

Homegoing Celebration for
DEBORAH LOUISE DYSON STEVENSON



The Beginning
June 19, 1947

Everlasting Life
April 12, 2021

Service

Saturday, May 1, 2021

Rockville Christian Church ~ 301 Adclare Road, Rockville, MD

Rev. Timothy B. Warner, Officiating Minister
& Rev. Jane Wood, Minister

OBITUARY

Debbie's Journey

Deborah Louise Dyson Stevenson, of Clarksburg, MD, entered eternal rest on Monday, April 12, 2021, at the age of 73, surrounded by her family.

Debbie, as she was Lovingly called by family and friends, was born at Montgomery General Hospital in Olney, MD on June 19, 1947, to her loving parents Lawrence Dyson and Juanita Washington Dyson. She was the second child born in the family and joined her sister under the zodiac sign of Gemini – the twin. At birth, her first home was a house on Muncaster Mill Rd., during that time was commonly called “Sam Welsh’s Farm”. Debbie lived her entire life in Montgomery County, most recently settling into a Luxury Adult Community in Clarksburg until she was called to be with the Lord. Debbie received her formal education through Montgomery County Public Schools as well as Montgomery College. She served as a patrol in elementary school and while at Gaithersburg Jr. High School, she was the “first teen of color” to become a member of the GJHS Cheerleading Squad.

Deborah met her future husband as they both lived in Emory Grove and attended Gaithersburg Sr. High School. She married George F. Stevenson, Jr. (aka Tompete) on February 26, 1965 at Emory Grove United Methodist Church by Rev. Barrington. They lovingly nurtured and raised their children: Twanessa, Gary, Victor, and her bonus daughter Kim.

Debbie accepted the Lord as her Savior at the age of 10 at Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Lincoln Park, Rockville with her sister, Sandi, by her side. They were baptized in a creek on Avery Road near Lake Frank in Rockville under the Ministry of Rev. Henry Davis. She continued her walk with Jesus as a teenager at Emory Grove United Methodist Church and worshiped/served there for the rest of her life. For several years, as a teenager, she and her sister lived with their relatives, Lawrence & Lillian Newman, in Emory Grove, where she would sit in the living room of the Newman home and listen intently as Uncle Lawrence would read the Bible to her in the evenings. All of Debbie’s adult years were spent at Emory Grove United Methodist Church under the current leadership of Rev. Timothy B. Warner. She was involved in numerous organizations, committees, and mission projects. She was also at one time, the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. She often shared details from Bible Study sessions and always looked forward to Vacation Bible School in the summer and the Apple Festival in the fall. She joined others from the Church on a Mission Trip to Ghana, West Africa where she took a fall during the start of the trip but continued her Mission, walking around for two weeks with a broken foot. She never let anything stop her as she was fiercely dedicated. Twice she visited the Holy Land in Israel. The second time replacing her sister, Sandi, as co-leader with the late Rev. Guy Johnson. She marveled at all the sites visited and was especially grateful for having walked “The Via Dolorosa” the traditional pathway Jesus followed carrying the cross to be crucified. “...So, they took Jesus and he went out, bearing his own cross”. John 19:17. She recently shared a picture on Facebook of the Garden Tomb believed to be the place of the Crucifixion and Burial site of Jesus. It was her favorite spot for prayer and meditation.

Deborah began her professional career at the Kodak Processing Laboratories in Rockville, MD in the Processing Lab before moving into Customer Service. She eventually became the Human

Love of Family



Resource (HR) Manager. She made many lifelong friends at Kodak and she was the first person of color to advance into a Management/Supervisory position. Her next career move was to “The Gazette Newspaper” a division of Post-Newsweek Media where she worked as a Sr. HR Generalist. She was also a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and a Lifetime Member of the Montgomery County Agricultural Center. She was also a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Patuxent Rod and Gun Club.



Debbie loved her family deeply. She was very proud of her children and their accomplishments. She also maintained a close relationship with her siblings, especially her brother Chuck and wife Janet. She referred to them as “Three Peas in a Pod.” She also had a special relationship with each of her Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren and always looked forward to supporting their school and/or extracurricular activities. They affectionately called her “Grammy”. She was also “Momma Debbie” for many years to all her children’s friends and made everyone feel as if they were a part of her family. Debbie was an avid reader and would often be reading multiple books at once. Historical romance novels were among her favorites. She had a love for genealogy, history, dancing, singing and traveling. During the pandemic, Debbie found a renewed passion for baking and cooking. She would post pictures of her food and apologize to her kids for not cooking like that when they were small. Two items that people will surely miss are her baked beans and collard greens! Debbie would be the first to admit that she was also a bit of a perfectionist.

She would take regular trips with her special group of “Sista Friends”, most importantly Donna Gibson and Jeannie Nolan, to see shows and go shopping in New York, Pennsylvania, Las Vegas, Virginia, Delaware or just doing things locally. Once she retired, she also enjoyed visiting her son, Gary, in Los Angeles. She even enjoyed a few photo opportunities with well-known celebrities thanks to Gary. On her last trip in January 2020, Debbie, her daughter Twanessa and granddaughter Bria were in the audience for several Wheel of Fortune show tapings and could be clearly seen on TV as the camera panned the audience. It was her “TV Debut” on one of her all-time favorite shows. Prior to the pandemic, on any given day, she and Tompete would hop in his truck and hit the road—destination unknown!

Debbie’s smile and enthusiasm were unforgettable and in this life, she found victory in the pages of the Bible and now she walks the Streets of Gold waiting for us who believe.

She will forever be remembered by her loving Husband of 56 years George F. Stevenson Jr., Children: Twanessa Stevenson-Moten (Walter), Gary Stevenson, Victor Stevenson (Jayna), Kim Duvall, Sisters: Sandra Reed (Don), Karen Taylor (Roger) and Jean Jennings, Brother: Lawrence Dyson, Jr. (Janet), Brothers-in-law: Michael Stevenson (Nancy) and Jimmy Hawkins, Sisters-in-law: Sharon Hughes-Dyson, Betsy Offutt-Jennings, Doris Stevenson, Marie Ramey, 11 Grandchildren and 5 Great-Grandchildren, Uncle: Harold Dyson (Lucy), Aunt: Mae Nolan, God-Daughter: Carol Turner-Armstead and special “chosen” Sisters Marylee Driver-Burton (Richard), Joan Driver, and Kathy Driver-Kelly. She also leaves behind a host of Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, other Family, and Friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents Lawrence Dyson Sr. (P. Virginia), Juanita Washington Dyson-Jennings (Juriah), Brothers: Conrad Dyson, Larry Duvall, Kevin Jennings, Jeffrey Jennings; and Sisters-in-law: Edna Copeland, Yvonne Hawkins, Betty Thompson (Wilbert), and Cecelia Gassaway.

*“O DEATH WHERE IS THY VICTORY?
O GRAVE WHERE IS THY STING?
BUT THANKS BE TO GOD WHICH GIVES US
THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD,
JESUS CHRIST.”*

1 Corinthians 15:55 and 57



HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

Civilla Durfee Martin, 1905

Charles Hutchinson Gabriel, 1905

The Totality of Me

Through the power of Christ Spirit, all things are possible if we believe!

"Letting go and letting God opens a whole new life for me. As Jesus faced death, he affirmed, "Not my will but yours be done." And out of that faith came the Resurrection. I am following in the footsteps of Jesus when I let go and let God. Sometimes, I may not reach to the core of my being for the strength and wisdom to get through a challenge, but the "Spirit of God" is at that core.

In the depths of my being, the Spirit of the Christ—that divine center of life, love, and the understanding that enriches me with what I need, not only to survive an ending, but also to excel in the next beginning, the next moment, the next new day. Yes, the Spirit of the Christ empowers Me!

No person or outer circumstance can take away my freedom, for no person or circumstance can take away the truth of who I am, a loving expression of the Spirit of the Christ. A commitment to love God is a resolution to love all that God has created. "God, thank you for always being present in my life." You know each person, you know me, you know each situation so intimately, even more than that, and you know the answer to every prayer. "Be still and know that I am God." I'm still Father; I can feel you Father God I can feel you Father God within and around me. I can be at peace for you Father God are here with me, comforting and reassuring me. I'm not alone!!!"

Thank You Lord!!!

Debbie's Written Words

04/16/1996

Refrain

I sing be-cause I'm hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free, for His

eye is on the spar-row, I know He watch-es me.

ORDER OF SERVICE



Musical Prelude.....“Lift Every Voice and Sing”
& “The Prayer”

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn“Blessed Assurance”

Invocation

Musical Selection.....“His Eye is on the Sparrow”

Scripture ReadingSandra D. Reed
Old Testament, Psalm 23

Musical Selection.....“The Lord’s Prayer”

Scripture ReadingNew Testament, Colossians 3:2-4
& Revelation 21:1-7

Musical Selection.....“Better Days”

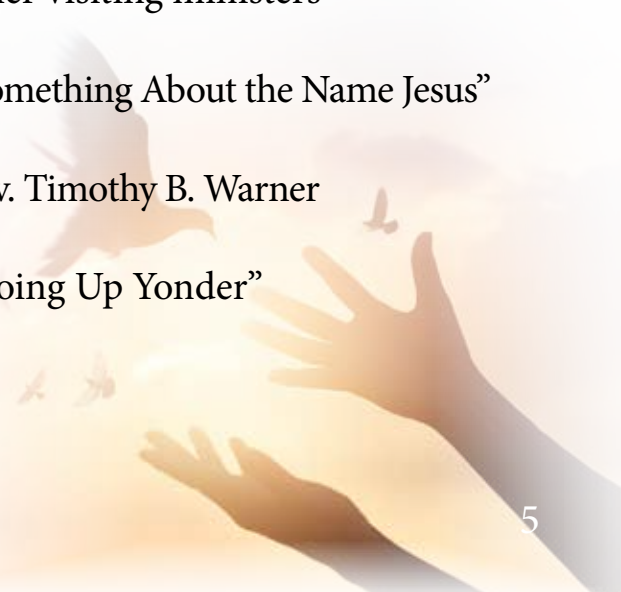
Obituary & AcknowledgmentsDonna L. Gibson

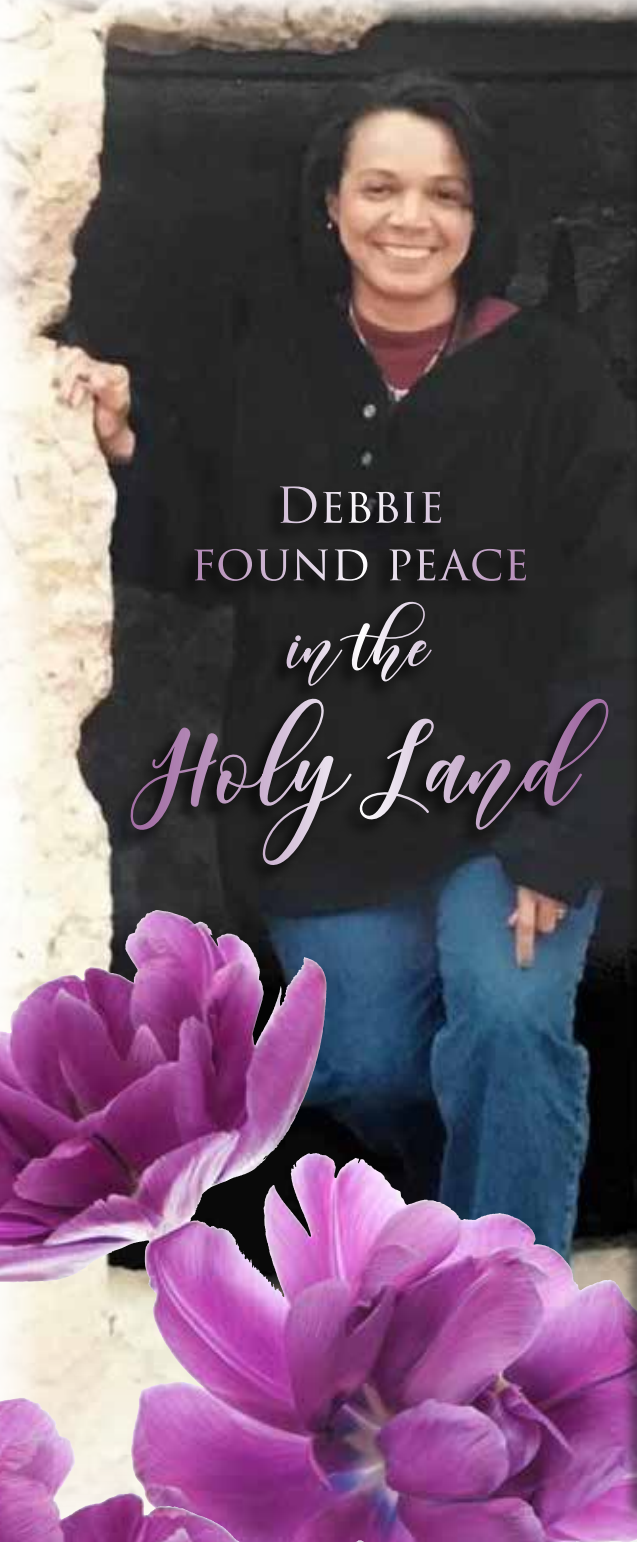
Words of ComfortRev. Jane Wood &
other visiting ministers

Musical Selection.....“Something About the Name Jesus”

EulogyRev. Timothy B. Warner

Recessional.....“Going Up Yonder”





DEBBIE
FOUND PEACE
in the
Holy Land





Sibling Bonds



Sandi



Debbie



Chuck



Conrad



Buddy



Karen



Jean



Jeff



Larry

*Love one another with brotherly affection.
Outdo one another in showing honor.*

Romans 12:10

Age 2 or 3



School Patrol



Junior High School



Kindergarten



Lincoln Park



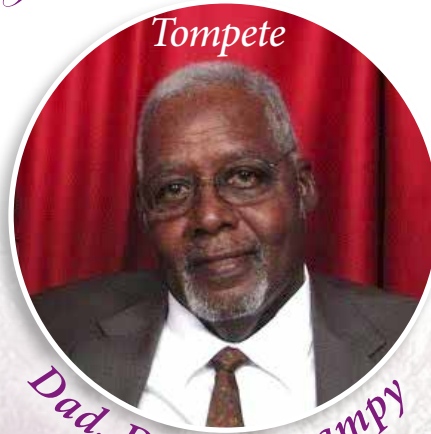
Family Ties

Debbie



Mom, Ma, Momma, Grammy

Tompete



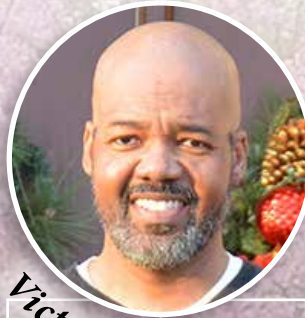
Dad, Daddy, Grampy



Twanessa



Gary



Victor



Brandon



Bria



Quynh



Khai



Victoria



Shantelle



Anaiya



Nevaeh



Kim



Vincent



Chanelle



Aria



Skylar



Rylee



Sophia



Somerlin



London

*Children are a heritage
from the LORD, offspring
a reward from him.*

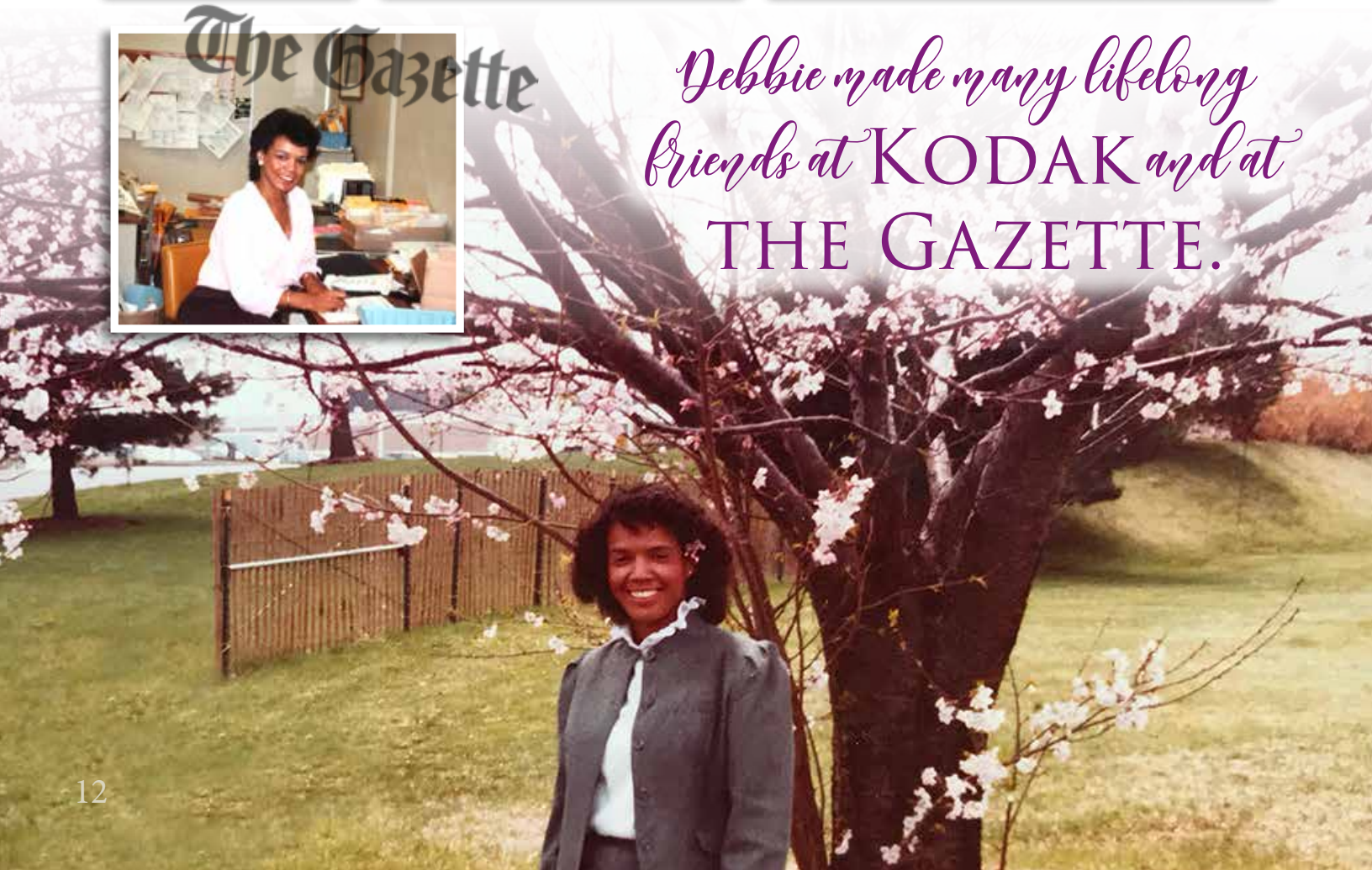
Psalm 127:3-5







*Debbie made many lifelong
friends at KODAK and at
THE GAZETTE.*





Memories TO CHERISH





PALLBEARERS

Vince Butler Keith Jackson Michael Johnson
Randy Thompson Richard Tyler Marcell Wiley Ernest Neal

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Howard Dent Ronnie Dent Harold Dyson
Jimmy Hawkins Lawrence Dyson, III Lawrence Newman, Jr. Don Reed Michael Stevenson
Kenneth Ricks Roger Taylor Vincent Ricks

DEBBIE'S TRAVELING SISTA FRIENDS

Rentha Butler Mary Copelan Rita Gassaway Donna Gibson Audrey Tyler
Rita Mills Betty Nolan Priscilla Scott Thelma Scott ...to name a few...

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The family wishes to express our heartfelt appreciation for the many acts of kindness and concern shown to us during this time of bereavement. Your prayers have increased our faith, your words have encouraged our hearts, your presence has uplifted us, and your gifts of nourishment, flowers, cards, and phone calls have sustained us. We wish to thank all of you as well as Snowden Funeral Home and Rockville Christian Church. To God be the glory for the things that each of you has done during this most difficult time.

"What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes part of us."
— Helen Keller

SERVICES

- ☞ **Walk-through Viewing - All are Welcome:**
9:00–10:45 a.m. at Rockville Christian Church
- ☞ **Private Funeral Service:** 11:00 a.m. for members of the family only.
- ☞ **Virtual LIVE Screening:** www.twitch.tv/memorialstreamin
- ☞ **Private Interment:** All Souls Cemetery
11401 Brink Road Germantown, MD 20877
- ☞ **No Repast** will be held due to COVID-19 Restrictions.

*Due to COVID-19 guidelines; face masks are required
and please be mindful of social distancing.*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO

Snowden Funeral Home
246 N. Washington Street, Rockville, MD 20850
301-762-2500

With love, Niece Kelly