

IN CELEBRATION OF A LIFE WELL LIVED

*Mary Ellen Kearney-Jackson*

*Heaven Sent: October 7, 1948*

*Heaven Bound: January 2, 2022*





# Home Going Celebration

MUSICAL PRELUDE ..... MUSICIANS

PROCESSIONAL ..... CLERGY AND FAMILY

PRAYER OF COMFORT ..... APOSTLE PAUL COMMODORE

CROWNING CEREMONY ..... "I SHALL WEAR A CROWN" - DEACON SOLOMON COBBS  
SALUTE - JOSIAH KEARNEY, KENDREY LUSK

SCRIPTURE

OLD TESTAMENT ..... ELDER CLAYTON CAROTHERS

NEW TESTAMENT ..... ELDER JAMES PARROTT

SONG OF PRAISE ..... BRO. ALBERT BRISTOL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, CARDS, RESOLUTIONS,

READING OF OBITUARY ..... LADY ANTOINETTE CAROTHERS

REFLECTIONS & REMARKS ..... (2 MINUTES MAX FOR EACH, PLEASE AND THANK YOU)

REFLECTIONS ..... COMMUNITY - PASTOR EBONY RIVERA

CHURCH - MOTHER DORISA JENKINS

FAMILY - NIECE JANET RAWLS

REMARKS - DIGNITARIES - PASTOR JEROME ROBINSON

APOSTLE PAUL COMMODORE

SONG OF PRAISE ..... SIS. CHERYL MARTIN

EULOGY ..... ELDER PHILLIP A. PARROTT

RECESSIONAL ..... CLERGY, FAMILY AND FRIENDS



## Mary Ellen Kearney-Jackson

*Heaven Sent: October 7, 1948 - Heaven Bound: January 2, 2022*

Home-Going Service

**Saturday, January 15, 2022**

Viewing 10-11am Service 11am-1pm

*Calvary Lighthouse Church*

1133 East County Line Road, Lakewood, NJ 08701

Elder Evonte Dickerson – Officiating

Elder William A. Parrott – Eulogist



# Reflections of Her Life



After a courageous battle with cancer, our beloved Mary Ellen Kearney-Jackson entered into eternal rest on Sunday, January 2, 2022 at home surrounded by her loving family.

Born October 4, 1948 in Warren County, North Carolina to the late James Henry and Nettie Lou (Carter) Kearney, Mary was the fourteenth of sixteen children. She began her schooling in North Carolina, prior to relocating to Lakewood, New Jersey with her family, at the age of 9. She graduated from Lakewood High School in 1967. Mary's God-given gifts

and talents, helped to pave her path in life. Always, sharp minded and business acclimated, her physical labor and employment with others helped to prepare her to become an entrepreneur, establishing her own businesses My-Type Composing and Graphic Design, Kearney Konnection promotions and KJs Everything Christian Shoppe.

Mary accepted the Lord as her personal Savior at an early age. She served faithfully and in many capacities at Bethel A.M.E. Church, Lakewood including Sunday School Teacher, Superintendent, Church Conference Delegate, Choir Director, Youth Director and Church Secretary. Mary was resilient in her pursuit of always striving to do better than the day before and encouraging others along the way. A trait she instilled in her family.

Her passion for fashion resonated in every outfit when she dressed herself and others; in fashion shows she sponsored or participated in + in her gifts to others. She attended Barbizon Modeling School in the late '70s. She was the fashionistas' fashionista, able to turn a scarf into one of the best accessories, whether on her head, around her neck or waist. She is affectionately known as "The Hat Lady" for her stylish signature brims. Mary's love for music and sharing the Good News, gave her great joy in bringing some of the best gospel quartet groups, singers, gospel rappers and stage plays from across the country to her hometown's Strand Theatre and other venues. Mary gained recognition, love and respect from her community and abroad.

In 1993, she moved her membership from Bethel A.M.E. to Refuge Apostolic Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, where she was baptized in Jesus name and received the gift of the holy ghost and continued her assigned work. In 1998, Mary married her friend, Elder Earl Melvin Jackson and became 1st Lady of Refuge. Until her health declined, together they worked in ministry ushering others to Christ; promoting salvation to all and continued in missionary work.

In her journey of helping others along the way, she was a strong advocate for children's well-being and promoting education for all. She and her husband became foster parents and helped raise many. Mary was a member of Lakewood N.A.A.C.P. and U.N.I.T.E. She pioneered the Juneteenth education and celebrations in her hometown many years ago. In addition to her daily personal time in prayer and scripture, Mary enjoyed spending time with her family; cooking the best foods; teaching and learning; working on some project for/with her family; doing puzzles; watching and participating with her daily antidote game shows Wheel of Fortune and Family Feud. She loved to travel, see God's beauty all over and was a collector of all types of African-American dolls. She is respectfully called "Lady J" by her husband; "Mother, Ma, Mom, Mommy" by her children; "Grandma, GG" by her grands and greats; "Mary, Mack, Murr" by her siblings; "Aunt Mary" by her nieces and nephews. Even until the very end of her time here, she would acknowledge her name when she heard it.

In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by brothers Willie Andrew, Bermer Lee and Jesse Otis; her sister Margaret Carolyn. Her brothers in law Branch Richardson, Leon Macon and George Donaldson; sisters in law Louise Kearney, Emma Kearney and Frances Mae Kearney. Her son in law Zachary Canace.

Mary leaves to cherish her memories - her devoted husband, Pastor Earl M. Jackson. Her loving children - Annette and Thomas Byard, Toms River, NJ; Stanley Kearney, Toms River, NJ; Tracey Kearney-Canace, Brick, NJ; Shantinique and Kendrey Lusk, Corpus Christi, TX. She is also survived by her special bonus children - Sherill Mimes of Manchester, NJ; Latosha Jackson of North Brunswick, NJ and Don Horton of Wilmington, NC. Her beautiful bouquet of grandchildren Terrye Mimes, Brittney Kearney, Asiah Kearney, Robert and Maria Wesley, T'keya Kearney, Josiah Kearney, Milani Figueroa, Keniyah Lusk, Genesis Mary Canace and Zachariah Canace. GG's Great-Grands Layla Mimes, Kiyshawn Davis, Jashayla Rivera, Kharisma Davis, Ezra DeBose, Kitana DeBose, Khaleesi DeBose, Isabella Wesley, Brielle Wesley and her "living doll baby" Korin Kearney. Her caring siblings - Mable Richardson of Vaughan, NC; Doris Wilburn of Lakewood, NJ; James Kearney of Lakewood, NJ; Barbara Ann Donaldson of Dover, DE; Thurman and Barbara Kearney of Cheraw, SC; Ben Kearney of Lakewood, NJ; John and Annabelle Kearney of Littleton, NC; Nettie G. Macon of Freehold, NJ; Emily F. and Orlando Santiago of Tampa, FL; her brother in law Henry Jackson; her sister in law, Rosemary Jackson-Otuonye of Old Bridge, NJ; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, co-laborers in Christ, close friends and loved ones.

Lady Mary Ellen Kearney-Jackson, we thought of you today, but that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday, and days before that too. We think of you in silence. We often speak your name. Now all we have are memories and your pictures in frames. Your memory is our keepsake, with which we'll never part. God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts.





## *Active Pallbearers*

OTIS KEARNEY SR.  
ANTHONY RICHARDSON  
SHAKEITH GORDON

EARL KEARNEY  
DARNELL TERRY  
ANTHONY GALLOWAY

## *Honorary Pallbearers*

NEPHEWS

## *Honorary Flower Bearers*

NIECES

**Well done is what I longed to hear, and on the 2nd day of the new year, His voice became so clear. I finished the race, I had run all the way, and now I get to gaze at His beauty all day. God saw the road was getting rough, the hill was hard to climb, He gently closed His loving eyes and whispered, "Peace Be Thine". The weary hours, the days of pain, the sleepless nights are passed. The ever-patient worn out frame, has found sweet rest at last. Cry if you must, but don't worry about me. I am resting in my Savior's loving arms, and now I am free.**

## *Acknowledgements*

*The family of Lady Mary Ellen Kearney-Jackson expresses their sincere appreciation and gratitude for the outpouring of love, encouragement and prayers during this time. Your support and kindness have given us great comfort and shall never be forgotten. Continue to keep us in your prayers.*

Interment

Greenwood Cemetery, Cedar Bridge Avenue, Lakewood, New Jersey 08701

Repast

Private Gathering

Arrangements Entrusted to the Care of  
James Hunt Funeral Home, 126 Ridge Avenue, Asbury Park NJ 07753  
732-775-8722 , [www.jhhunt.com](http://www.jhhunt.com)



# Our Family's 1st Lady

An angel on earth & a queen in our eyes.  
It's a bittersweet occasion,  
as we say our goodbyes.

Not bye but see you later,  
as you loved to say.  
But as we navigate life without you,  
I pray the Lord has his way.

You did more than enough &  
all that God asked of you.  
Now it's time for you to rest &  
let the Lord carry you.

Thank you for your guidance,  
your love & your prayers.  
Thank you for your hugs, your warmth  
& just for being there.

May your presence be felt  
& your spirit shine through.  
May when people see us,  
they really see you.

May we always stay strong & stick together.  
'Cause when we're all with one  
accord, nothing is better.

So trade your hat for a crown,  
and your dress for a robe.  
May you rejoice in the Lord,  
on the streets paved of gold.

May you watch us with  
pride & show us the way,  
so we may all be together on judgment day.

May our tears be a testimony  
to a life well lived.  
Well done his good & faithful  
servant, for ALL that you did.

If it wasn't for your prayers &  
all that you have taught us.  
We'd all be lost and forgotten,  
but we know that God got us.

You fought the good fight & baby, you won.  
We call you First Lady,  
cause there could only be one.

We Love You Grandma!  
By T'keya Kearney

