roncita Hicks-Johnson - August 30, 2025 at 03:14 PM



Alonzo and the Haywood family grow up together in the morning Alonzo and my brother Doc ( Eyes) will get in the bathroom nextdoor to each and sing sing we all still to get dress for school or church we will run before them get and that bathroom. I remember when Sam, Cornelius, and all the rest will come over practice then my brother move on would know the Next Movement had cut their first LP. Alonzo you will definitely be miss

Jae Haywood - August 30, 2025 at 11:29 PM

BC

Dear Deontai, while I did not know your father, he must have been a wonderful man! As the saying goes, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree! My deepest condolences to you and to your family at this time of profound loss. With warmth and caring from Barbara Champion, resident at 210 East Pearson

Barbara Champion - August 31, 2025 at 11:14 AM

RS

My Friend and Brother ALONZO PICKENS who We will See again and Here ALONZO sing I MADE It Because I was on the Battlefield FOR My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to His Wife and CHILDREN and Grandchildren you all are In Our Prayers Ronald and Dolene ❤️🙏

Ronald Smith - September 04, 2025 at 07:59 PM

CJ

*My sincere condolences to the entire Pickens family. I met Alonzo over 50 years when he was singing with The Next Movements - Chicago Southside Concerts. I remember Alonzo always had a big smile on his face whenever you would see him or speak with him over the phone. It been years since we spoke but I have kept up with The Next Movements over the years and always asked about my brother. RIH WARRIOR JOB WELL DONE!!!*

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**Carmen Johnson** - September 17, 2025 at 07:59 PM