



Joseph Locke III

August 29, 1959 - June 19, 2026

Joseph Locke, III, a master builder, champion chess player, and vibrantly dressed soul, found eternal peace on June 19, 2026—fittingly, on Juneteenth—in Woodville, Florida. Though his family and friends were not ready to see him go, God had other plans, mercifully calling him home to provide him with ultimate relief from the physical pain he courageously endured day after day. Born on August 29, 1959, in Harvey, Illinois, Joseph was the cherished son of Delores Rizzute and the late Joseph Locke. Throughout his life, he was incredibly blessed to be nurtured not only by his mother but by two additional guiding lights whom he proudly called Mom: Linda Audain and the late Sammie Locke.

A proud third-generation contractor, Joseph possessed an innate passion for building, creating, and constructing. He approached his craft with immense skill and a signature sense of humor. Anyone who knew his work was familiar with his legendary motto:

"I can do anything to your house except pay the mortgage."

Joseph's brilliant mind made him a champion chess player, but his vibrant spirit truly shined when the music played. He had a profound love for music, dance, and fashion. Alongside his beloved wife, Bernadette, Joseph loved traveling to stepper sets, always stepping out in impeccable style. He will be fondly remembered for gracing the dance floor in his sharp suits, matching shoes, and fancy hats.

He leaves behind a vast and beautiful legacy of love. Joseph is survived by

his devoted wife, Bernadette Locke; his loving daughters, Tekiah Jones, JoeDette Locke-Mills, and Vivian Locke; and his cherished stepchildren, Martina Davis Taylor, Jessica Johnson, and Shauna Johnson.

He will be deeply missed by his mothers, Delores Rizzute and Linda Audain; his sisters, Penny Gomez, Marian Locke, and Ann Marie Locke-Disroe; and his brother, Bruce Locke. His memory will also be treasured by a host of additional in-laws, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and loyal friends who felt like family.

Joseph is now joyfully reunited in Heaven with those who preceded him in death: his father, Joseph Locke; his mother, Sammie Locke; his brothers, Anthony Locke and Leevay Canty; and his stepson, Bernard Johnson.

While the pain of his absence is heavy, the memories of his craftsmanship, his sharp style, and his unyielding love for his family will forever remain a comfort to all who had the privilege of knowing him.