



Larry Wes "Captain Dee-Fense" Henson

August 23, 1950 - October 5, 2025

Larry Llwellyn "Wes" Henson born in Baltimore, Maryland, on August 23, 1950 to the late Irvin Henson and Alverta McCree, passed on October 5, 2025 at the age of 75.

Larry "Wes" graduated from Northwestern High School, class of 1969. There he played football and basketball and it was there that he picked up the name "Wes" in tribute to NBA's Wes Unseld, who played for the old Baltimore Bullets and successor teams.

While in high school, he met LaVerne Rondon, who became his high school sweetheart. On December 18, 1971 he married his high school sweetheart LaVerne, and together they built a life grounded in faith, family, service—and a shared love for community.

Wes answered the call of duty, serving in the U.S. Navy as a cryptologic technician for 24 years before retiring in 1995. After retiring from the Navy, he continued to serve his country through federal government work, carrying forward the same dedication and integrity that defined his service years.

For almost 30 years Larry "Wes" was a huge fan of the Baltimore Ravens and affectionately known as "Captain Dee-Fense" to the fan base.— a larger-than-life superfan whose booming chants and spirited presence became

synonymous with game day. For nearly three decades, he energized M&T Bank Stadium and Ravens events in his trademark captain's hat, purple and white camouflage pants, military tags, aviator shades, black combat boots with purple shoelaces, and oversized "D" and "Fence" cutouts, rallying the Flock with a passion that was second to none.

Wes never saw himself as just a fan but a people person, who loved to make those around him feel at ease. He was an ambassador of joy and community. He visited many hospitals, including children's hospitals, supported youth and anti-bullying efforts, raised funds for many organizations of those in need, and shared his energy to local charities. Larry "Wes",

Sitting in section 513, row 17, at home games, "Wes" became a goodwill ambassador for the team. With his radiant smile, and jokes, he believed in his heart that life was meant to be lived, so he spread that infectious energy to those around him.

His wife LaVerne said that he was easy going and that he loved family events and going out to eat seafood, steak and potatoes. His daughter Chandra stated that he stressed the importance of being there for your children. She recalled his love for taking his grandson to the airport to watch planes land and take off.

While Ravens fans knew him as Captain Dee-Fense, to his family he was simply Larry — a devoted husband, loving father, cherished brother, and proud grandfather. He is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Laverne Henson; daughters Donella Oleston and Chandra Wilson; grandchildren Raymond Wilson III and Aria Oleston; and sisters Anna Mae Jones, Marlene Makle, Marsha Bannister, Serena Henson, and Michelle (Lisa) Henson — along with a large extended family of nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless friends.

Captain Dee-Fense loved his Ravens, and his Ravens loved him right back. His spirit will live on every time the crowd rises for third down, every time the chant of "Dee-Fense!" fills the air, and every time a fan throws on their purple and remembers the man who made them believe they were part of something bigger. Rest easy, Captain. The Flock will carry the cheer from here.

Cemetery Details

Cheltenham State Veterans Cemetery

11301 Crain Hwy
Cheltenham, MD 20623

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **21**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (est)

March Funeral Home - West
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Visitation

OCT **22**. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. - Randallstown
5616 Old Court Road
Windsor Mill, MD 21244
(410) 655-0110
<https://www.marchlifetributecenter.com>

Wake

OCT 23. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. - Randallstown
5616 Old Court Road
Windsor Mill, MD 21244
(410) 655-0110
<https://www.marchlifetributecenter.com>

Celebration of life with live streaming

OCT 23. 11:00 AM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. - Randallstown
5616 Old Court Road
Windsor Mill, MD 21244
(410) 655-0110
<https://www.marchlifetributecenter.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *March Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Larry Wes "Captain Dee-Fense" Henson*



March Funeral Homes - October 14, 2025 at 11:46 AM

SG

Rest easy Captain Dee- Fense . You will be truly missed. I will miss seeing you at the games #RavenForever 🐼

sara ghee - October 15, 2025 at 09:37 AM

HA

I met Captain Defense at the Hall of Fame when we shared the honor of winning the Visa Hall of Fans Award. It's been a long time since we spoke and I'm saddened to hear of his passing. Great human being.

Harv Aronson - October 24, 2025 at 02:18 PM



“ *Michelle Duvall lit a candle in memory of Larry Wes "Captain Dee-Fense" Henson*



Michelle Duvall - October 23, 2025 at 12:47 PM



“ Rest in heavenly peace captain defense you'll be greatly miss by everyone who's life you've touch. You're going to be greatly miss.

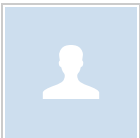
Michelle Duvall - October 23, 2025 at 12:46 PM



“ I first met him years ago & one of our Ravens game & I had the pleasure of hanging out with him for the 1st time at a Ravens event with Bmore Around Town during Covid, we were at the Power Plant Live, he gave me a brief history of how Captain Dee got started & he raved about his wife & beautiful daughters. I will never forget that conversation about how much he loved his family. Thank you all for sharing him with us fans, he will truly be missed, the Ravens games definitely won't be the same. Until we all meet again. We will hold the Ravens down for you.



Nerita Johnson - October 23, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Larry Wes "Captain Dee-Fense" Henson.



October 21, 2025 at 05:54 AM

V

“ *'The Lovely Miss Anna' & Frosty Volmer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Larry Wes "Captain Dee-Fense" Henson.*

'The Lovely Miss Anna' & Frosty Volmer - October 21, 2025 at 05:54 AM

R1

“ *Ravens Roost 18 purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Larry Wes "Captain Dee-Fense" Henson.*



Ravens Roost 18 - October 20, 2025 at 02:04 PM

SH

“ *I met Captain at the Convention Center at a Healthy Expo event. Of course he was dressed in his Ravens gear. He will be greatly missed.*

Sadie Hannah - October 18, 2025 at 11:54 PM

M(

“ *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 Life Tribute Center (Randallstown) - October 18, 2025 at 08:22 AM

RG

“ I first met Larry "Wes" Henson in 1998. I've had the honor of hanging out and talking Football with Wes, walking with him in the Ravens Roost Parade in OC, and working on several video shoots with him for the Ravens. When I was dating my future wife in 2000 she "introduced" me to him in the Stadium and said "He listens!" lol. It's true. He was always listening, building people up, giving words of encouragement and tips on how to build your own image. He was so dedicated to the Ravens, the Fans and charitable organizations that he would show up at any event you asked him to. Once he went to a church picnic with me that was the culmination of a 15 church prayer tour where we asked folks to write down their prayers for the people of Baltimore. We shared those prayers with 160 churches across DE & MD, and we had them all on a display board at that picnic in Druid Hill Park. Wes spent a long time reading them and came over to me saying "Take a picture of me with this man, this is great!" Larry loved God, loved Baltimore, loved the Ravens and loved all of you. May God bless you all abundantly. Deacon "Real Fan Dan" Granofsky



Real Fan Dan Granofsky - October 15, 2025 at 09:01 PM

RA

“ Never too busy for a "good morning". Never too busy for a handshake. Always took time for a picture. A good man who served his country and community. Rest in the arms of our Lord our Captain. We'll take it from here. Ravensfan19

Ravensfan19 - October 15, 2025 at 01:56 PM

TT

“ Going to miss you Captain. We honored you at our tailgate this past Monday and I will never forget you my friend.

Tailgate Ted - October 15, 2025 at 12:42 PM



“ *Written in the Stars* was purchased for the family of Larry Wes "Captain Dee-Fense" Henson.



October 15, 2025 at 01:34 AM



“ We’ve lost a dear friend — a co-worker, mentor, and fellow Navy veteran who has meant so much to all of us. We first crossed paths back in 2004. Over the years, we have not spoken or seen each other, however I would always hear his voice and see his face. During the time we spent together our bond grew from shared service to true friendship. We spent countless hours together, but some of my favorite memories are the times we cheered side-by-side at football games.

He was a passionate fan — not just someone who watched the games, but someone who lived them. He poured his heart into making posters for his team, and I had the privilege of helping him bring those bold, colorful displays to life.

I still remember the first time I joined Wes for a football game — posters in hand. I asked him, “Wes, where are we going?” Half-joking, I said, “You’re Captain Dee-Fense, are we heading to the sidelines?”

He just laughed and said, “Nope — this is my section. I’ve been cheering here for years, and I’ve never changed.”

That was Wes — loyal, spirited, and full of pride for his team and his traditions. Helping him carry those posters became a ritual — part of the experience, part of the joy. He didn’t just attend games; he showed up for them, and for the people around him.

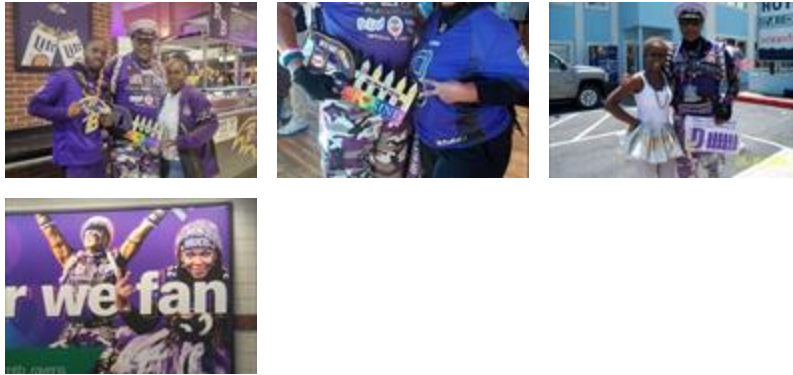
Thank you, Wes – for your wisdom, your laughter, and your honesty. You weren’t just a co-worker or a mentor – you were our Big Brother. I’ll carry your memory with pride and gratitude always. Fair winds and following seas, my friend. You’ve earned your rest.

Thomas Freeman and Family share our deepest condolences.
AKA “Little Captain Dee”.

Thomas LaMont - October 15, 2025 at 01:20 AM

SH

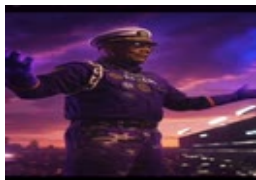
“ Cap was an inspiration. Every pic i requested was granted with a heartfelt smile. Doing my tribute video I went all the way back to Ocean City, May of 2009. When it was brought to my attention that I was side by side with Captain D on the wall by gate C, I was so excited. He told me he was proud of me and that meant so much. I feed off of how he interacted with fellow fans. Thank you Mr. Henson... you are truly missed 🙏🕊️🌹 My deepest and sincerest condolences.



Selena Hinson - October 14, 2025 at 05:00 PM

FL

“ There will never be another but your memory shall live on for ever this me and the whole Ravens Flock! It was a pleasure to know you and work with you you'll truly be missed sir. Thank you n thank God for placing you in our lives. 🙏💜



FlockMan88 - October 14, 2025 at 03:02 PM

KG

ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL, thanks for ALL the memories

Karen E Griffin - October 23, 2025 at 04:18 PM

VS

“ We are all fortunate to have known Larry Wes Henson aka Captain DeeFense he was an inspiration and motivation force to all who met and knew him. I am grateful to have been the recipient of his stories and words of wisdom. I will miss his daily motivational text messages. Many times I would call him to come to the Pigtown Festival to support the community he always showed up. He loved to talk to the children and give them advice. In this picture he was pouring into his great nephew , my grandson. Long live the memory of the legacy of Larry Wes Henson (Capt. DeeFense) your physical presence will surely be missed ! Sending my thought felt prayers to his wife Lavern and his daughters Donella and Chandra and his grand kids !



Valerie Stewart - October 13, 2025 at 04:55 PM

AH

“ Adriane Hill lit a candle in memory of Larry Wes "Captain Dee-Fense" Henson



Adriane Hill - October 13, 2025 at 11:04 AM



“ Jaiden Garrett lit a candle in memory of Larry Wes "Captain Dee-Fense" Henson



Jaiden Garrett - October 11, 2025 at 09:32 PM



“ I loved Wes, so sad that he's gone. My condolences.



Jaiden Garrett - October 11, 2025 at 09:29 PM



“ Vivian Ballard lit a candle in memory of Larry Wes "Captain Dee-Fense" Henson



Vivian Ballard - October 11, 2025 at 08:33 PM



“ Larry "Wes" Henson, you dedicated your LIFE to serving others. You served our country. Your love for the Ravens was a vehicle to empower the community. There were many times that I would feel down and I would see an inspirational post from you. That would lift my spirits. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED Captain. You made the world a better place. You are the example for everyone.



Malik Collins - October 11, 2025 at 08:23 PM



“ This is so geart broken i have met this wonderful Raven Fan twice one at M&T Bank Stadium Ravens Ladies Night Out And At The The Fox 45 Healthy Expo He Will Absalutely Be Missed Prayers For His Daughters And Whole Family He Will Trully Be Missed 🥹🥹🥹🥹🥹



Sarena Delaine Byrd - October 11, 2025 at 10:50 AM



“ 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 - October 10, 2025 at 03:22 PM