

Celebrating the Life of **TRACY AIRRION PRUITT**





TRACY AIRRION PRUITT

April 16, 1974 - April 8, 2024

Memorial Service

MAY 18, 2024

Church of the Valley, Los Angeles, California

TREY DAY

Thank you for joining the Pruitt family and honoring the beautiful life and significant impact Trey had on all of us.

PROGRAM - 10:00 A.M.

Welcome & Invocation	Rev. Dr. Michael Kosik
Lighting of Candles	Jacquelyn, Kenneth, & Monica Pruitt
Reading: Psalm 23	Caleb & Jacob Pruitt
Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:58	Elias Pruitt
“More Than You Know”	Video Obituary
Song Selection	Latanya Hilton
Eulogy	Rev. Steve Pinkston
The Omega Service	Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Closing	Johnathon Briggs

OBITUARY

Tracy Airrion Pruitt—devoted husband, doting father, cherished son, mentor to many, corporate leader, sports lover and golf enthusiast—lived a life that matched the Aries ram zodiac sign of his birth. He was always charging forward at full effort, giving his all to everything he did and everyone he loved. After a valiant battle against cancer, Tracy transitioned from this life on April 8, 2024 in Los Angeles at the age of 49, eight days shy of his 50th birthday.

The only child of Ken and Jackie Pruitt, Tracy was born on April 16, 1974, at St. Joseph Hospital in Orange, Calif. His middle name was inspired by Airrion Love, co-founder of The Stylistics, a popular Philadelphia soul group. But throughout his life, Tracy was known by many names and descriptions, each reflecting the dimensions of the man he was and the impressions he left on the lives he touched.

To family, he was a husband, father, and son, a pillar of love and unwavering support who stood strong at 6-foot-1 and 200 pounds.

To friends, he was Trey, Tre Dawg, or Trey Boogie, but consistently a brother, friend, and confidant. His friends' children even dubbed him “Uncle Trey.”



Professionally, he was admired as a mentor, role model, and a champion of philanthropy.

As a youth sports coach, he encouraged his three sons—Elias, Caleb, and Jacob—and other budding athletes to develop mental toughness, discipline, and confidence, just as his father Ken—also a youth coach and Tracy’s first football coach—had done for him.

Tracy’s childhood was spent in San Jose, Calif. where his parents planted the seeds that shaped the man he became. During the 1970s, Ken worked as an instructor and Program Manager for ROLM Corporation and Trimble Navigation; Jackie worked as a nurse practitioner with Kaiser Permanente. Tracy’s character was evident from a young age, characterized by his strong opinions and steadfast determination.

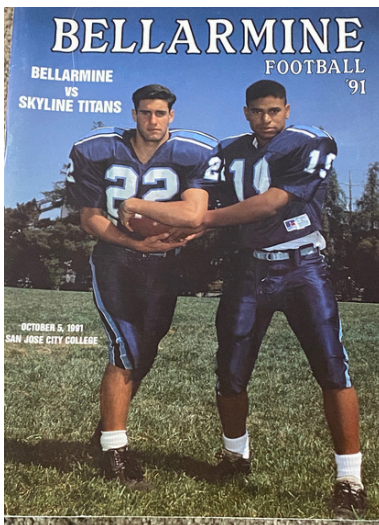
“He grew up thinking he had the right to express his opinion because he was around two adults all the time,” Jackie recalled. “So his father said, ‘You can have an opinion, but you don’t get a vote.’”

Ken and Jackie enrolled Tracy in sports—first soccer, then football at age 8—primarily to build his self-esteem and to help him develop confidence. They wanted him to understand the importance of hard work, responsibility and leadership. They believed football would expose him to different personalities and allow Tracy to “mix it up” (as Ken put it) with other kids in the community, especially since he attended private schools off the field. Community Football would keep him grounded.



Tracy sharpened his competitive edge through the Police Athletic League's (PAL) Berryessa Cougars Youth Football program. At the encouragement of his father, he progressed through PAL's divisions, starting from Mitey-Mite and advancing to Bantam. By the time Tracy started 5th grade at Harker Academy in 1984, he had worked his way up to the position of quarterback. At Harker, Tracy's love of sports extended to basketball where he was a forward and center for the Harker Eagles.

Beyond the field, Tracy excelled academically and socially, never forgetting his roots or the values instilled by his parents. During his freshman year of high school at Bellarmine College Preparatory, he asked his teacher Rev. Steve Pinkston, "Are we going to have this much homework every night?" Pinkston said, "Yes, can you handle it?" Tracy replied, "I can handle anything you give me."



At Bellarmine, Tracy ascended to student body president, became quarterback of the varsity football team, point-guard for the basketball team, and wrote for the student newspaper, *The Cardinal*, where he won an Art Rosenbaum Scholarship award for sports writing. It's no surprise that years later, as an adult, Tracy could dissect a team's weaknesses with the precision of a seasoned sports analyst.

When Tracy graduated from Bellarmine in 1992 the yearbook theme was "Venimus, Vidimus, Vicimus," a modification of Caesar's immortal words: "I came. I saw. I conquered." Clearly, Tracy understood the assignment.

Tracy initially enrolled at Santa Clara University, but after its football program ended, he transferred to Stanford University. At Stanford, he continued his passion for football, joining the team as a quarterback and even played quarterback in the Heisei Bowl in Tokyo, Japan where he won MVP.

Additionally, he became a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. During his pursuit of a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, Tracy crossed paths with his future wife, Monica Hoggatt, a fellow student. In a full circle moment, the couple later married on September 20, 2008—at Stanford Memorial Church.



After graduation, Tracy worked as a software engineering manager for the Intel Corporation in the San Francisco Bay Area. His drive to be a leader in the business world steered him to Chicago in 1999, where he earned an M.B.A from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management. He distinguished himself as an F.C. Austin Scholar, focusing his studies on finance, strategy, and organizational behavior. He simultaneously received an M.E.M. in 2001 from the McCormick School of Engineering at Northwestern University.

Tracy's career journey led him to various prestigious positions. He began as a consultant in the Chicago office of The Boston Consulting Group before returning to the Bay Area as a finance manager for Intel. Later, he assumed a Vice-President role at Visa Inc., where he oversaw teams responsible for financial support and management within Visa's Global Merchant Sales and Solutions Group.

In 2016, Tracy joined Ares Management Corporation, and within five years, he rose to the position of partner and head of corporate finance. His colleagues recalled him as an exemplar of the company's culture who believed that, above all, business was about people.



Tracy was the founding member of the Ares Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council and a champion with the Ares Philanthropy team. He fostered the idea that led to the creation of the AltFinance organization, a 10-year, \$90 million initiative launched in 2021 whose aim is to build pathways for students from historically Black colleges and universities to careers in alternative investment management.

Outside of his professional endeavors, Tracy served on the Board of Junior Achievement Southern California, demonstrating his passion for empowering young minds and fostering financial literacy. You could also find him indulging in his favorite pastime: golf.

Tracy was an avid golfer, hitting the greens every week without fail. His passion for golf extended beyond his weekly routine; every vacation he took with Monica, from Hawaii to Jamaica, included teeing off on a course. As their sons grew older and the risk of club-related shenanigans diminished, the couple began organizing family golf outings, turning tee time into a family affair.



This is not surprising since family always came first with Tracy. His proudest achievement, in addition to marrying Monica, was becoming a father. He poured his time and attention into his three boys, starting their Saturday mornings with bacon and pancakes—as golf played on the TV in the background; coaching them in football and basketball; shuttling them to and from practices, games, and tournaments; and sharing in his love for the Chicago Bears and Golden State Warriors. However, beyond their shared sports and interests, Tracy’s most profound role was nurturing them to become honorable men.



“He would always say to us, ‘I love you more than you know.’ And it became shortened to ‘more than you know,’” Monica recalled. “Everything about him was just full force, full effort and it was more than you could know by what he was saying or doing. I could always count on the fact that he would give all he had, with a fiery intensity and passion, no matter what, until his last moments on earth. And that is what I loved most about Tracy.”

In addition to his parents, wife, and three sons, Tracy is survived by a host of cousins, extended family, fraternity brothers, and dear friends who miss him “more than you know.”

–Written by Johnathon Briggs, Fraternity Brother & Friend

Repast & Celebration of Life

MAY 18, 2024

Braemar Country Club, Los Angeles, California

TREY DAY CELEBRATION

Thank you for joining the Pruitt family as we remember the laughter, joy, and fond memories Trey created with family, friends, co-workers, teams, and fraternity brothers.

PROGRAM - 12:00 P.M.

Welcome & Invocation	Bro. Ronald Thomas
Jazzy Lunch	Music by Sunshine Sound Quartet
Welcome to a Celebration of Life	J. Hilton
A Toast to Trey	Friends of Trey
A Song for Trey	Sunshine Sound Quartet
Offering of Gratitude	The Pruitt Family
The Omega Service	Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Kid Zone	Hosted by Elias, Caleb, and Jacob
Close	Please travel safely

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord [always doing your best and doing more than is needed], being continually aware that your labor [even to the point of exhaustion] in the Lord is not futile nor wasted [it is never without purpose].

1 Corinthians 15:58



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Keep the celebration going by viewing tribute videos here:

vimeo.com/treypruittcelebration



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