



John "Big Say" Gilliard

January 14, 1967 - May 4, 2024

John A. Gilliard, was born in Brooklyn, NY on January 14, 1967, to the late John Gilliard and Janice Harris. John passed away Saturday, May 4, 2024. John was better known as "Big Say" to most people. He grew up in Fort Greene Projects and graduated from Sheepshead Bay high school, in Brooklyn, NY. John eventually moved to Ellenville, NY., and this is where his story begins. He met the love of his life, Anita Y. Torres-Gilliard in Ellenville, NY. The two were married for 38 years. From this union they had 3 beautiful children: Shalonda Marie, Isaiah John, and Saisha Rose.

John leaves to survive: His devoted wife: Anita Y. Torres-Gilliard in Richmond, VA, three children: Shalonda, Isaiah, and Saisha Gilliard all of Richmond, VA.; his mother: Janice Harris of Texas; three brothers: Tiffany Gilliard, and Gregory Harris from Texas and Abdul Salaam of Richmond, VA; one sister Sabrina (Kevin) Nero in Texas; one aunt; Phyllis Sheriff, one sister-law; Audra (Jerome) Anderson, two bonus brothers James and Toni (Bernadette) Harris, 10 grandchildren: Julian, Justin, Elijah, Josiah, Xola, Ivan, Ava, Skylar Rose, Omari, and Yamir, 3 Great-God daughters: Jamirah, Jarie, and DaeJa; 11 loving nieces and nephews, one devoted nephew Bayan Gilliard; and a host of cousins and friends. God-given gift Onyx.

Big Say was known by so many people. He was the owner of Street Ratt Promotions and Yellow House Recording Studio. He had a passion for music

and dedicated his life to helping others to achieve their dreams in the music industry. He would participate and volunteer in many venues that the city was sponsoring. Big Say will truly be missed by all.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Memory Gardens

13389 Mountain Road
Glen Allen, VA 23059

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 14. 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Celebration of Life

MAY 15. 12:00 PM (ET)

United Nations Church
214 Cowardin Ave.
Richmond, VA 23224

Tribute Wall



“ Lord have Mercy. I am so devastated to find this obituary. I can't believe it. It almost seems like yesterday when I last talked to Say. I lost his number when I switched phones and I was trying to find contact information on line. Man oh man, I am in tears. Say was absolutely one of the greatest and good men that I have met in my life. The brother was so talented and so in touch with what matters. I moved from Virginia (VA, two down, two up) well over ten years ago to plant my flag in Florida. At least every year or two, I would make sure I reached out to him. The last time we spoke he was telling me how excited he was about his new studio on Broad Street. I can't even begin to tell the story of how we met and how he looked out for me when so many others would not. He openly welcomed me in to his studio / office which was basically right on the VCU campus. And when I say welcomed, I mean welcomed. He literally gave me office space in his office with a desk and my work station set up right in the front of the office in front of the large glass windows looking out on to Broad Street. He allowed me to be in a space where I could flourish and wield my crafts of photography, graphic design, music productin, video production, & so much more. He even referred his clients to me that he had relationships with for years. Say never charged me one cent, but would occasionally ask for my assistance with some newly released online tech. I'm going to have to write a story about it. Rest In Peace my brother. May God bless his soul and his family.

Ace Boogie - April 22, 2025 at 06:39 PM



I was so upset when I left my post that I got the VA motto backward. Instead of saying two up, two down, I said it the other way around. What a loss, what a loss, I can't even put it in to words.

Ace Boogie - April 22, 2025 at 06:46 PM



What up man

Reiendo Maclin - March 19 at 05:21 AM

DJ

“ Long Live Pops. And I say “Pops” cuz I stayed in his house more than he did. Lol we was on the Google maps photo for his address on the front porch lol that was classic!! LongLive Big Say!! Doe

Dorell “Doe” Taylor Jr. - May 15, 2024 at 06:54 AM

LS

“ Lisa, Marie, Maritza & Satira purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John “Big Say” Gilliard.



Lisa, Marie, Maritza & Satira - May 13, 2024 at 09:28 PM

LS

“ Lisa, Marie, Maritza & Satira planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John “Big Say” Gilliard.

Lisa, Marie, Maritza & Satira - May 13, 2024 at 09:28 PM

LF

“ Love Always Mommy Niche & James Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of John “Big Say” Gilliard.



Love Always Mommy Niche & James Family - May 13, 2024 at 08:23 PM

LF

“ Love Always Mommy Niche & James Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "Big Say" Gilliard.

Love Always Mommy Niche & James Family - May 13, 2024 at 08:23 PM

AN

“ Apostle Raymond & Denise Younger, NTCOJC purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of John "Big Say" Gilliard.



Apostle Raymond & Denise Younger, NTCOJC - May 13, 2024 at 06:51 PM

AN

“ Apostle Raymond & Denise Younger, NTCOJC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "Big Say" Gilliard.

Apostle Raymond & Denise Younger, NTCOJC - May 13, 2024 at 06:51 PM

LF

“ Love Minnie Becca Pearl Nate & family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of John "Big Say" Gilliard.



Love Minnie Becca Pearl Nate & family - May 13, 2024 at 04:58 PM

EO

“ My deepest condolences to the Gillard family. May God give you all the strength and comfort you need. R.i.p Say



Edith Oquendo - May 13, 2024 at 01:33 PM

YB

“ Yvette Broadhead purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John "Big Say" Gilliard.



Yvette Broadhead - May 12, 2024 at 07:55 PM

TB

“ I send my genuine, heartfelt love and condolences to the Gilliard family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. 🙏 I pray you will allow our Heavenly Father to comfort, keep, strengthen, love & encourage you in Jesus name. Much love to you all.



Tanya Bates - May 10, 2024 at 07:28 PM

TW

“ Rest In Paradise ~ you will be missed and loved forever by your wife, children, grandchildren, family members and friends. May you rest in peace as God has called you home to live in house of many mansions.



Tifney W. - May 10, 2024 at 05:12 PM

PS

“ Phyllis Sheriff purchased the Strength & Solace S pray for the family of John "Big Say" Gilliard.



Phyllis Sheriff - May 10, 2024 at 09:00 AM

PS

“ Phyllis Sheriff planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John "Big Say" Gilliard.

Phyllis Sheriff - May 10, 2024 at 09:00 AM

NW

“ My name is Nina Williams, and I am divorced. I have three kids with my ex-husband, who messed up my credit report before we got divorced. This made my life with my kids a living hell, and I felt frustrated. However, I met a friend in church who recommended H A C K M A V E N S CREDIT SPECIALIST. I contacted them, and within 7 days, they fixed my credit and increased my score from 515 to 785. Now, I can take loans, own a house, and run a business. If you have any credit-related issues, you can reach out to them via EMAIL: H A C K M A V E N S 5 @ G M A I L . C O M or Call/Text/Whats-App: [+ 1 (2 0 9) 4 1 7 – 1 9 5 7].



Nina Williams - May 10, 2024 at 04:16 AM

JG

“ My condolences to the entire family, friends and anyone who is mourning his loss on today.

Uncle Say, will forever remain in my heart ❤️ as a positive uplifting encouragement to me.

I am grateful that he was not only my uncle, but my mentor. He taught me the importance of being an independent and creative thinker as a visual artist. I will treasure our conversations and honor the Gilliard Legacy through my work (in respect of my Uncle Say and my Dad).

Respectfully 🙏🕊️🙏🕊️🙏
Jae Gilliard

Jae Gilliard - May 09, 2024 at 10:43 AM

EM

“ Excellent Covenant Powerhouse Mini purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of John "Big Say" Gilliard.



Excellent Covenant Powerhouse Mini - May 09, 2024 at 10:33 AM

EM

“ From: Excellent Covenant Powerhouse Mini planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John "Big Say" Gilliard.

Excellent Covenant Powerhouse Mini - May 09, 2024 at 10:33 AM

DY

“ *Denise Younger lit a candle in memory of John "Big Say" Gilliard*



Denise Younger - May 09, 2024 at 10:07 AM

LJ

“ *Grace and Peace to the Gilliard family during this difficult time. Our prayers of comfort, strength, and peace be upon the family. RIP John "Big Say" From Lynn & Rocky Jackson (Gilliard)*

Lynn Gilliard Jackson - May 08, 2024 at 04:49 PM

GQ

*To my besty Sholanda and mum Gilliard we are so sorry for your loss. God be with you in this time and the times ahead. May god bless and keep you and your family in his care always. We love you Sholanda and mum. Remember we are a phone call away. Remember H will wipe every tear from your eyes and He is always close to the brokenhearted.
From
Tony and Gail Quinones.*

Gail and Tony quinones - May 08, 2024 at 05:40 PM

YB

To my sister and her family. My sincere and deepest condolences to you all. Love y'all ❤️

Yvette Broadhead - May 08, 2024 at 09:00 PM

SN

“ *My Big Brother! Love is greater than Loss! RIC "Rest in Christ"- RIP "Rest in Peace"*

Sabrina Nero - May 08, 2024 at 12:39 PM

MC

My sincere condolences and prayers to your family! 🙏❤️

Mary chisholm - May 09, 2024 at 08:51 PM



“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

March Funeral Homes - May 07, 2024 at 12:17 PM