



Ronald Latez Eley

February 1, 1963 - May 31, 2026

It is with heavy hearts that the family of Ronald L. Eley announces that he has slipped away to his eternal rest.

Ronald — lovingly known to so many as “Coach Eley” — was more than a coach. He was a mentor, a leader, and a steady source of encouragement for countless young people on and off the field.

God blessed us with his presence, and through every lesson he taught, every life he touched, and every moment he poured into his family, friends, players, and community, he reflected a spirit of purpose and compassion.

Though our hearts are heavy, we take comfort in knowing that he is now at peace, wrapped in God’s everlasting arms, and reunited with the loved ones who went before him. Ronald was the youngest son of the Late Rency Lee and Almatie Slaughter Eley. He was a 1981 graduate of Ahoskie High School. At an early age he joined was baptized at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Ahoskie NC. Ronald was preceded in death by one daughter Gabriella Alexis Eley, his parents Rency and Almatie Eley, three siblings Wilma Williams, Christine Eley and Sonji Williams.

Left to cherish loving memories are his wife Thelma Epps Eley of Hickory, NC, children Erin Alethea Eley of Greensboro, NC and Malcolm Isaiah Eley of Hickory, NC, eight siblings James Slaughter, Larry Eley Sr, Rency Eley II, Calvin Eley, Joycelyn Eley Moses, Icy Eley Hedgepeth, Mervin Eley and Thennie Eley Speight, a host of other relatives and friends.

Tribute Wall

DA

“ *The Eley's and I grew up in the same neighborhood. He was always kind. His younger siblings Thennie and Sonji and I were classmates. Ronald and I both graduated from East Carolina University.* 💜
💛 #piratenation



Dr. Cynthia Askew - 47 minutes ago

WT

“ *My Condolences to the Eley Family.*



Wanda Ashe TYLER - 53 minutes ago

ES

“ *Elvira Mason Spiers lit a candle in memory of Ronald Latez Eley*



Elvira Mason Spiers - 1 hour ago

JO

“ *Johnny Outlaw lit a candle in memory of
Ronald Latez Eley*



Johnny Outlaw - 1 hour ago