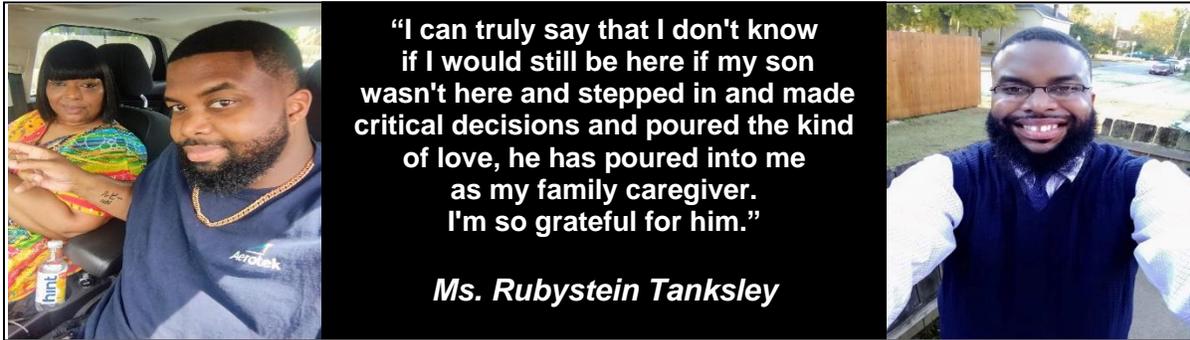




Shirley Cares Outreach Program

“Recognizing Caregivers Just Because...”

Pendlove Inc. count it both an honor and a privilege to help Ms. Rubystein Tanksley publicly recognize and honor her son and caregiver Mr. Travis Blair, for his commitment, dedication, sacrifice and selflessness.



1. Years as a family or professional caregiver?

- My son Travis Sentrell Blair has been my caregiver for more than 10 years.

2. Describe the caregiver and why you are nominating her/him

- I am nominating my son to be publicly honored and recognized because from his late teens, up until this very day, my son has been my caregiver.... He's been with me through several congested heart failures, seizures, heart related issues which have caused me to be rushed to the hospital, breast cancer in 2016 when he was with me through every chemo and radiation appointment so much so that he shaved his head bald for a while when he saw that the chemo was taking my hair out.

3. Provide a story or example that illustrates the caregiver's commitment, dedication, sacrifice and selflessness to care for their loved one or their client.

I've had serious health issues from the time I came into this world. My son and I, both almost didn't make it when he was born. Due to my health, I had a rough pregnancy with him & he was born premature like me and was diagnosed with spastic diplegia cerebral palsy. Travis overcame cerebral palsy, and chronic asthma. And amazingly even as young child, as he was going through his healing and overcoming process, he started seeing about and taking care of me and I guess you can say that's really where his caregiving journey began.

After his father passed away when Travis was 10 years old, giving that my health was always threatening my life even and I was in and out of the hospital for weeks at a time, my son was determined to do everything he could to help preserve my life.

As he got a bit older, he started dating and serving in the church as a choir member, a mime dancer, deacon, and started preaching right around the time he graduated high school. I didn't want him, constantly, lingering around trying to take care of me. With the grace that's on my son's life, opportunities were presented, but he chose as a young man, to be by his mom's side.

Even this year here, in 2022, when I was diagnosed with degenerative joint disease that badly affected the nerves in my back and all over to where I could not move or walk, my son took care of me, made every right decision in the process of restoring my physical mobility, including sending me to rehab. He chose a facility that was literally right down the street from where we lived so that he could be there with me every day and if anything goes wrong, he could quickly get there. For the entire month that I was in rehab, my son was there every single morning before he went to work and every evening when he got off work. My son has handled it all, doctor appointments, therapy sessions, setting appointments with different specialists to accommodate what I need, paying my medical expenses out his pocket when my insurance doesn't cover them. I love my youngest son, my baby, my gem and my caregiver. I couldn't have asked for a better caregiver than Travis.

With all the many challenges that I faced since Travis has been in the world, I can truly say that I don't know if I would still be here if Travis wasn't here and stepped in and made critical decisions and poured the kind of love, he has poured into me as my family caregiver. I'm so grateful for him.

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