

Forever in our Hearts

HONORING A GREAT JOURNEY



Sarah
FRANCES BENN

SUNRISE: AUGUST 10, 1946 ~ SUNSET: MARCH 13, 2023

Saturday, March 25, 2023 | 11:00AM
Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church
698 NW 47th Terrace, Miami, Florida 33142
Rev. Johnny L. Barber, II, Senior Pastor/Teacher

The Legacy of her Journey

A L I F E W E L L L I V E D

A TIME TO BE BORN . . .

Sarah Frances Benn was a beautiful baby girl born on August 10, 1946 to the Late Bennie and Rubelle Benn in Perrine, Florida. She was the second of four daughters born to this union. Her sisters who preceded her in death were Gloria Benn and Sue Reeves (Floyd).

A TIME TO GROW . . .

Sarah was educated in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools and attended Booker T. Washington Senior High School where she was an honor student graduating in 1965. Sarah continued her education at Job Corps in Maine. Upon her return to Miami, she began her nursing degree studies at Miami-Dade and was awarded her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Florida International University. Sarah received her Florida State Nursing License on June 29, 1973.

While working in the Coronary/Critical Care Unit (CCU) at the Veteran's Medical Center, Sarah served as Assistant Charge Nurse and later became the Charge Nurse of the Unit. During these years, Sarah met and bonded with some other nurses. They became a family of friends as they all had something in common – from caring for their mothers to assisting with other family members and celebrating life together which included their love for family and growing of special flowers like the devil's backbone and night blooming Sara. This bond birthed the acronym "LABS" (Lucille Anita Betty and Sarah), representing their names and career. The leader and baby of the pack is now smiling down on them.

A TIME TO LIVE . . .

Sarah had a special companion, Winston Alexander Dean BKA "Uncle Hubby Grubby/Bronco." They enjoyed many wonderful years together. He preceded her in life. Sarah loved to travel and her favorite, most economical means was the automobile. Road maps served as her guide from travels up the East Coast to the West, with some flights to Las Vegas with her still renting a car to travel across the desert. Some of her best travels were on cruise ships like the Sea Escape, Scandinavian Sea and S.S. Emerald Seas. She enjoyed the simple things in life that included being with family and friends, worshipping God, cooking and gardening.

A TIME TO TRANSITION . . .

God's angels outfitted Sarah for her wings on March 13, 2023. She leaves to cherish her memory her sister, Joyce Benn; her nephews, Willie Ingraham, Jr. (Deana); Willie Edwards, III (Octavia); Travis Reeves (Elizabeth); her niece and

caretaker, Shayla Saintil; nieces, Trenise Neal; Brandi Okorochoa (Douglas), Britney Ingraham and Nia Ingraham. She also leaves to cherish her memory her special caretakers Jackie Figueredo, Maria "Chicki" Hoyas and Melissa Hoyas; the BTW's Alumni Class of 1965, her beloved Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church family and a host of other relatives and friends.

Forever in our Hearts

M I S S E D B E Y O N D M E A S U R E

Order of Service

Processional

Earth's Final Glance

Invocation

Min. JD Patterson

Scripture Readings

*Old Testament Deacon Floyd Reeves
New Testament Min. Dorothy Chaney*

Musical Selection

Reflections (Please Limit To 2 Minutes)

*Sis. Venita Timpson
Deacon Wayne Kirkland
Ms. Hattie Willis
Ms. Jo Ann Jones
Min. Arthur Wright*

Sarah's Legacy

Nieces and Nephews

Resolutions

*B.T.W. Alumni Class of 1965
Mt. Sinai MBC*

Acknowledgements

Hall-Ferguson-Hewitt Mortuary

Musical Selection

Words of Comfort

Rev. Johnny L. Barber, II

Recessional





Dear Auntie,

MY OPEN LETTER TO YOU . . .

1st Corinthians 13 speaks of love, the kind of love that gives its all. There are people that take on responsibilities because they must and there are others that take them on because they have a willingness to do so. You were the latter.

At the tender age of 17, my biological mother left this earth, but there was no motherly characteristic or duty that you did not fulfill. Although you had no children of your own, God gave you the blessing of eight nieces and nephews that filled your life for over 50 years. You doted on us, spoiled us, counseled us, scolded us and cared for us all in your own special and unique way.

Aunt Sarah, you continued to help cultivate my relationship with God, keeping me in worship at Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church as a youth and watched me serve as a young adult. It was the church of your parents and your sisters, and many members became my extended family. It was through your example that you showed me that the power of prayer, worship and service was what sustained us.

Dear Auntie, you did not mince words, although you were soft in your delivery. You were relentless in your teachings of "Hard work pays off." Your motto was "a lady is to be seen and rarely heard" and you lived by "Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you." For your wisdom, firmness and consistency, you were my role model and one I truly admired.

I grew to understand the adage "Who takes care of the caretaker?" I can unequivocally state from both you and I; God does! When you could no longer care for others and then for yourself, God guided my hands to care for you. He guided my voice to advocate for you and He guided my prayers to pray for you as you had done for me so many times before.

I count it an honor to have shown God's compassion, His patience, His care and His love toward you, Auntie, and being able to return to you all that you had given to me my entire life. Surely love is patient and kind. You will be sorely missed by so many of the lives that you both knew and touched.

From my earliest Christian teachings, I know I will one day see you again. So, for now, Auntie, rest well until our Lord and Savior returns for his Saints.

*With all my heart,
Your Shayla*



MY DEAREST AUNT SARAH,

Your spirit will be truly missed. Your hearty laugh and unsuspecting sense of humor could light up a room! Your humble personality yet "no nonsense" attitude made you a force, beautiful both inside and out. Although you didn't have children of your own, your unwavering support and unconditional love for your nieces and nephews is incomparable; you always treated each of us as your very own. You so selflessly and naturally mothered to everyone, everywhere. The childhood memories that we cherish the most were created in your backyard, from swim lessons to picking ripe mangoes from the ground as they fell from your mango tree and will live on in our hearts forever. Today, we celebrate you, your life and your legacy! You will never be forgotten. Until we meet again, I LOVE YOU! ~ Brandi

Brandi S. Reeves Attorney at Law

Dear Great Aunt Sarah, As I sit down to write this farewell message to you, my heart is heavy with grief and sadness. You were more than just a great aunt to me - you were a pillar of strength, an unwavering source of love and support and a guiding light in my childhood. You represented everything that was good and pure in this world - kindness, compassion and selflessness. Your unwavering love and devotion to our family, and to me personally, will always be cherished and remembered. Your presence in my life was a gift and I will be forever grateful for the memories we shared. Your wisdom and guidance have helped shaped me throughout my life. As I bid you farewell, I do so with deep respect for all that you represented in my life. You will always hold a special place in my heart and your legacy will live on through the countless lives you touched. Rest in peace, Great Aunt Sarah. You will be deeply missed.

With love and respect, Britney

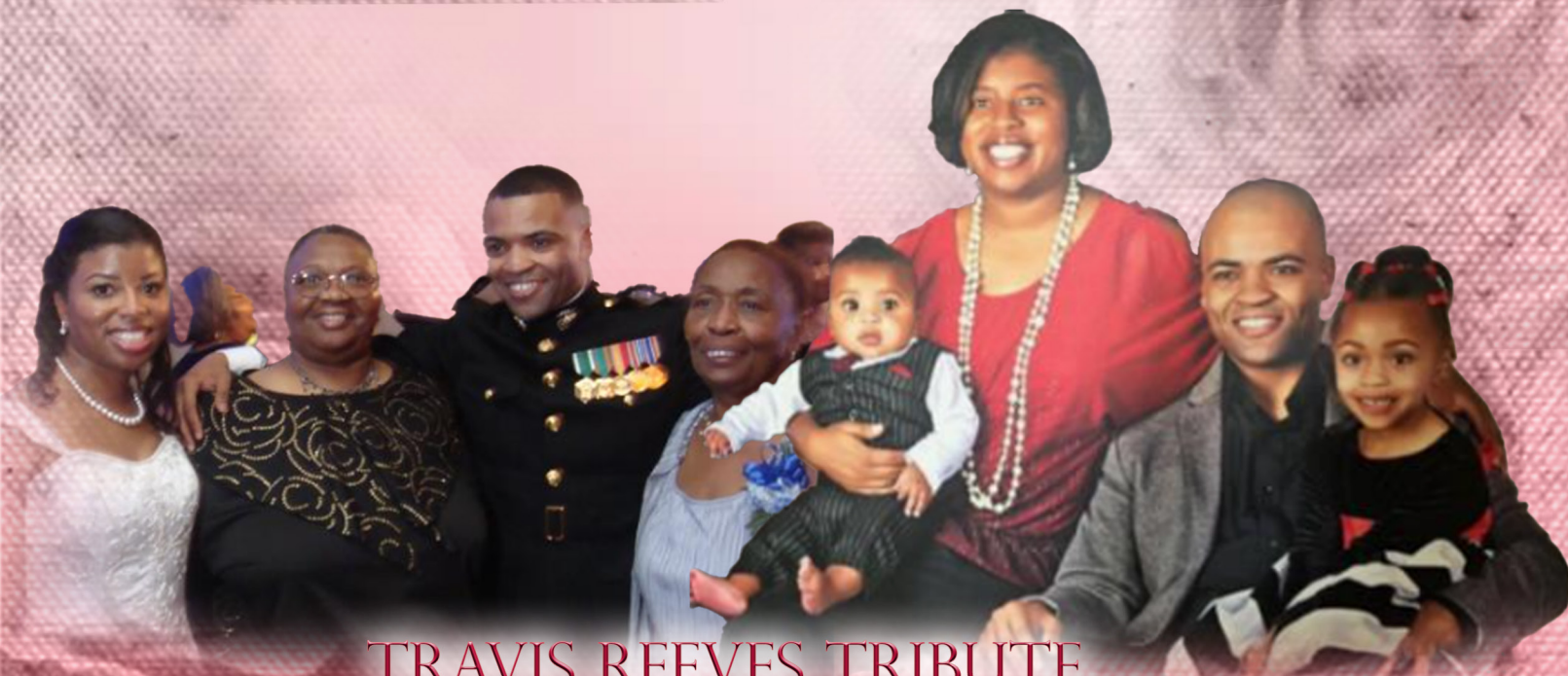


Aunt Sarah, I'm very thankful that GOD blessed me with the opportunity to have you as my Aunt/Mom.

You were a giving person who never judged just helped me when I needed wisdom and support. You unselfishly did the same for my family and countless others. I would not be the person I am today if it wasn't for the great knowledge you poured into me.

Thank you for loving me unconditionally. Your precious spirit will live on forever in our hearts.

Your nephew, Willie Nathan (AKA Poppa)



TRAVIS REEVES TRIBUTE



EDWARDS, III TRIBUTE

Pallbearers

Willie Ingraham, Jr.
Travis Reeves
Jerald D. Wise

Willie Edwards, Jr.
Clifford T. Benjamin
Brandon Times

Honorary Pallbearers

Embery Byrd
Deacon Wayne Kirkland

Deacon George Williams
BTW Alumni C/O 1965

Interment

Caballero Rivero-Dade North

1301 Opa Locka Blvd
Miami, Florida 33167



Acknowledgements

It is with a grateful heart and sincere appreciation that the family of Ms. Sarah Frances Benn expresses our love to those who shared their time, support and words of encouragement in the loss of our love one. Sarah was a pillar of strength and gave so much of her time and talent to those with whom she met during her time here on earth. We have lost a jewel and yet we know that God has gained a precious soul. We extend special acknowledgements to The Jones, Moss and Thomas Families, Ms. Reba Byrd, Dr. Venita B. Timpson, Ms. Misty Brown, Ms. Hattie Willis, Ms. Annette Gray (VITAS), The Ladies of Gencare Skin Farm, and Ms. Debbie Smith, and Nakia Martin. Thank you.

Services Entrusted To

Hall-Ferguson-Hewitt Mortuary, P.A.
1900 NW 54th Street, Miami, Florida 33142
(305) 633-0688 | www.hfhmortuary.com

"A Dignified, Personalized Service With Integrity"