



Dion DeForrest Brackeen

November 27, 2025

Dion DeForrest Brackeen, 62, a beloved father, brother, and respected media and marketing professional, passed away on November 27, 2025, at his home in New Orleans, Louisiana. Born on October 13, 1963, in Southeast Washington, D.C., Dion was the youngest of six children born to Thomas C. Brackeen II and Preslie Boyd Brackeen. He was raised in a family grounded in service, excellence, and community.

Dion graduated from H.D. Woodson High School and started college at Lincoln University of Missouri before completing his bachelor's degree at California State University, Hayward. He built a 30-year career in marketing and sales, working with Eastman Kodak, iHeartMedia, CBS Television and Radio, and NBC Universal. Dion later founded DeForrest Consulting, Inc. and was known for his integrity, creativity, and commitment to meaningful storytelling.

In 1988, Dion married Stacy Gilliam, and together they raised three beautiful children: Akima, Rashad, and Khalilah. Although the marriage later ended in divorce, Dion's love for his children remained steadfast, and he took immense pride in the adults they became.

In New Orleans, Dion served as a police officer in Louisiana for four years. He was deeply involved with the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission, working as a lifeguard, swim instructor, and water aerobics teacher. He found joy in helping people of all ages build confidence and community through aquatics.

Dion was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Fern Ward, and brother, Shawn Muhammad. He is survived by his partner of 22 years, Lauren Buggs; his children, Akima, Rashad, and Khalilah; sisters, Michele Moffett and Tomi (James) Smith; brother, Brett (Maxine) Brackeen; and many extended family members and friends. A memorial service will be held at 12 noon on January 17, 2026 at Treme Market Branch, 800 N. Claiborne, New Orleans, LA 70116.

Cemetery Details

Private