



## Jason Ericson Cantrell

August 14, 2023

First Gentleman, Jason Ericson Cantrell transitioned to his eternal heavenly rest on Monday, August 14, 2023.

Jason was the first born of the Honorable Harry Elmer Cantrell, Jr. (Retired) and the late Lorita Ann Pettaway Cantrell on June 25, 1968, in Detroit, Michigan. His strong faith in God began as an infant with his baptism at St. Cecilia Catholic Church, where he became active in the church serving as an Altar Boy and Lecturer, which helped further strengthen his spirituality. As an adult, he would continue to lean on his faith, trusting in the Lord for guidance, saying his rosary and praying daily; oftentimes with his mother before her death.

Growing up, Jason admired the strong examples of professionalism displayed by both parents, seeing his father dressed in a shirt and tie every morning for breakfast and his mother, an educator always stressing the importance of reading, gave him the confidence and motivation that he could be whatever he wanted to be. He also learned the lessons of change, the power of love and the blessings a blended family could bring, when his father moved to New Orleans and later married Brenda Cruell Cantrell, officially making New Orleans his second home filled with a rich culture that he would embrace fully. These early life changes further motivated him to succeed. Jason graduated from Bishop Borgess High School in Detroit, Michigan. He went on to

complete his undergraduate studies at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan, after which he decided to pursue a Juris Doctorate Degree from Southern University Law Center, following in his father's footsteps.

In 1996, Jason joined The Cantrell Law Firm and eventually branched out as a sole practitioner. In 1997, he met LaToya Wilder, at Houston's Restaurant on St. Charles Avenue and on September 4, 2023, the couple would have celebrated 24 years of marriage. In July of 2007, at Lil Dizzy's restaurant in Treme, LaToya informed Jason that they were expecting the unexpected in six months time and he couldn't eat after that! In December, they welcomed Miss RayAnn Wilder Cantrell and she instantly became the apple of his eye and his heart. He was a true girl dad.

Jason leaves a rich legacy of faith, love, laughter, kindness and wisdom that includes the following loved ones: Wife, Honorable Mayor LaToya Cantrell; daughter, RayAnn Cantrell; father, The Honorable Harry E. Cantrell (Blondine); Step-Mother. Brenda Cruell Cantrell; Mother-In-Law, Etta Williams. Brothers: Chadrick Kennedy, Marcus Cantrell, and Brandon Cantrell. Step-sisters: Danielle and Leslie Garrett. Step-brothers: Arthur and Nathan Garrett. Brothers-in-law: Eric Maxwell, LaDon (Dashell) Wilder, and Michael Wilder. Sisters in-la: Nailah (Marshwan) Porter, Cherrish and Shannah Wilder. Like Brothers: Dr. Eric (Danielle) Griggs and Gary Valentine. Aunts: Sylvia Sanders, Barbara (Lee) Allen, Donna (Micheal) Brousseau, Tonya (Renee) Ford, and Glenda Cruell. In addition, he leaves 3 Godsons: Kaleb, Kade and Kash Walton, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family members.

Jason was preceded in death by his loving mother, Lorita Pettitway Cantrell; grandmothers, Mildred Morgan, Josephine Cantrell, and Bertha Cruell; and his grandfathers, Harry E. Cantrell, Sr. and Norman Cruell.

[www.facebook.com/D.W.RhodesFuneralHome/live](http://www.facebook.com/D.W.RhodesFuneralHome/live)

In Lieu of Flowers donations can be made to: Hammond Batts JG3  
Scholarship Fund 7842 Albin Lane Ste. B, Houston, TX 77071. Memo: In  
honor of Jason Cantrell  
Zelle: 74hbscholarship@gmail.com, Name on account: Hammond Batts JG3  
Memo: In honor of Jason Cantrell

# Previous Events

## Lie in State

AUG 21. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Gallier Hall  
545 St. Charles Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70130

## Celebration of Life

AUG 21. 6:00 PM (CT)

Gallier Hall  
545 St. Charles Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70130

## Visitation

AUG 22. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church  
4230 S. Broad St.  
New Orleans, LA 70125

## Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 22. 11:00 AM (CT)

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church  
4230 S. Broad St.  
New Orleans, LA 70125

# Tribute Wall

LY

“ *May God's hope filled promises bring comfort to your soul and peace to your heart. Thank your for your kindness to the Sparrow Family.*

Lynette - August 23, 2023 at 06:41 PM

EB

“ *Dear Mayor Cantrell and family, May the precious memories you have of Jason comfort you. May God bless you and keep you.*

Elease M. Bradford - August 23, 2023 at 02:59 PM



“ *Mattie Mcghee lit a candle in memory of Jason Cantrell*



Mattie Mcghee - August 23, 2023 at 07:36 AM

KF

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Karen Creecy and Family - August 22, 2023 at 05:26 PM

LF

“ So sorry for the families loss and praying for the families resilience and understanding during this trying time.

*From Luis Florentino and family*

Luis Florentino - August 22, 2023 at 11:59 AM



BR

“ Harry, my friend and coworker. I cannot even imagine how you are feeling. May God help you to deal with the loss of your son. The sudden death of your beloved son fills me with great grief. I can only imagine the tough times you must be going through. Jason was such a beautiful individual in and out, I have such fond memories of him as a friend and visiting professor at SUNO. Jason had such an incredible personality and spirit, and we will all miss him.

Brenda Lee Russell - August 21, 2023 at 06:29 PM



AA

“ Holding you up in prayer Mayor. You and your daughter are in our hearts 💕 We love you and the city loves you 🙏🙏

Ashley Armstrong - August 21, 2023 at 06:13 PM

DL

“ My sincerest condolences to the Cantrell Family. Jason was a wonderful person and friend and an original member of the Porch Krewe. We will miss him indeed!  
*Dawn Domengeaux Lapeyrolerie #PK4L*

Dawn D. Lapeyrolerie - August 21, 2023 at 05:26 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Jason Ericson Cantrell.*



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August 21, 2023 at 04:55 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jason Ericson Cantrell.*



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August 21, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *The Collaborative wishes to convey our deepest sympathy to you and your family.*

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**Michelle S Stanton** - August 21, 2023 at 10:56 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Jason Ericson Cantrell.*



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August 21, 2023 at 10:30 AM

TF

“ Family and a friends of Jason Cantrell: Please know that my family joins you in your grief of Jason. Jesus not only wept with Martha and Mary about their brother's death, but he also listened and spoke reassuringly to them. (John:25-27) Our condolences of comfort to you! The Carter Family.

Th Carter Family - August 19, 2023 at 08:46 AM

YF

To My Family, And To The First Gentleman Jason Cantrell of The Honorable Mayor Ms. LaToya Cantrell I'm sending My Condolences 🌸 From Romulus, MI I Prayed That Our Heavenly Father Will Have Provided A Smooth Transition And Blessings To You And All The Families Of The Cantrell And Settles.

Yvonne FuQua - August 22, 2023 at 02:45 PM



I am praying for the family

Mattie Mcghee - August 23, 2023 at 07:39 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jason Ericson Cantrell.



August 18, 2023 at 03:25 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jason E Cantrell.

August 18, 2023 at 03:25 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Jason Ericson Cantrell.



August 18, 2023 at 02:20 PM



“ Extending my sincere condolences to this family at the "Home going" of this very Distinguished" gentleman. I will continue to "Pray" with you all and continue to "Pray" for you all, during this very "Dim" time in your lives.



**Gloria A Coleman-Brown** - August 17, 2023 at 11:01 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Jason Ericson Cantrell.



August 17, 2023 at 04:07 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jason E Cantrell.

August 17, 2023 at 04:07 PM

JA

“ *Jerome Mark Antil purchased the Peace Eternal Wreath for the family of Jason Ericson Cantrell.*



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**Jerome Mark Antil** - August 17, 2023 at 12:10 PM

JA

“ *Jerome Mark Antil planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jason E Cantrell.*

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**Jerome Mark Antil** - August 17, 2023 at 12:10 PM

ZC

“ *Remember “ Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can not heal.” May God comfort the family during this time of sorrow.*

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**Zanda Colbert-Dandy** - August 17, 2023 at 09:28 AM