



*In Loving
Memory of*

VERN RYAN

FEBRUARY 11, 1943 - DECEMBER 25, 2025

Memorial Service

PROGRAM

Opening Prayer	Dr. Robert Thrash III
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Opening Song	Tony Woods
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Family Reflection	Ryan Family
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Scripture Reading	Demerise Ryan
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Words of Comfort	Dr. Robert Thrash III
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Brother Vern Song	“Calling all Angels”
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Recognition Letters	Dr. Robert Thrash III
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Closing Prayer	Dr. Robert Thrash III
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Friday | January 30, 2026 | 10 am - 12 pm

Cross Roads Church
1900 E. South St.
Long Beach, CA 90805

Obituary

A LIFE REMEMBERED

Vern Elder Ryan, known affectionately to others as Brother Vern, was a devoted servant of God and a tireless champion for the community, peacefully passed away on December 25, 2025 at the age of 83. A beloved husband, father, friend, pastor, community activist, counsellor, and philanthropist, Elder Vern lived a life rooted in faith, compassion, and service to others. He is survived by his wife Mei Sui Chin of 14 years, children, step children, and grandchildren.

Vern Ryan's children from his first marriage to Demerise Ryan (Deceased first wife): Daughter- Arlene Hyde and her two children: (Granddaughter) Arlana Arlene Hyde and (Grandson) Orlando William Cornelius Hyde Jr. and his wife Eunice C Herrera, (Daughter) Vernetta K. Ryan and her two children: (Granddaughter) Ashjane Dominique Ryan and Zoe Nia Star Ryan, Son- Vern V.M. Ryan Jr. and his wife Veronica Ryan and his five children: Grandson- Vern Von Sandy Ryan IV, Granddaughter- Demerise Gaverilla Grace Ryan- (From first Wife- Vanessa Sandoval), Step Children- Frankie Nieblas, Gabriella Nieblas, Jessica Nieblas, Daughter- Erica Ryan and her three children: (Grandson) Derrick Bridgewater, (Grandson)- Matthew Ryan and Wife - Devika Morjaria and Grandson-Jeremiah Moore-Ryan (Bonus Grandsons)- Marquis Scott and Marcus Scott). Vern Ryan's step-children and Mei Sue Chin's children: Daughter- Leilani Chuang and her two children: Granddaughter- Amelia Raymond, (Grandson)-Jackson Raymond, Son- Keoni Chuang and his wife Wendy Chuang and child (Granddaughter)-Zihui Chuang, (Son) Jett Chuang and his wife Kathleen Lee and (Granddaughter) Jenella Chuang.

Vern Ryan, was born to the late Ester M. Callier and stepfather Charlie Ryan on February 11, 1943 in Robbins, IL. He had one brother- Charlie Ryan Jr. He spent his early childhood years with his loving grandmother in Neches, Texas until the age of eleven. His fondest memories were spending time riding horses and running about the countryside. He later returned to Chicago after his grandmother's death to live with his mother, father and brother. During his high school and college years Vern was highlighted for his numerous awards he received while playing basketball. He earned All-American recognition, averaged 30 points a game, and left a lasting impression as a remarkable athlete. He received numerous articles written about him in the local newspaper. However, after an unfortunate knee injury, this altered his ability to pursue a career in the NBA.

Obituary

A LIFE REMEMBERED

Later on, Vern pursued a musical career after being signed to MGM music company in 1968 and started his band “VON RYAN EXPRESS”. He recorded his first album in 1969 and travelled around the world headlining for many celebrities. He was passionate about the music he created. He not only wrote his musical lyrics, he composed and arranged the music, coordinated the band outfits and dance movements. He was talented, disciplined, and moved with precision to advance his vision and goals. But God had a different plan for him and called him to the ministry.

After moving to Los Angeles, CA from Chicago, Vern vividly spoke about how the Lord dealt with him concerning being saved. His first wife, Demerise Ryan (deceased), urged him to give God his heart and be saved. Vern grappled with letting go of his old lifestyle and committing to a life serving God. A pivotal point in his surrender came after receiving a call from his step father telling him that his mother fell ill and was not doing well. He pleaded and fasted and asked God to save her. After a confirming phone call from his sister-in-law Marion Smith, he finally released his mother. She passed away hours later. Vern then made the decision to fully surrender his life to the Lord. Thereafter, the Lord sent key people to lead him to his beloved calling in life. With reservations and uncertainty Vern spoke of how God guided him to a life of service and ministry.

In 1984, Vern started VJI non-profit. God began prompting him to step out into ministry and start his own church. He began CAM Ministries in 1987 and affectionately became referred to as “Brother Vern”. Brother Vern continued to love creating music, but this time he wanted to do it for God. He created his first gospel album, “Who Am I”, later on that same year. He also began a small gathering of faithful followers at Kenneth Hahn Park from 1986 - 2000. Over the years he went from meeting with a few in the park to moving to his first building in Torrance California. Brother Vern devoted his life to serving others and living out his faith through action. In 2000, he moved into the church building in Torrance, California, where his heart for community outreach became a daily mission.

Obituary

A LIFE REMEMBERED

He was proud during 2015 to 2019, where he was able to distribute food to local churches and organizations, through the Feeding America project, helping meet the needs of families facing food insecurity. For more than 13 years, he faithfully organized food giveaways and annual Christmas toy drives for families in the Normandale Park community and the greater Los Angeles areas.

Through partnerships with Trader Joe's and other local establishments, Vern helped provide food to thousands of people to the south bay and surrounding Los Angeles county communities. Brother Vern supported ministries not only throughout the United States, but also reaching as far as Africa, South America, Philippines and many other places around the world. He also created meaningful volunteer opportunities for local high school students, transitional housing partners, and community neighbors. His mission was to bring people together to serve with purpose and compassion. Brother Vern genuinely loved helping people. He sought to serve anyone in need and lived each day with the intention of fulfilling Matthew 25. His legacy is one of love, generosity, and unwavering commitment. Brother Vern set a powerful example of what it means to be a faithful steward, and his impact will continue to be felt through the countless lives he touched.



“Well done, good and faithful servant.”
Matthew 25: 21

Thank you

FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT

Special Thanks:

Avontae Poston and Miguel Sanchez for their care of dad in his final stages. It was your love, patience, and support for dad and Mei that made his final days peaceful. We thank you both for the many sleepless nights you assisted Mei with everything that dad needed. He was able to be in the comfort of his home and surrounded by family and loved ones because of your gracious time and energy. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!! We love you both and will always be grateful.

Honorable Mentions:

We want to send a special thanks to Rob Hughes, Tim and Jackie Armstrong, and Terrell Harrison and Walter, for all of their friendship/ loyalty/ financial contributions and much more. You all kept things afloat and stood by his side. He loved you dearly. We express tremendous gratitude for things that were seen and unseen that you did for him personally and for the ministry. We love you! Marion Smith and Lee Walton (Sister-in-Laws) providing support and love when it was greatly needed. Maria- Friendship Park- Thank you, thank you, thank you for your friendship and the Amazing bread you shared during his park walks. He loved that place and he loved you. Thank you for your friendship and love.

Thank you

FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT

A Few Original Members of CAM Center Ministries:

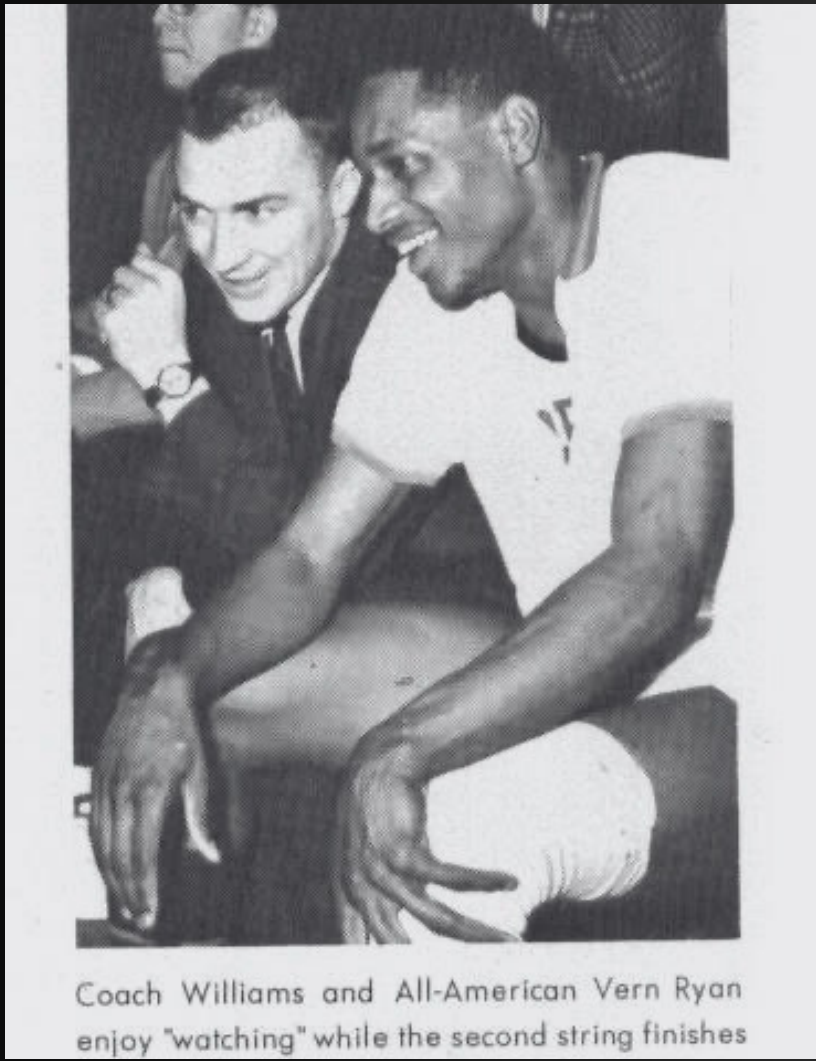
Rhonda, Renee, Elise, and Franchette (Bonus Daughters) Dad loved you ladies like his own. You stood by him no matter what the state of the ministry was in. He knew that and appreciated you all for it. Thank you for loving him and supporting him.

Brother Rob, Brother and Sister Tim and Jackie, Sister Kelly, Brother Wally, Sister Cherlyn, Sister Megan, Sister Jorene, Sister Poima, Sister Winnie, Sister Teria, Brother Junior and Sister Felo, Sister Terry, and Sister Lisa to name a few. There are so many more individuals who fellowshiped with us over the years you were all special to him and loved tremendously. He touched the lives of many of you and you touched his!

Brother Vern was known for being there in moments of crisis, helping to shine a light on the way out. He was honored to be your pastor, teacher, and friend. He loved each and every one of you, and cherished everything you did for him and the ministry over the years. You all helped keep his vision and legacy alive!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all of your support, time, and prayers. CAM Ministries would not have been possible without you. You are the foundation he stood on to bring his most precious legacy to life, “spreading love.” He believed in all of you and set an example of discipline, hard work, and love that we will carry with us forever. Thank you! We love you all.

In Loving Memory of Brother Vern



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