

Who's That Lady?

SPIRITUAL * SASSY * BEAUTIFUL * EXCEPTIONAL

TENACIOUS * FLIRTACIOUS * UNIQUE * GORGEOUS

*SMART*STRONG*POWERFUL*ELECTRIFYING*BOSS LADY*

Pallbearers
Brothers and Nephews

Interment
Lauderdale Memorial Park
2001 SW 4th Avenue
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33315

Repast (Drive By)
Pentecostal Temple Revival Center
2050 NW 27th Street
Oakland Park, Florida 33311

Acknowledgement

*To all our dear friends and family members, we want you to know that your kindness made our days brighter and load much lighter. The expressions of sympathy and love conveyed to us in so many ways were of great comfort during our sorrow.
We appreciated your thoughtfulness and thank you most sincerely.*

Professional Services Entrusted To



Eric S. George
Funeral Home
"To Serve the Present Age"
6107 Miramar Parkway
Miramar, Florida 33023
Phone: (954) 965-2722 Fax: (954) 965-5345
www.ericageorgefuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of



Melinda Ann Jackson

Sunrise
July 31, 1952

Sunset
August 23, 2021

Saturday, September 4, 2021
10:00 AM

PENTECOSTAL TEMPLE REVIVAL CENTER
2050 NW 27th Street
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33311

Bishop Will A. Brantley, Officiating
Eric S. George Funeral Home, Directing
"A NEW GENERATION OF QUALITY"

Her Life's Journey

From Earth
JULY 31, 1952

To Glory
AUGUST 23, 2021

On Thursday, July 31, 1952, Lettie B. Brantley birthed her first beautiful baby girl, Melinda. She was the third of twelve children. As the only girl for six years, she was adored, loved, and protected by her brothers.

Melinda received her education in Broward County School System and graduated from McArthur High School, class of 1970. She later married Johnny Jackson and was blessed with two loving daughters, Chonte' and Keshia. Later on she was blessed with a beautiful baby boy, Shalon Russell Ellis Jackson, from her union with Fredrick Russell Ellis. She was a very strong, loving, and protective mother, grandmother, and aunt to her family.

At an early age, Melinda was introduced to God by her grandmother, Flossie Coleman, and her mother, Lettie B. She grew up in a home where Jesus was worshipped and her faith grew. In 1985, her brother "Al" was called by God to pastor Pentecostal Temple Revival Center (PTRC), and Melinda joined him, being the first of many members. She accepted Jesus as her personal Savior and served faithfully throughout the years in the choir, Sunday School, and hospitality ministries, or wherever she was needed. She especially enjoyed feeding and clothing community outreach efforts at PTRC.

Melinda's professional career began at Hollywood Medical Center, where she worked for over twenty years. Her thirst to progress in life led her to enroll at Miami Dade Community College and Florida International University. There, she received her bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Her desire to work in the criminal justice system led her to employment with Broward Sheriff Office (BSO), where she retired after working over twenty years.

Melinda enjoyed life to the fullest. She loved people but had a special interest in "at risk" young boys. She desired to acquire a school to help those who were struggling in regular school settings. She explored the possibilities of having after school programs to strengthen their reading, math, and social skills. As a result, she brought a special young boy, Ke'Shaun Seay, into her family and her heart.

In the morning of August 23, 2021, Melinda Jackson transitioned from her earthly body into her heavenly rest to be with the Lord. "...For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." II Corinthians 5:7-8.

Melinda was preceded in death by her mother, Lettie B. Harris, grandmother, Flossie Coleman, and brother, Anthony Brantley.

Loving memories of Melinda will forever be cherished by: her stepfather, Arthur Hars; two daughters, Chonte Jackson and Keshia Jackson; one son, Shalon Russell Ellis Jackson; eight grandchildren, Jordan Harris, Jonathan Trevino, Jovanni Trevino, Teylah Harris, Jaden Espaillat, Jabari Lofton, Janari Lofton, and Julian Espaillat; three great-grandchildren, Dyanara Trevino, Zairya Trevino, and Jovani Trevino, Jr.; three sisters, Carol Harris Moss (Calvin), Jackie Harris Nelson (Dexter), and Barbara Harris; eight brothers, Arthur Harris (Hattie), Clarence Brantley, Will Brantley (Cheryl), James Brantley, Steve Harris (Tangela), David Harris (Teresa), Mike Harris (Ruth), and Time Harris; and a host of very special nieces, nephews, relatives, godsons, and close friends.

Precious Memories



Precious Memories



Order of Service



Bishop Tony Mitchell, Moderator

Processional

Final Glance

Invocation.....Lady Cheryl Brantley

Scripture Readings

Old TestamentSis. Alishia Jackson-Graham

New TestamentEvangelist Sheron Daniels

Selection.....Pentecostal Temple Praise Team

Reflections of Love..... *Limited to Two Minutes*

As a Church Member..... Deacon Moise Duncan

As a Friend..... Rosetta Braham

TributeLanier Class of 1970

As a Sister *Allow any one of her brothers and/or sisters an opportunity to speak*

Solo Chonte' Jackson

Resolution..... Sis. Deidre Sparling

Solo Sis. Chiquia Casseus

Eulogy Bishop Will A. Brantley

Recessional

PROOF



Letters to Melinda

Melinda Ann Jackson,

I am so utterly proud that you are my mother! My heart is filled with so much hurt and pain because I will not see you again. There are so many precious memories that I have of you. You've made a powerful and positive impact in my life that is flowing into the lives of my children. You will continue to live on through us. There were so many new places and things that I wanted to experience with YOU. My desire was to take care of you after your retirement and treat you like the royal queen you are. The goal was for you to not want or worry about anything. The plan was to purchase a very spacious home within the next two years so that I can invite you to live with me and the boys. You would have your own designated area (no rinky dink area either) so that "when" your grandkids got on your nerves or if we had to entertain the kids and you couldn't watch HGTV, you could retreat to your living quarters. It was going to be a space "designed" specifically for you, to your specifications. I wanted US to experience finer things in life together because you deserved it. You were a single parent of three children and did a phenomenal job in raising us. I apologize for all the headaches and/or sleepless nights I caused during my teenage years. I couldn't see it then, but you were ALWAYS right and wanted the best for me. I am so glad that we'd gotten past that season and developed a closer, stronger, and unbreakable bond.

The woman I am today is because of YOU. Although I am a mature woman, I greatly valued your opinion, sought your insight and wisdom regularly, and wanted to make you proud. There was no other person's opinion that I'd valued more than yours. There was no other person on this earth that I wanted to be proud of me more than you (beside my kids). I know my dad is proud, and I know that you were proud too. I just wanted to show you what type of woman GOD created and brought through you to raise, nurture and love. I feel like you didn't get a chance to see all that God created me to be. I am going to miss our dates together. We would have so much fun spending the entire day together. We would have our talks on the way to grab a cup of coffee before we started our day. Next, we would go get our hands and feet all dolled up (you would get your eyebrows done as I would get my lip and chin waxed), then our favorite part, getting something good to eat. Both you and I really enjoyed that. We would finish our day by shopping at one of our favorite stores. There are so many things in my home that you help me make decisions on purchasing. I see you EVERYWHERE I turn. Mom you were a beautiful, strong, smart, no-nonsense woman. I ask myself, what am I going to do from this point on? I am going to cowgirl up, like my uncle Dave would say. With God's help, I am going to turn all the hurt that I am feeling into positive fuel to honor, respect and represent you to the fullest. I must focus on the fact that you are with the Lord and are in a better place. I am comforted in knowing that. Mom, words cannot express how much I love and miss you. As you would always say when we are ending our telephone conversation, "...chat later."

Love Always, Your First-Born Daughter

Letters to Melinda

It really breaks my heart that you are not here today, no matter how I try.

We will always miss our beautiful, loving, and amazing sister.

Love, David

My Dearest Sister,

How can I find words to say, to tell of how I miss you throughout every single day?

Love, Barbara

Sister,

I think about you every day. I'm sad that you're gone away, but none of us are here to stay. It's hard to say goodbye—bye to yesterday. I love and miss you.

James

Today Should Have Been So Different,

Just know that I'm thinking about you. Missing you, loving you, and celebrating you.

I am sure everyone that knows you will miss that expression, "What's Cooking?"

Whenever there is a family gathering, we sure will miss you there.

Love, Jackie

Hey Old Lady,

I know you dislike me calling you old lady. We all know your true age. Although I'm sad without you and wish you were here. Within my heart, your smile still shines bright and clear. I treasure all those memories of growing up with you. I miss you, dearest sister. Always love you, your oldest brother.

Clarence (Pop)

Letters to Melinda

Hey Mama Gal,

Those special memories of you will always bring a smile. If only I could have you back to talk over our venture together. You have always been there for me.

You will be truly missed.

Love, Mike

My Oldest Sister,

God saw you getting tired when a cure was not. He wrapped his arms around you, and whispered, "come to me and rest." Still loved, still missed, and very dear.

Love, Tim

Big Sister (Mama Gal),

I cried when you passed away. I still cry today. Although I loved you dearly, I couldn't make you stay. You have always been that go-to person in our lives, no matter the situation, you knew what to say. Your golden heart stopped beating, hard working hads at rest. God broke my heart to prove to me he only takes the best.

Love, Carol

Letter to my Sister,

From the time that I could first remember you have always been there. My sister. When there were only four of us, you were there. The only girl, my sister. From the late 1950s through the 1960s you became the big sister to ten brothers and sisters.

You have always been proud of your family and expected the best from everyone. You would always speak your mind, even if it hurt. You were a great support to your brothers, to be strong men. I know you did not like weakness in a man. I will always love you and remember your loving heart. My sister, Mama Gal.

From, Your Brother (Al) Bishop Will Brantley

Sister,

We were taught there is a God. God has a plan, that plan is always working, and that plan included to bring joy to our life.

Love, Steve

Letters to Melinda



Mom,

You have completed God's purpose. I know you are with your heavenly father. No words can express how losing you has affected me and all the people you have come in contact with. You have always been my Queen, my leader, my provider, my protector, my love.

I love you Mom, but I know you are in a better place.

Eternal life for you, Mom.

Your Daughter, "Special K"

My mother has ALWAYS been there for me. I can't think of a time my mother didn't have my back. I was definitely her shadow. Everywhere she went, I went. Whether it be church, her best friend's house or work. I was her errand boy when she worked for Hollywood Medical. I even went with her to the beauty salon on the weekends. My mother held me close. I remember the first time she watched me box, she was so nervous she held on to my trainer's hand and squeezed his hand every time I came close to getting hit or getting hit. My trainer said "your baby is doing great, he's awesome" but she was still holding his hand. She held me closer because I was her miracle child. My dad and mother tried several times before and they finally were able to accomplish that goal of having me. I am her last child and only boy. I remember her laughing and shaking her head every time I try to dance. She'll just say "nah, that ain't it, you too stiff, son". She touched so many hearts. My friends always wanted to meet her because I'm a reflection of her. I never understood what she meant by that when I was a child, but as an adult I understand now. The way I govern myself in such a respectful and honorable way is because of my mother, and it's clear as day who was my inspiration. She didn't smoke, drink, or party late night. She listened to old school R&B and Gospel. That's what I listen to right now. My final decision on everything I do has to go through her. Even now, I ask myself before I do anything "what would my mother say or do?" She's my hero and definitely my favorite girl. NOBODY can replace my mother. I love you forever and I'll continue to make you proud.

Son, Shalon Russel Ellis Jackson

Letters to Melinda

Dear Dede,

You were the best grandmother I could've ever asked for! As I sit and think of all the memories, all I can do is laugh and cry tears of joy because your life on earth was well spent. I'll always make sure to come by your house with a plate of food because I know as soon as I walk through the door I'm going to hear "Lucy, what's cooking!" Every time I seen you, you would make me feel so beautiful even when I'm looking a mess after driving hours from Orlando you find something to compliment me on and brighten my day. Dede, I thank you for everything and most importantly your unconditional love. If I don't know anything else, I know Dede loves her Lucy and I love you more! I'm going to miss you dearly, my sweet Dede, but I know you've gone to a place where we will one day meet again so it's not goodbye but see you late.

May you rest in Heaven.

Lucy

Melinda Jackson, Ms. Jackson, MJ, better known as Dede but never grandma. Out of all the years, I never once called her grandma, and she won't let you, lol! She always was Dede, and I always was her Jordan River. Words can't explain the type of person she was because she had so many sides to her that it would take a lifetime to name them all; just to be around her was always an experience that stuck to you. I still remember it like it was yesterday, she was in the kitchen cooking turkey wings and when she tasted one of them, she started tap dancing like she was in church lol. Food always made her happy, I guess that's where her kids get it from. She was just an electrifying person! As I think about it, I see why God called her home: she was an amazing person and he is a jealous God.

I love you, Dede, you will always and forever be my Dede.

Jordan

Letters to Melinda

Dear Dede,

You may have passed on, but your memories would always live on within us. Thank you for your sacrifices, your care and concern, your love and everything that you have done for me. Wherever you are, I know you are in a much better place. I will be forever grateful and thankful that you are my grandmother.

Jabari

Dear Dede,

I love you! Thank you for what you have done and thank you for being such a loving grandmother. I know you are in a better place now, keep watching among our family.

I love you, Dede.

Janari

I didn't imagine that I would see this day so soon where I would be saying goodbye to my Dee Dee. The last time I got to talk to you was on your birthday, but that was bittersweet because you were recovering in the ICU and I could hear the pain and struggle in your voice to hold the conversation. The last thing I got to do for you was bring you lunch because you were giving the nurse a lot of sass about how horrible the hospital food was there. Even then I couldn't bring it to you and tell you how much I loved you. I'm still in shock and disbelief that you're gone as I'm writing this letter to you. I was never good with expressing how I feel but there's nothing I wouldn't do to get one more day with you.

I'm going to miss the way you took over a room wherever you would go with your shining and brilliant personality. I'm going to miss our time watching HGTV together whenever you would come over to our mom's house. I'm going to miss your words of wisdom whenever I find myself lost and reaching out for your help and guidance. Nobody could ever make turkey wings like you but most of all I'm going to miss your hugs and kisses that were always filled with unconditional love.

Now here we are saying our final goodbye on this earth that God left for us. One day I hope I could live up to being as wonderful and as inspiring of a person like my Dee Dee would always tell me I was to her. I pray you keep watching over me and for the day we can see each other again. I love you Dee Dee...

Jo Jo