

In Loving Memory

Alice James Coats

March 27, 1933 – December 13, 2024



Celebration of Life

Friday, December 20, 2024

1:00 pm

Jerusalem Temple Church

414 Ivy Street

Philadelphia, MS. 39350

Bishop Stanley Jones, Sr. Officiant

Just The Two Of Us



Tribute to The Love of My Life, My Mother !

How can I begin without saying that I LOVE YOU!

It is with pride that I say that you were always the one that loved me the most. I was your world, your peace and your joy. You wanted only the BEST for me, and you would have given LIFE to make me happy.



A bond between a Mother and Daughter is a bond that is truly unbreakable. This bond will never be broken...our laughter, traveling together on road trips, our shopping trips, cooking together, and of course attending church together. How blessed we are to have had these memories. You will continue to walk with me each moment of my life. You are the spirit within me.

A mother is an example of strength and a whisper that calms any storm. I remember every time I was ill, you were there to assure me that it was going to be OK; and every time it was OK. I always recovered with you by my side.

You were the architect of my dreams, the hand that would mend my heart when it was broken, the voice that sang courage into my soul and the only person that could say my name "Jacqueline" as if no one on earth shared it. You weaved wisdom into every word spoken. Your love and caring ways were my life support. I learned from you how to be a respectful lady and caring individual. You blessed our home with LOVE. To me, you were a living miracle, always there for me!

Thank you, Mother, for all your special ways. You taught by example and nurtured with love. A love like no other, and you will forever be cherished in my heart.

I feel blessed to have had you as my Mother.

Your Loving Daughter,
Jacqueline (Jackie)

*Proverbs 31:25-29**

*She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.*

*She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.*

*She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

*Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:*

*Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all.*



Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Old and New Testament Reading.....Reverend Robert Coats

Prayer of Comfort.....Bishop Stanley Jones

Musical Selection

Expressions of Love.....Sis. Ida Collier

Sis Gwen Stewart

Sis Paulette Lewis

Bro Larry Earnest

Bro Jerome Jackson

Reverend James Young/ Mayor of Philadelphia, MS

Special Tribute.....Sis. Jackie James

Silent Reading of the Obituary (Musical Interlude)

Musical Selection

Eulogy.....Bishop Stanley Jones

Recessional

~ Active Pallbearers ~

Bro. Larry Earnest

Bro. Jason Moore

Bro. Carlton Clark

Bro. Connie Peebles

Family & Friends



Alice James Coats

Obituary

Alice James Coats was born on March 27, 1933, in Stateline, Mississippi. She was the oldest of two daughters born to Teasie Grimes Jackson. She was raised by her mother and loving stepfather, Casell Jackson.

Alice grew up in Philadelphia, MS where she worshipped regularly with her family at Goodway Baptist Church. She graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and attended Jackson State College on a basketball scholarship. She graduated from Jackson State with a B.S. in Elementary Education.

Alice began her teaching career at Preston Elementary School in Preston, MS in Kemper County. She was determined to give her students a good education and she was committed to ensuring that each child had an opportunity to learn regardless of any learning disability. She took her students' learning personally; staying after school many times to teach those who needed additional help and support. She viewed her students as her kids and felt that she was their second mom. If they were hungry, she fed them. Alice would enlist her daughter, Jacqueline ("Jackie"), to help her make sandwiches so that students who came to school hungry had food before class. She would collaborate with parents to address her concerns and work with them to arrange after-hour classes to ensure learning outcomes were met. She was committed to excellence and worked to instill this in her students. Alice also exposed the students to cultural and artistic endeavors, directing them in plays that became valued community activities. She worked with each student on enunciation for their roles in the plays and brought out vocal talents in students who did not know they could sing. She took pride and joy in seeing academic excellence exhibited by her students.

When Preston Elementary closed, Alice moved to West Kemper Elementary in Dekalb, MS. and continued to employ her successful teaching strategies. Seeing her students graduate and achieve career goals was one of the greatest joys in her life. Today she would be considered a G.O.A.T.—the Greatest of All Times in education. She often remarked about the success her students have had and would comment: "I spent time with this student and, look at them NOW! I am so happy that I was able to play a small part in their success." Alice taught for 32 years in Kemper County. She touched many lives.

It was at Preston Elementary that Alice met the love of her life, a fellow teacher, the late William Coats. When they met, Alice loved to dance but William did not know how to dance. He soon decided to learn to dance so that other men would not dance with his wife and daughter, Jackie. Alice and William were married for over 50 years before his death in 2022. They enjoyed working and serving together in the community and teaching together in the Kemper County School System for a combined total of 59 years. They are now together again doing a "happy dance."

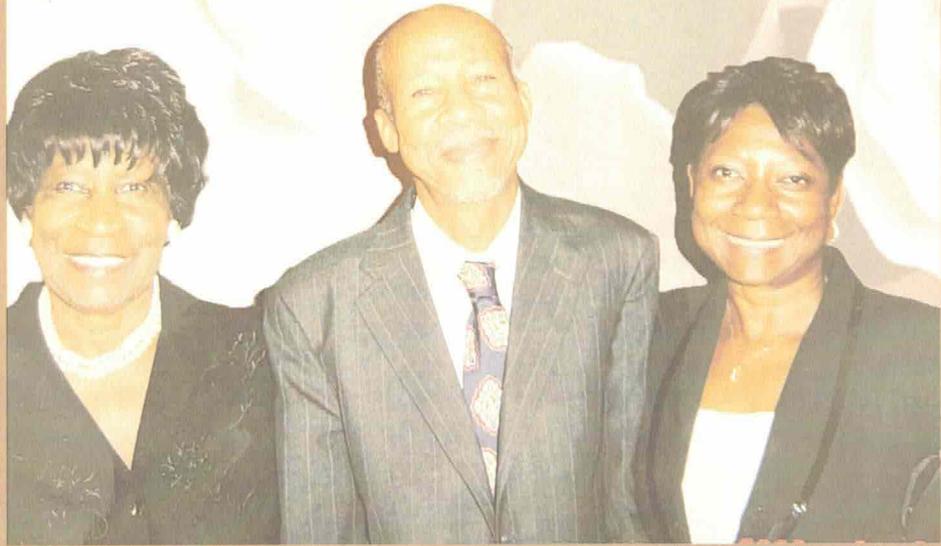
When Alice was not teaching, she enjoyed playing the piano for church choirs and traveling to different churches on Sunday afternoons. She enjoyed cooking and was considered the "queen" of pie-making. She became very involved in the political environment as a community activist. She was involved in the NAACP locally and nationally. Her community was a priority. She attended city council meetings to ensure there was fairness for all. Outspoken and supportive, she demanded that race, creed, or color should not be a determining factor in one's ability to represent the people on any level. She advocated for the hiring of African American police officers in Philadelphia and attended city council meetings to support the strategic initiatives of the Mayor. She led voter registration drives going door to door and personally drove individuals to the polls. She worked with the NAACP in a major way and supported the work in Philadelphia of the three civil rights workers: James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner who were murdered by the KKK in 1964. Like her mother Teasie, she had no fear and always stood up for what was right.

Alice was preceded in death by her mother Teasie Jackson, her stepfather Casell Jackson, her sister Janet Clark, and her beloved husband, William. She is survived by her only child Jackie James; Her "adopted" son, Larry Earnest; nephews Carlton (Chole) Clark, Bernard Clark, and Maurice (Shirley) Clark; sisters-in-law, Fannie Forrest, and Eliza Coats; brothers-in-law: Reverend Robert Coats, Levi Coats, Rossie (Jackie) Coats, and Lawrence Burrage; a devoted lifelong friend, Mrs. Ida Collier, Jasmine Spenser (her personal care assistant) who took immaculate care of her for two and a half years daily; Alice considered Jasmine's sons as her grandchildren, Grimes family cousins, a host of friends, neighbors, and, of course, former students. Until her death, Jackie and her mother were joined at the hip. Jackie left her home in Georgia and moved to Philadelphia to care for her mother and stepfather over four years ago. Jackie and her mother were "two peas in a pod." Alice considered Jackie her "greatest accomplishment in life." She loved Jackie with her whole heart.

Whereas our hearts are heavy, it is such an honor and joy to have known her for the incredible woman that she was and it is a privilege to "Celebrate Her Life."

*Our Love is eternal...until we meet
again.*

Love, Jackie



Interment

Donald Rest Cemetery
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Arrangements Entrusted to

Beck Funeral Home
10460 Road 561
Philadelphia, MS 39350
601-656-1191

~Acknowledgements~

I am deeply grateful for the many expressions of love and kindness that I have received since the death of my beloved mother. I sincerely appreciate every expression of sympathy: the phone calls, prayers of consolation, cards, and floral arrangements I have received. My heart is broken but with your love and support, in time, my strength will be restored.

I am especially grateful to Dawn Alston, my supervisor at Spelman College, for her unwavering support and compassion over the past four years and especially over the past four days. Dawn, you are a true blessing! I am also grateful for the support of my staff at Spelman and to the entire Spelman College family that supported me immediately after I learned of my mother's passing.

I could not have made it without my "brother," Larry, who took care of Mother while I was away and who has been my constant support during this journey of caregiving for my parents. Thank you, Larry, from the bottom of my heart. I love you.

Thank you, Bishop Stanley Jones, Sr., for your generosity and support in facilitating the funeral arrangements for both of my parents at Jerusalem Temple.