

A CELEBRATION

Of Life

*Laverne
S. Stokes*

December 3, 1952 - May 18, 2023

Thursday, June 8, 2023

Wake: 10:00 AM Funeral: 11:00 AM

First Mount Calvary Baptist Church

1142 N. Fulton Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21217

*"Let not your heart be troubled:
ye believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house are many mansions:
if it were not so, I would have told you."*

- John 14

Life Reflection

God in His infinite wisdom granted peace to Laverne on Thursday May 18, 2023. While in route to a graduation at Clark University in Atlanta Ga., in a brief stopover in Roanoke Va., Laverne who suffered from COPD lost her breath and was never able to be resuscitated.

Laverne was the 2nd child and daughter born to the late Leonard and Margaret Paige of Gloucester Virginia. Everyone who knew the family knew that Beany was undoubtedly a daddy's girl. Laverne was educated in the Baltimore School system where she graduated from Frederick Douglass High School in 1970. Thereafter, Laverne gave birth to her oldest daughter Lisa Coles-McKnight, a few years later Laverne would marry Gary Cooper and give birth to her second daughter Garrie. It was at the loss of her oldest Sister, Lillian (Betsy), that Laverne lovingly became mother to Paige (Tricey) and Toosdhai (Tuttie), becoming a family of five. Laverne's marriage to Dr. Albert Stokes in 1998 provided a blended family of seven girls to include Monique, Alberta, and Alisia Stokes.

When Laverne graduated from Frederick Douglass High School, she secured a meaningful job at Maryland National Bank, in the Operation Center on Calvert Street. Laverne worked at Maryland National bank in the Master Card and Trust Departments for over 20 years until they were sold. Laverne, short after leaving Maryland National Bank, worked for BSI Temporary Services where she worked for the President directly. Laverne was a quick learner and always known as a dedicated employee to her employers, and a good friend to her colleagues. However, as her faith was ever increasing and her daily dependence on God was strengthening, it was tested when BSI Temporary was sold and Laverne had no idea how she would support her family of five. By the grace of God, the doors of opportunity opened and Sandtown Habitat for Humanity was created and Laverne was its first employee, the rest is history.

Pastor Mark Gornik and Elder Alan Tibbels became her new best friends as the Sandtown Habitat for Humanity began to grow, hosting President Jimmy Carter in the early 1980's. Laverne's hard work, commitment and dedication to Habitat was quickly noticed as she moved from Secretary to Co-Executive Director with Alan Tibbels. Together, Alan and Laverne made a dynamic team, blessing community residents with a chance at homeownership, meeting face to face with Governors, Mayors, and even President Bill Clinton, as well as other distinguished individuals and corporations who acknowledged and partnered with them in the wonderful work they were doing.

In June of 2010, Alan Tibbels passed away leaving Laverne to become the Executive Director. Laverne remained steadfast and diligent in her work with Habitat in Sandtown, until 2017 they'd completed over 308 homes in the Sandtown Winchester community, it was at that time, she felt comfortable enough to retire. As she later expressed to her family and friends, "my work with Habitat is completed."

Laverne was proud to be a lifelong resident of the Sandtown Winchester community, her enduring commitment to its success remained a core of her being. Laverne and her husband Dr. Al Stokes had committed two properties they owned on Presstman Street in Sandtown, to the development of "The Sandtown Center". This Center would be a place where community residents could gather for affairs, classes, community meetings etc. Laverne felt Sandtown needed a center like this for the homeowner who remained steadfast in their desire to remain there.

Laverne gave her life to Christ as a child but rededicated her life to Christ in the 1980's after joining New Song Community Church in Sandtown. In 2018, Laverne and Al joined First Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Pastored by Rev. Dr. Derrick DeWitt where they continued to serve until her untimely death.

Laverne loved being at First Mount Calvary with all of its wonderful history and members, she enjoyed being extended family to all there. Laverne's greatest love is for Almighty God and our Savior Jesus Christ. Laverne was a prayer warrior, praying consistently daily and she loved the 5:00 daily prayer line, it would anger her to miss it, or be late.

Laverne dedicated herself to God and her family where she truly loved being a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. Laverne was always known for her kindness and loving ways, she was self-motivated and driven. With Laverne being the matriarch of her family, she had a knack for remembering everyone's birthday.

Affectionately known as Beany, or Aunt Beany, by her friends and family, she was the one that they all loved and confided in when troubled, it was during those times that her Godly wisdom was displayed.

Laverne was extremely supportive and quick to encourage others to pursue their dreams and use the God given talents they possessed. She was a champion of the downtrodden or underdog, she gravitated toward those that had the least and always used her voice and podium to support them.

Laverne loved the holidays, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas, where the entire family would come together. All the children, grandchildren, sisters, nieces and nephews would gather to eat and exchange gifts.

Laverne made it her personal responsibility to ensure that family and friends understood the importance of loving, trusting and believing in a positive relationship with God and each other.

Although married 25 years, Laverne and Al were together and devoted to one another for over 37 years. All who knew them, knew of their dedication to Christ, their undying love for one another and their marriage, as well as, their deep commitment to their family, Church and friends.

Laverne is preceded in death by her late parents Leonard and Margaret Paige, her son Payton Coles (who died as an infant), her sister Lillian Paige (Betsy), brother Leonard Paige (Smay), and nephew Leonard Paige (Lenny).

Laverne leaves to mourn her husband; Dr. Albert Stokes, daughters; Lisa Coles-McKnight, Garrie Mobuary, Paige Fitz, Toosdhai Paige Stokes, sons in law; Andre McKnight, Orlando Mobuary and Eric Glover, Grandchildren; Asaan Glover, Tymia Graham, Leah McCollum, Destiny Barnes, Larry McCollum Jr., Jordon McKnight, Joshua Glover, and Chase Keaton, her beloved great grandson; Amari Glover affectionately known by her as "Nana's Baby Boy", sisters Linda Paige, Louise Sutherland, and Lori Paige, brothers-in-law; John Sutherland, Rev. Charles Jones, and Don Flemming, nephews; Leroy Smith, Damon Gray, Travis Smith, Dr. Donnell James, and Marcus Wiggins, nieces; Tisha Burrell, Chrystal Boykins, Nieasa Paige, Myra Boykins, India James, Aisha Williams, and Antoinette Wiggins, her Goddaughter; O'Shaye Roberson, her bonus daughters; Shanita Lesane, Juanita Johnson, and Samirah Johnson-Vann, and Torresha Cooper, bonus grandchildren; Jacquese Johnson, Jawon Johnson and Sharae' Johnson, her bestfriends; Ethel Johnson, Rose Jones, Lillian Blanding and a host of great nieces and nephews, and extended family.

Laverne is gone but will never be forgotten.

Remembering Our Beloved Beany

Laverne, I miss you, your presence, your smile, your laughter and your pretty face, even though I am totally confident that you are in a much better heavenly place.

There is no doubt that my heart is broken and it won't ever mend, until that glorious day that we are back together again.

My wife, my love, my lover, my everything and my best friend, be at peace my darling, knowing I will forever love you and we will be together with Jesus in the end.

Rest now my love, you have fought the good fight, your journey is over...

Love, Al



Mommy

You were the first one to hold me in your arms when I entered this world and I was the last one to hold you as you exited.

God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be So He put his arms around you and whispered, "Come With Me."

With tearful eyes we watched you And saw you fade away.

Although we loved you dearly We could not make you stay.

Cheek to cheek as I held you in my arms I felt my heart break the moment you were gone.

A golden heart stopped beating Your tender hands at rest,

God gave to us and took from us one of His very best.

You gave this life your all and to it you owed nothing.

The power of love you left behind will be felt by all even through distance and time.

You taught me well and gave me everything that I need

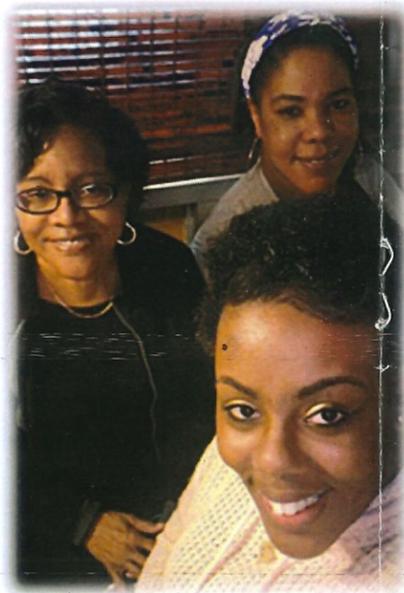
to go on without you. My cup runneth over with all that you've poured into me.

I'm forever grateful for a love that didn't falter. It is with great pleasure, dignity and honor that I will forever be...LaVerne Stokes daughter!

Thank you Heavenly Father for blessing me with a mother as phenomenal and beautiful as she!

- Love you always & forever

Lisa



The Watcher

She always leaned to watch for us,
Anxious if we were late,
In winter by the window,
In summer by the gate.

And though we mocked her tenderly,
Who had such foolish care,
The long way home would seem more safe
Because she waited there.

Her thoughts were all so full of us,
She never could forget!

And so I think that where she is
She must be watching yet.

Waiting till we come home to her,
Anxious if we are late,
Watching from Heaven's window,
Leaning on Heaven's gate.

- We love you Granny,
All your Grandkids

Mother

You can only have one mother,
Patient, kind and true;
No other friend in all the world
Will be the same to you.

When other friends forsake you,

To mother you will return;

For all her loving kindness

She asks nothing in return.

As we look upon her picture

Sweet memories we recall

Of a face so full of sunshine

And a smile for one and all.

Sweet Jesus take this message

To our dear mother up above;

Tell her how we miss her

And give her all our love.

- Lovingly Submitted by,

Your Daughter Garrie

My Other Mother

When God assigned mothers

He took into view

That maybe their role

Would require two,

She's made in his image

Selfless and true

When God created mothers

He blessed me with two.

- Your Sons In Law

Broken Chain

We little knew that morning,
God was going to call your name.

In life we loved your dearly,

In death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone,

For part of us went with you,
the day God called you home.

You left us beautiful memories,

Your love is still our guide

And though we cannot see you,
You are always by our side.

Our family chain is broken
And nothing seems the same

But as God calls us one by one
The chain will link again.

- Your Sisters,

Linda, Louise and Lori





Order of Service

Processional.....Musician

Opening HymnPrecious Lord
 First Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Choir

Scripture Reading.....Old Testament
 Proverbs 31:25-31
 New Testament
 John 14:1-4
 Jon Sutherland

Prayer.....Dr. Victoria Matthews

Solo.....Dr. Victoria Matthews

Acknowledgement of Cards

Obituary

Solo.....Anaya Kirston

Eulogy...../.....Pastor Derrick Dewitt

Benediction.....Pastor Derrick Dewitt

Recessional.....Going Up Yonder
 Anaya Kirston



Pall Bearers

Asaan Glover
Des'mon Simmons
Jordon McKnight

Jawon Johnson
Chase Keaton
Larry McCollum Jr.

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Interment

Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery
11501 Garrison Forest Road
Owings Mills, MD 21117

Repast

Gala Center
1700 Hill Drive
Windsor Mill, MD 21244

Arrangements

Entrusted to:



JOSEPH H. BROWN, JR.

Funeral Home P.A.

FEATURING DNSITE CREMATION LLC



Designed by: Heavenly Tresur LLC
Email: heavenlytresurllc@gmail.com