



Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft

May 30, 1963 - November 21, 2025

Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft, 62, of Peoria, Illinois, transitioned from this life into God's eternal kingdom on November 21, 2025, at 5:39 p.m., embraced by the love and presence of his family at OSF St. Francis Medical Center.

Born in Peoria, Dennis spent most of his life in his hometown, though he also made meaningful chapters of his journey in Georgia and California. A proud graduate of Central High School, Dennis, carried an entrepreneurial spirit throughout his life. He owned The Alligators Lounge in Peoria and later opened a children's clothing store lovingly named Kaiya's. He also joined the Painter's Union and went on to run his own painting company, bringing craftsmanship and pride to every project.

Dennis was a dedicated member of Bethel United Methodist Church, his family church. As the son of a preacher, he was a man of faith from a young age--so much so that by the time he was 9, he was already preaching to the neighborhood kids, eager to share the inspiration and hope he felt in his heart.

He is survived by his beloved children: Brandon Jackson, Antwone Cockroft, Alisha (Antoine) Cockroft Mance, Vanity (Darvin) Horn Banks, Angalena Horn, Ashley Dixon, and Devon Cockroft. He is also survived by his parents, Hattie Robinson Cockroft of Peoria and Willie (Jini) Cockroft Jr. of Atlanta, Georgia; his siblings, Crystal Bush, Willie (Jennifer) Sean Cockroft, Wilma Thomas, and

Michael Cockroft; and a host of cherished grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He is preceded in death by his daughter, Kaiya Dixon, and his sister, Janice Cockroft.

A man of many passions, Dennis loved the simple joys that brought people together. He took great pride in his plants, enjoyed collecting cars and trucks, and could often be found playing pool or throwing darts with friends. He never missed a chance to cheer for his favorite football teams, the Atlanta Falcons, Chicago Bears, Kansas City Chiefs, and Dallas Cowboys, especially when surrounded by family. He also loved classic movies, particularly westerns.

Dennis was known as the family's grill master, owning several smokers and proudly cooking meat for every family gathering. His barbecue, like his presence, brought warmth, comfort, and smiles to everyone he loved.

Those who knew Dennis will remember him for his humor, his generosity, and his unmistakable ability to light up any room. He was always ready with a joke, always eager to lift someone's spirits, and always proud of his friends and family, especially his children. No matter where he went, people knew Dennis, and those who knew him loved him.

His memory will continue to live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to share in his life.

Celebration of Life Service will be held on Friday, December 5, 2025, at Bethel United Methodist Church (210 N. Richrd Pryor Place) at 11:00 a.m. with visitation commencing one hour prior at 10:00. Rev. Tyson Parks III, Pastor will present the eulogy.

Dennis will be laid to rest at Lutheran Cemetery (914 S. Pleasant Street Peoria, IL 61604)

Arrangements were made especially for the "Cockroft" family and professionally directed by T.W. Parks Colonial Chapel. To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of "Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft" please visit our Sympathy Store.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Bethel United Methodist Church
210 N. Richard Pryor Pl
Peoria, IL 61605

Celebration of Life

DEC 5. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Bethel United Methodist Church
210 N. Richard Pryor Pl
Peoria, IL 61605

Tribute Wall

KC

“ *Kathy Collins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft*



Kathy Collins - December 05, 2025 at 06:13 PM

CA

“ *R.I.P. D.D. 🌸 My deepest condolences and prayers go out to the entire family, may the Great Comforter known as the Holy Spirit embrace you all during this time of bereavement, and bring that Peace that Surpasses all Understanding Amen 🙏*

Chuckiee Adams - December 05, 2025 at 12:25 PM

SC

“ *We're gonna miss you, my brother.*



Sharon Collins - December 05, 2025 at 07:47 AM

SC

“ *Sharon Collins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft*



Sharon Collins - December 05, 2025 at 07:43 AM

SC

“ We’re gonna miss you, my brother... sending hugs and love from your One body one purpose family.



Sharon Collins - December 05, 2025 at 07:38 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft.



December 03, 2025 at 02:17 PM

CB

“ Christina Brown planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft.

Christina Brown - December 03, 2025 at 02:17 PM

DJ

“ Dad Willie Cockroft and Mother Jini purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft.



Dad Willie Cockroft and Mother Jini - December 03, 2025 at 12:11 PM

DJ

“ Dad Willie Cockroft and Mother Jini planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft.

Dad Willie Cockroft and Mother Jini - December 03, 2025 at 12:11 PM

KC

“ Kathy Collins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft



Kathy Collins - December 03, 2025 at 08:59 AM

MP

“ Mancy Pittman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft



Mancy Pittman - December 02, 2025 at 10:12 PM

AP

“ You will be missed Dennis we spent years together as a couple. I will truly miss you. we had fun times together. Say hello to mom for me.



APRIL - December 01, 2025 at 02:32 PM

DS

“ Dennis, you will be missed big brother. You always will be family and will forever be in my heart. Love you big brother



Darnell Sinclair - November 27, 2025 at 06:54 PM

AJ

“ Aurthela Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft



Aurthela Jackson - November 27, 2025 at 06:12 PM

BW

“ One of the best neighbors I have ever had going to miss you yelling at my son King to stop ridding that bike you and Erica got him in the street❤️ Rest up Mr.Dennis. you are missed.

Britney Williams - November 27, 2025 at 06:02 PM

LD

“ Hey cousin, you hit us hard with this one. I can hear you saying “Hey Lisa Bisa”! I remember me and you going back and forth with each other about anything. I would say to your mom that “I cannot stand your son” and we would all laugh. We never know how much we Love someone until their are gone. I Love you and miss your presence! Love, Lisa!



Lisa Duncan - November 27, 2025 at 04:09 PM

JS

“ Jennifer Sheldon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft



Jennifer Sheldon - November 27, 2025 at 12:53 PM

CR

“ Catherine Randle lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft



Catherine Randle - November 27, 2025 at 06:34 AM

CB

“ My sweet Uncle Dennis you are loved and will always be loved forever. I'm going to miss you, your jokes, laugh, and cooking. I know that GOD doesn't make mistakes when he calls one of his angels home. Please kiss my cousin Kaiya, Auntie Bay Bay and hug my sister Brandy in Heaven. I will never forget you may you rest up LOVE YOUR NIECE~~> Chakara

Chakara Bush-Flynn - November 26, 2025 at 10:12 PM

DB

“ Demarco Bynum lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft



Demarco Bynum - November 26, 2025 at 09:52 PM

PJ

“ I will always remember the good times we shared laughing and shooting pool throwing darts and just hanging out with friends. He will definitely be missed. Always made u smile. He was a good man.



Pamela Jones - November 26, 2025 at 08:38 PM

EM

“ Erica M lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft



Erica M - November 26, 2025 at 04:36 PM

EM

“ To my big cousin you will be missed and thank you for anytime I came home to visit you would always greet me with the warmest welcome and your famous line for me “where your husband “ lol love you!!

Erica M - November 26, 2025 at 04:35 PM

TM

“ 🙏 For The Family!



Tracy Mercer - November 26, 2025 at 04:06 PM

CA

“ My condolences to Dennis's family and friends. I met Dennis when he was working on the house next to us many years ago, I saw him a few months ago at the gas station. He was always in a happy mood when I saw him and always giving you a hug when he saw you. This was the nicest man you could ever meet. RIP Dennis.

Carol - November 26, 2025 at 03:30 PM

KI

“ Kirsten lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft



Kirsten - November 26, 2025 at 12:28 PM



“ I will miss you pops 🥺👋 Even though you wasn't my birth dad, you treated me like one of yours, you made people laugh with all the jokes 🤣 I see where my sister got them from 😭 I love you pops rest in paradise 🙏❤️



Sunny Haze - November 26, 2025 at 12:01 PM

KA

“ Karen Ashby sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft



Karen Ashby - November 26, 2025 at 11:32 AM

BC

“ *Brenda D Cayson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft*



Brenda D Cayson - November 26, 2025 at 10:43 AM

SL

“ *Dennis was A great man I've known for 20 years always smiling always made me smile tell Adrain I said hello Love You****

Shenell Langford - November 26, 2025 at 10:35 AM

RU

“ *To the Family ,My heart is Hurting I can't believe that my Den den will not be among us anymore,When the LORD Called Dennis Answered Yes LORD Your Will Be Done. I will always keep you all in prayer 🙏 and my Den den in my heart We will Miss Him Dearly. Willie,Hattie, Sean, Amppie, and Children I Love ❤️ you all. Amen.*

RuthBush - November 26, 2025 at 10:35 AM

SD

“ Dennis we shared more then kids we had a friendship that lasted until death, i will miss our conversations, the laughter we shared, I will cherish our last conversation a week ago,until we meet again, take your rest my friend, hug our daughter and give her a kiss from me, you will forever live in my heart.
Love you for eternity
Sonya



Sonya Dixon - November 26, 2025 at 10:27 AM

DE

Always been a positive person I have known big d since I was a kid praying for the family

Derek - November 26, 2025 at 07:11 PM

SW

“ Sonya Wade lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft



Sonya wade - November 26, 2025 at 10:16 AM

RU

“ RuthBush lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft



RuthBush - November 26, 2025 at 09:35 AM

TJ

“ Teania Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft



Teania Johnson - November 26, 2025 at 07:42 AM

DB

“ Dorothea Banks-Burse lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft



Dorothea Banks-Burse - November 26, 2025 at 06:34 AM

TF

“ Takindra Streeter Freemon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft



Takindra Streeter freemon - November 26, 2025 at 05:57 AM

SH

“ Shirley R Hughes lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight "Dennis" Cockroft



Shirley R Hughes - November 26, 2025 at 05:20 AM

SH

“ *Our sincere condolences from the Robertson family* 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Shirley R Hughes - November 26, 2025 at 05:20 AM

PC

“ *Pat C lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dwight
"Dennis" Cockroft*



Pat C - November 25, 2025 at 06:47 PM