



**DJ**

January 7, 1953 - November 15, 2025

In Loving Memory of Dermott John "DJ" Sullivan January 7, 1953 - November 15, 2025

Dermott John Sullivan, affectionately known as "DJ," passed away on November 15, 2025. He was born on January 7, 1953, in Bluefield, West Virginia, to the late Evelyn Onita Ritchie and Theodore Dickerson. DJ spent his early years in foster care, where he completed high school and attended college. In 1976, he enlisted in the United States Army in Fayetteville, North Carolina, serving honorably as a Private Second Class (PV2). A year later, in 1977, he was joyfully reunited with his mother and family.

Following his military service, DJ embarked on a long and accomplished career in the railroad industry. He began with Bell South Railroad and later joined Santa Fe and Amtrak, where he worked for over two decades. During this time, he earned numerous certifications as a journeyman before retiring from the field.

His life experiences gave him many trades and reflected as a man of transformation. He loved being on the road, driving cross country, exploring nature, and where his love for nature would capture his journeys and complemented his prideful storytelling.

DJ was a man of many passions. He had a flair for fashion, a love for music and dancing, and a zest for life. He enjoyed fishing with friends, watching sports, painting, cooking, and spending time outdoors. His creative spirit shone through in his writing, and in 2019, he proudly had several pieces published in the Veteran's Voices Magazine devoted to the creative expressions of military veterans since 1952.

He spent many cherished years in Chicago, where he met the love of his life, Ronda. Together, they shared an inseparable bond for 41 years. DJ was a devoted husband, father, brother, uncle, and friend. Always there for others and touched many hearts. He also gave back to his community, volunteering for many years at the "Mission" in both Battle Creek and Holland, MI.

DJ was known for his thoughtful conversations, wisdom, humor and warm presence. His love for family, friends, and quiet reflection brought him peace. His smile was infectious, and his unwavering faith and love for God were the cornerstones of his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Flossy Ritchie, and his beloved grandson, Justin Devonte Mason.

DJ leaves behind a legacy of love and strength. He is survived by his devoted wife, Ronda Sullivan; daughters, LaShonda Sullivan-Mason, Nicole Sullivan, and Keesha Sullivan; son, John Sullivan; sister, Zoe-Ann Buckley (Maurice); brothers, Curtis Ritchie (Sandra), Derwin Allen (Ray) and special brother-in-law, Jay Williams. He is also lovingly remembered by six granddaughters, five grandsons, one great-granddaughter, one great-grandson, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

Shackled No More

by Dermott Sullivan Battle Creek, MI - 06/22/2008

I was bound, for so many years; in sin and many fears, The life of a troubled man; from the truth I would ran. I couldn't own up to my mistakes; My heart was filled with hate. Then, I heard a voice one day; "There is a better way! You have suffered much too long; In MY arms is where you belong! I will protect you from all harm; Just trust and believe, don't be alarmed."

I remember my Mother saying to me: "I'm praying GOD will set you free! "I didn't understand back then; She said, "Jesus is your Friend. "I'm SO Grateful, for He, TODAY;

For I will continue to pray. That, KEEP Knocking, on Heaven's DOOR: Cause My Life is:

Shackled No More AMEN!!

Special Acknowledgement

May this express....

At least in part...

sincere and warmest thanks for your thoughtfulness.

The family of Dermott John Sullivan

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ *Mechelle M. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of DJ.*

**Mechelle M.** - November 24, 2025 at 07:34 PM

AJ

“ *Sending my love and strength to the Sullivan family on the passing of their beloved Husband and Father. May Dermott John Sullivan rest in eternal peace.*

*Love Altovise*

**Altovise Johnson** - November 22, 2025 at 10:10 AM

TL

“ *Sending prayers to the family*



**Theresa Lofton** - November 20, 2025 at 03:50 PM