

Acknowledgement

The family of Ptasha Rena Mitchner would like to express their sincere gratitude for the love, prayers, and support shown during this time of loss. Your kind words, thoughtful gestures, and presence have brought comfort and strength when it was needed most.

We are especially thankful to Paradise Funeral Chapel, as well as family members and friends who offered care, encouragement, and assistance in so many meaningful ways.

Though our hearts are heavy, we find peace in knowing how deeply Ptasha was loved and how fondly she will always be remembered. May God bless each of you for your kindness and generosity.

With sincere appreciation,
From The Family of Ptasha Rena Mitchner

Interment

Forest Lawn Cemetary
3210 S. Washington Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601

Repast

Event Center
1400 W. Genesee Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48602



Entrusted To:
Paradise Funeral Chapel

FOREVER IN OUR Hearts



SUNRISE AUGUST 5, 1965 – SUNSET JUNE 25, 2026

JULY 13, 2026 AT 11:00 AM, PARADISE FUNERAL CHAPEL

ORDER OF *Service*

Processional
Family & Clergy

Scripture Reading
Minister Sandra Crosby-Robinson

Prayer of Comfort
Minister Sandra Crosby-Robinson

Musical Selection / Slideshow
Luther Vandross- Superstar
Aretha Franklin- Until You Come Back to
Me (That's What I'm Gonna Do)

Obituary & Acknowledgements
Kewona Mitchner

Remarks / Reflection
Family & Friends (Limit 2-3 minutes)

Eulogy
Minister Sandra Crosby-
Robinson

Thanks & Final Viewing
Family and Friends
Recessional

Pallbearers

Reco Smith	Dtavion Mitchner	Tony Cole Jr.
Deonte Mitchner	Dominique Mitchner	Mini Pallbearer:
De'Andre Gibbs	Derrick Martin	Draylin Gibbs



Celebrating THE LIFE & LEGACY OF *Ptasha "Tasha" Mitchner*

With profound sadness, yet hearts full of gratitude for a life beautifully lived, we celebrate the life and legacy of Ptasha Rena Mitchner, affectionately known to so many as "Mama Dukes," who peacefully entered eternal rest on June 25, 2026, in Saginaw, Michigan. Born on August 5, 1965, in Memphis, Tennessee, to Carol Smith and Charles Mitchner, Tasha was raised between Memphis, Tennessee, and Saginaw, Michigan. She attended Saginaw High School and Ruben Daniels, where she built lifelong friendships and cherished memories. As the oldest of "The Fabulous Five," she naturally became the protector of her sisters; fiercely loving and defending her family throughout her life.

Though she stood just 5 feet tall, Mama Dukes proved every day that strength isn't measured by stature. Fearless, fiercely loyal, and protective of those she loved. She was a true ride or die who never hesitated to stand up for her family, her friends, or what she believed was right. Yet behind that toughness was one of the biggest hearts anyone could ever know. She was a woman of privacy, integrity, compassion, and unwavering loyalty who welcomed everyone with open arms and made everyone feel like family.

For more than thirty years, Tasha shared an enduring love with the love of her life, Preston Ellis. Above all, she was a devoted mother to Reco Smith, Kewona Mitchner, Tierney Mitchner, and Deonte Mitchner, who were the center of her world. She spoke with her children daily; especially her daughters, Kewona and Tierney. Almost every conversation ended with the words that became her signature: "I love you, baby." She dedicated many years to serving others through the medical and hospitality fields as well as and volunteered at churches, soup kitchens, and community centers, believing no act of kindness was ever too small. Her servant's heart and unconditional love became one of the greatest legacies she passed on to her children and grandchildren.

She loved watching her shows, traveling, shopping, cooking meals that brought family together, and filling her home with beautiful candles, perfumes, laughter, and love. She will always be remembered for her signature Halle Berry haircut, timeless beauty, radiant smile, youthful spirit, and the joy she brought into every room she entered. Tasha was preceded in death by her beloved grandmother, Annie Smith; her loving mother, Carol Smith; her aunt, Orga Mae; uncles, Roy, Guy Jr., and Bubba Smith; her beloved sister, Sevegia "Segy" Mitchner; and her treasured nephews, Adonis Mitchner and Sylvester Lawson III. She leaves to cherish her beautiful memory the love of her life, Preston Ellis; her father, Charles Mitchner; her stepmother, Dale Mitchner; her sisters Debbie (Derrick) Martin, Charlena (Craig) Stevens, Karen Mitchner, and stepsister Tosha Mitchner; her devoted children Reco (LaNeisha) Smith, Kewona Mitchner, Tierney Mitchner, and Deonte Mitchner; her grandchildren De'Andre, Kaine, Dtavion, Neko, Lageci', Reco Jr., Jakoby, Maddyson, Major, and Deonte Jr.; her great-grandchildren Draylin and O'Marie; her special friend of more than thirty years, Sandra Dillard; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and dear friends. The family also extends heartfelt appreciation to the Ellis, Sangster, Martin, Green, Gibbs, and Burton families, whose unwavering love and support made them family in every sense of the word.

Though our hearts are broken, Mama Dukes leaves behind a legacy of unconditional love, fearless strength, unwavering loyalty, and selfless service. Mom, thank you for every sacrifice, every prayer, every meal, every hug, every laugh, every lesson, every act of protection, and every phone call that ended with "I love you, baby." You were our protector, our biggest cheerleader, our safe place, our ride or die, and forever our Queen. As we say goodbye, we can still hear your beautiful voice saying the words that will forever live in our hearts. Today, Mama Dukes, we say those same words back to you: We love you, Baby. Always and forever. Until we meet again. "Her children arise and call her blessed." – Proverbs 31:28

Family Tributes



TRIBUTE FROM SISTERS:

"To our beloved big sister Ptasha, you were always first in each and every one of our lives, and you will always be our number one. We will always love you forever and always, from the bottom of our hearts."

- Your little sisters, Debbie, Kaye, and Tina

TRIBUTE FROM GRANDCHILDREN

"We will miss FaceTiming you, our daily morning phone calls, and spending time with you more than words can ever express. You made us laugh, dance, smile, and enjoy life as if every day was our last. We will never forget the memories we shared or the love you poured into each of us. Even the small gifts you gave us for our birthdays and Christmas meant the world because we knew you didn't have much, yet you always found a way to show up. In those simple but meaningful moments, you reminded us that we were deeply loved and always worthy of being celebrated."



TRIBUTE FROM CHILDREN

"Mama, you created four strong, independent children and taught us that there are no handouts in life; only hard work, consistency, and determination. At just 15 years old, you became both our mother and father, sacrificing everything you had to give us the best life you could, and for that we will be forever grateful. You never stopped reminding us that we were smart, strong, and capable of accomplishing anything, and when life knocked us down, you always lifted us back up. We know that even in Heaven you will continue to be our protector, our teacher, our biggest cheerleader, and now our guardian angel. We will never let you go, never forget you, and will love and miss you for the rest of our lives."

-Forever your Babies: Reco, Smurf, Snook, & Boogie



"Those we love never truly leave us. They live on in our hearts and memories forever."

FOREVER IN OUR Hearts

You left this world before we were ready,
Yet your love remains, strong and true.
Though your journey here has ended,
Your spirit lives on in all we do.

We see your smile in quiet moments,
We hear your voice in gentle ways.
Your kindness, strength, and laughter
Guide our hearts through every day.

You showed us grace in how you lived,
In every word, in all you gave.
A heart so pure, a soul so kind,
A love so deep, so strong, so brave.

Though we are apart, you are not gone,
Your memory lives, your spirit stays.
You touched our lives in countless ways
A legacy of love that will not fade.

Now rest in peace, wrapped in love,
Where sorrow fades and light is new.
Until the day we meet again,
Know we forever carry you.

Prayer

Gracious Lord,
We entrust Ptasha Mitchner into Your loving care.
May she find eternal rest and peace in Your presence.
Grant comfort to all who mourn, and strength to those left behind.
Help us to cherish the memories we hold dear
And to walk forward guided by love, faith, and hope.
Until the day we are reunited, May Your light surround us and Your peace remain within us.

In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.



A LIFE WELL LIVED

