Acknowledgment

Pall Bearers
Mr. Michael Durant
Mr. Devin Durant
Mr. Ean Durant
Mr. Anthony Pearson
Mr. Joevone Jones
Mr. Miles Durant
Mr. John Clinkscales

Flower Girls
Mrs. Pamela Amidoudiaye
Mrs. Wanda Clinkscales
Mrs. Annette McCallister
Ms. Annie D. Johnson
Ms. Helen Pettigrew
Ms. Caroline Williams
Ms. Sonia Ziegler

NOTE OF THANKS

Our hearts are full of gratitude for the love and kindness you have shown our family during this time. Thank you for every prayer, phone call, text message, visit, delivered food, flower, gift, and quiet act of support. We are grateful to those of you who knew and loved Mother, and to everyone who has shared a memory of her with us. Each gesture has meant more to us than we can fully express.

We are comforted in knowing how deeply she was loved and how many lives she touched. Thank you for standing beside our family and for joining us in celebrating Mother's life. May God bless each of you for the kindness you have shown. Thank you for standing with us, remembering her with us, and helping us carry her love forward.

With love and heartfelt appreciation,
The Family of Fannie Mae Durant

Services Entrusted By:
JOB'S MORTUARY
312 South Main Street
Sumter SC 29150
Job's Mortuary, Inc

For additional information and updates, please visit **www.foreverfannie.com**



Order of Service

Prelude……. Recorded Gospel Songs

Processional…… Family Video Tribute

Opening Prayer…….. Mr. Arthur Campbell

Musical Selection……Mrs. Joanne Anderson
"I'm Coming Up Lord"

Scripture Readings…….. Rev. Darien Porter

Reflections from Family and Friends…….

Mr. Brandon Van Dyke
Ms. Thomasina Moses
Mr. Ean Durant

Musical Selection……Mrs. Cheryl Moore
"I Held On"

Reading of the Obituary / Acknowledgements……Mrs. Jessica Jackson

Musical Selection……The Praise Team
"I Need Thee"

Eulogy……Rev. Darien Porter

Poem…….. Mr. Kelly Barr

Closing Prayer……Mr. Arthur Campbell

Recessional……Family Video Tribute

Interment Immediately Following

Evergreen Memorial Park
802 N. Guignard Drive
Sumter, SC 29150

To my nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and friends
Thank you for the love, laughter, prayers, memories, and years we shared.
Stay close.
Check in on one another.
Keep our stories alive.
When someone sounds like me, smile.

I am still with you
in the lessons I taught,
the memories we made,
and the love I left behind.

I lived 90-plus years.
Do not measure my life by how it ended.
Remember how I lived.

When life gets hard,
pray, trust God, and keep moving.

You may miss me and cry for me,
but do not let sorrow keep you from living. Carry me in your hearts,
carry my words with you,
and carry each other forward.

"Just live".

And if I could tell each of you one last thing, I would say:
"Mark my words…you're going to be all right."

And when I see my family
still loving, laughing, living, and my future generations having success,

I'll smile and say—

"Yeah, Baaaaby."

Love Always,
Mother (aka Boot, Aunt Fannie, Cousin Fannie, Mama Durant, Ms. Fannie)

“When Tomorrow Starts Without Me”

When tomorrow starts without me,
and you wake to find I’m gone,
do not let your hearts stay heavy.
Remember what I always told you:
Just live.

Life may feel unfamiliar now,
but with time, you will find your way.
Carry me with you
without needing to see me beside you.

To my daughters,
you loved me, cared for me,
laughed with me, and stood beside me.
Now stand beside one another.
Love each other, forgive each other,
and remember:
“Don’t let your mouth talk too quick.”
Sincerely think before you speak,
because words stay in the heart.

To my sister
I pass the torch to you.
Lead, guide, and keep this family close with the love, strength, wisdom, and grace you have always carried. I trust you with my family.

To my grandchildren and great-grandchildren
Remember where you came from. Work for what you want, save your money, stand on your own two feet, and remember: **“Keep some things to yourself.”** Everybody does not need to know everything.

She Gave Us Life

For so long, we thought our presence was giving Mother life.
Now we understand how much life she was giving us.
We will miss her voice, her wisdom, and the moments
when we would turn to her or call her to tell her something.
Though we cannot see her beside us,
the love she gave remains in every life she touched.



Life's Journey

Fannie Mae Pearson Durant lived 95 years. She was always sure of who she was. Born on May 1, 1931, in Mayesville, South Carolina, she was shaped by faith, family, hard work, and the Southern values that she carried throughout her life. Fannie believed in caring for your own, working for what you wanted, keeping some things close, and appreciating the life God gave you. She had a wisdom that did not require many words, perhaps best captured in one of her simplest reminders… ***Just Live.***

She received her education in the public schools of Lee and Sumter counties. In 1948, Fannie married Leroy Durant. She began building a life as a wife and mother while she was still so young and discovering who she would become. Together, they built a family that would stretch across generations. Fannie was the mother of eight children, but the reach of her mothering went well beyond those she gave birth to. She helped raise her siblings' children and others along with her own. As the years passed, she cared for her mother, Viola, and her brother, Johnny. Caring for people was simply part of the way Fannie moved through the world. When someone she loved needed her, she made room.

Fannie understood the dignity of work and the independence that came with being able to provide. Throughout her life, she worked as a culinary professional, private household professional, owned a childcare business, and worked as an independent retail vendor. She was good with her hands and seemed to understand instinctively how to make something useful, beautiful, and nourishing. She sewed, cooked, and worked. She created a home and a life in which those things became expressions of love. Cooking for her family, especially, stayed close to her heart. This connected her to memories of her younger years and her time working at Charley Logan Cafe. For Fannie, a meal could be more than food. It could be memory, comfort, and another reason for people to gather. This gave her the greatest joy.

Fannie knew how to enjoy herself. In her later years, she would, from time to time, settle in with QVC and keep a notebook of the products she saw so that if someone needed something, she could tell them what to buy. She enjoyed African movies and the connection they gave her to culture and to memories of the world in which she had grown up. Let's not forget about the word-search puzzles. Book after book, sometimes finishing one in a week, faster than the family could keep her supplied. These seemingly small things became part of the rhythm of knowing her. They are the details that make a person remain vivid in our memory. These are the things that make us smile because we can still picture her doing them.

Through every season, Fannie's faith remained at the center of her life. Grounded in a holiness tradition, she was a member of First United Pentecostal Church in Sumter, South Carolina. She held Scripture close, including the instruction to honor your father and mother, that your days may be long on this earth. From time to time she'd mention words of praise: "O Lord, O Lord, how excellent is your name in all the earth!" Her faith was not simply something she professed. It was woven into the values she passed down, the way she understood family, and the life she built over nearly a century.

Fannie was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Leroy Durant; her daughter, Betty Ann Wilson; her parents, George and Viola Pearson; her siblings James Hawkins, George Pearson, Johnny Pearson, and other loved ones who went before her. She leaves to cherish her memory through her seven daughters, Viola (Prince) Durant Carter, Lelia Durant Yates, Roger Durant, and Janie (Mack) DuRant Williams of Sumter, SC; Mary Durant of Columbia, SC; and Tracie Durant and Amanda DuRant of Brandywine, MD. Her life continues through her nine grandchildren, Michael (Andrea) Durant, Felecia Yates, Jennifer (DeMarkus) Houck, Kristi Wilson, Bryan Van Dyke, Apryl Wilson, Brandon Van Dyke, Devin Durant, and Ean Durant; her eleven great-grandchildren, Joevone Jones, Janiya Jones, Miles Durant, Mia Durant, Jelesia Jones, Caycee Coard, Aryeh Durant, De'Ajah Houck, Mariah Houck, Audriana Houck and Lauryn Houck; her sister, Idaree Pearson Parham; and a loving circle of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, church family, dear friends, and community.

To know Fannie was to know a woman who lived long enough to understand what mattered and who was never afraid to tell you so. To most, she was Big Mama; to some, Mother Durant, Ms. Fannie, Aunt Fannie, Ms. Durant, and Boot. But to her daughters she is and was Mother. Her family can still hear her voice in the wisdom she gave so freely. "Save your own money". "Get what you want, because that is why you work". "Keep some things to yourself". "Honor thy mother and father so your days will be long on this earth". And above all, "**Just Live"**.

Fannie passed away suddenly on Monday morning, September 21, 2026, at her daughter's Amanda and Tracie's home in Brandywine, MD. We take comfort in believing she did not suffer and that God welcomed her home in an instant. Her words "Just Live" feel different now. They carry the weight of 95 years filled with faith, family, work, laughter, good food, strong hands, and a heart that spent a lifetime caring for others.

There will be moments when a favorite meal is being prepared, a needle is pulled through fabric, a word search clue finally makes sense, or someone says something that sounds so much like her that, for just a moment, the room will fill with Big Mama all over again. Perhaps that is one of the sweetest gifts of a life lived so fully. She leaves pieces of herself tucked into the everyday lives of the people she loved, reminding them, in that unmistakable way of hers, to keep loving, keep living, and when the occasion calls for it, smile and say, **"Yeah, Baaaaby."**