

*The Life and Times of
Valerie Lynette Polk*



Service:

Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 1:00 pm

James H. Cole's Funeral Home

Northwest Chapel: 16100 Schaefer hwy.

Detroit, Michigan 48235

Sunrise:

November 24, 1955

Sunset:

January 10, 2021

Order of Service:

Organ Prelude:

Processional:

Words of Encouragement: Eddie A. Murrell

Song: Why I Sing

Acknowledgements of Cards and Expressions: Celeste Neal

Song: Melodies from Heaven

Obituary / Eulogy reading: Chapel Minister

Remarks: (30 seconds)

Song: I Look To You

Recessional:

Words from me (Valerie L. Polk) to you my family and friends

If I should die before the rest of you, waste not money on flowers or spend your tears. Nor, when I'm gone, do not speak in a small voice; much like a whisper, but be your usual selves that person I have known. Weep if you must, but please not for long. I know that I am gone; and parting from here is just me going home. As for you, your life must go on. So live it: dance, sing; party, and play on. Remember this: there is no night without a dawning, no winter without a spring, and beyond the dark horizon of my death; our hearts will once more sing. Even though I have gone away, I have left a restless . . . care worn world; to be in a better place, to enjoy much brighter days.

Modified and paraphrased by Eddie A. Murrell

Prayer for Our Beloved Deceased

O Loving God, grant your consoling grace to all who mourn the passing of loved ones. Hear our prayers for those we love dearly who have gone before us into the life to come. Look kindly upon our departed family members, relatives and friends, especially those we now entrust to your eternal mercy and goodness. Consider their deeds of caring, goodness and charity towards others. Forgive any sins they committed, and grant them the everlasting reward of Heaven. Welcome our beloved deceased into the company of the Saints, where tears are no more and suffering and pain are ended, where there is great joy, abundant life and peaceful rest in your gracious presence. We pray one day to be united again with our loved ones who have passed away, so that together we may praise you forever and ever. Amen

Provided by Joseph Moore and modified by Eddie A. Murrell

Expressions of Love

Valerie, thank you for making me feel like family. I'll always love you, rest with God in his beautiful mansion.

Kenneth Massengile

Expressions of Love cont.

Mama, you beat to your own drum and that's what I loved most about you. You didn't care what anyone said about you and you definitely didn't care what anyone thought about you. You lived your life for you and nobody else. To me that's one of the greatest life lessons you taught me. I will forever be grateful for that. Until we meet again. Kiss my dad and sister for me, I'll love you forever.

Ashley Polk

Dear sister, "Love is stronger than death, even though Love can't stop death from happening." But no matter how hard death tries; death can't stop a person's love. Death can't take away our memories, so in the end, life is much stronger than death. "Life is pleasant. Death is peaceful." It's the changeover from life to death that's challenging. Death is only a horizon; and that horizon is only a vanishing point . . . that states it's time for you to meet our Savior, our Savior in the heavens above. Your presence here on Earth, meant a lot to many. Your passing left a void. If tears could build a stairway, and memories a lane, I'd walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again.

Eddie A. Murrell

Dear sister, my friend and my protector; it saddens me to know that you had to go home to the Lord, but I am glad to know that's where you resides. He has given you a new body and has completely healed your mind. It's funny how life has showed me, how much I needed you . . . even as I aged. I hope you knew I needed you as much as you needed me. There wasn't any distance between us, we were just a phone call away. I am going to miss the little things that we said to each other, it made a difference in my life. There were times it seems like I didn't appreciate you, I love you, and you're truly going to be missed. No worries down here, I will see you again; I'll be the one putting up a ruckus starting at the Pearly Gates and again at Heaven's door.

Edwin Murrell

Expressions of Love continue

Wow! Valerie, I didn't see this coming!!! It seems I was just wishing you a Happy New Year and asking you how you felt that day. And with a blink of an eye you were gone. That is the saddest part for me. You always think you have more time to be with love ones, but you really don't. But one thing I can say you did things your way and that was the best part of you. You said what you wanted to say and you walk with your own beat. And that's what I admired about you the most and your generosity even when you tried to be hard. Deep down, I knew you were as soft as a teddy bear. I'm going to really miss those late summer nights just hanging with you, we did that last year. I would have never thought those nights would have been the best time in my life just hanging with my big sister. So go ahead and rest, enjoy your new body; say hi to our loved ones. Until I see you within those Pearly Gates, I love you, I miss you: your baby sister Sherry.

Sherry Murrell

Grandma, when you died, I took it so hard — it was the toughest thing to happen in my adult life. I took your passing the hardest of anyone in the family. I think it's because, for the first time in my adult life, someone who meant such a lot to me was gone. I didn't realize how much you meant to me until you were gone. I'm sorry you will not be at my wedding if I ever marry. I'm sorry I'll never hear your hilarious stories, and I am sorry I wasn't able to see you one last time, but I just got to tell you, I love you; one last time.

Love Diamond Polk

To: a friend . . . a sister . . . the one who never failed to help me in my time of need or when I was in trouble. The one who would always say, "Yes, I will keep your bad assed kids." And as a woman, Valerie always kept it real. Valerie, I will always love you, and you'll always be remembered. With love; your sister-in-law.

Gwendolyn Ware

Expressions of Love continue

On Angel's Wings you were taken away, but in my heart you will always stay. I will hear your whisper in the tallest trees, feel your love in the gentle breeze. And when I find I miss you the most, inside our beautiful memories I will hold you close. You are an Angel watching over me with the comfort and blessings you bring. You embrace my heart and hold it close. On Angel's Wings you were taken away.

Crystal Murrell-Wilson

Her Journey's just begun, don't think of her as gone away, her journey's just begun. Life holds so many facets, this earth is only one. Just think of her as resting from the sorrows and the tears; in a place of warmth and comfort where there are no days and no more years. Think how she must be wishing that we could know today, how nothing but our sadness can really pass away. And think of her as living in the hearts of those she touched; for nothing loved is ever lost, and she was loved so much.

Evelyn Watson

I NEVER SAID GOOD-BYE

Auntie Valerie, I never got the chance to say I love you, I never got the chance to say I'll miss you. Nobody told me that you were going to die, it hurts, and I never said GOOD-BYE. Where you are now, please talk to me, show yourself and let me see. I know that can't happen no matter how much I try, all I wanted to do is say GOOD-BYE. I hope that you are happy wherever you are, I have you in my heart no matter how far. To the heavens above, I wish I could fly, only to give you a warm GOOD-BYE. I will remember you each day that I live. You were such a good person with so much to give. Such a privilege to have known you, no one can deny, I think it might be time to say GOOD-BYE. I will keep with me the good times that we shared, I want you to know just how much I really cared. Till we meet again, on God we must rely, I love you, and I miss you and for now, GOOD-BYE.

Gwen Murrell

Obituary / Eulogy
The Life and Times of Valerie L. Polk

Valerie Lynette Polk was born in Detroit, Michigan on November 24, 1955. She passed away peacefully while in the care of the hospital staff at Garden City hospital located in Garden City, Michigan on January 10, 2021 at the age of 65. Predeceased by her husband Stonewall Jackson Polk, her parents, Eddie Murrell Jr. and Lillie Jean Stansbury as well as her daughter Desiree' Polk, and her brother Robert L. Dumas.

Valerie lived a full life. Valerie graduated from Mackenzie High school in 1973 and retired as a nurse's aid from Westwood Nursing home in 2016. Valerie believed in God, and was baptized as an adolescent which at that time she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. Again later in life she felt the calling of the Lord and was baptized again as an adult. Those that were there as witnesses will not forget that day because her mother was sort of baptized too when she felled into the baptismal pool. You wouldn't have known this by looking at her, but Valerie was very athletic and had an interest in sports; such as: golf, track and field where she was a 400 meter runner, and shot putter. She loved golf so much that she ran away from home to live with her grandmother, so she could participate in Mackenzie's after school golf program. She was quite good, because of her tenacity at that sport it earned her a scholarship to Ferris State University. While at Ferris State, Valerie protested against the administration regarding their cafeteria policy, and was later asked to leave due to someones' accusation that she had stolen something. When you have lived as Valerie had lived it is hard to recall all of her interests and talents. At Mackenzie High School she was a member of the Reserved Officers' Training Corp. (ROTC), and a drummer in their marching band. Even though Valerie was expelled from Ferris State University, it did not dim her light to fight for others. While employed at Westwood nursing home she was the union steward for many years until her retirement from there. To know Valerie you had to know these four things: she cursed a whole lot, she was a protector, she was comical in a dry humor sort of way, and that she was generous . . . sometimes at her own peril. There is one fond . . .

Obituary / Eulogy continue
The Life and Times of Valerie L. Polk

. . . memory of Valerie's track and field days where she had a 400 meter competition, competing against eight high schools. She burst from the starting block leading the pack until turn one where she was passed by one runner, then another, then another, and yet another to the tune of seven until she was dead last at turn two. The family had cheered her on from the starting block up to turn three where she had lost so much ground. They held their heads down in shame believing there was no way for Valerie to recover. Just to show how much determination Valerie had, she put on the after burners at turn three and passed one runner, then another, and yet another and was able to participant in the ribbon ceremony as the fourth place winner. She leaves to cherish her memory: her daughter Ashley Polk (Terrell Brown), her four siblings: Eddie (Wilhelmina) Murrell, Edwin Murrell (DeeDee), Regina (Bruce) Williams, and Sherry Murrell, sister-in-law Gwendolyn Ware, seven grandchildren: Diamond and Damien Polk, and Dream Fails, Aaniyah, Aamolah, Aaliyah, and Aamiah Kerley, two aunts: Dolores, and her ninety-three year old aunt: Lillie Huckleberry, one uncle: Michael Murrell, eleven cousins: Taylor, Sherri, Terry, and Renea Jones, Marcelia, Rufina, and Tarrant Graves, Vida, Michael, and Martello Allen, and Antonio Murrell, twelve nieces' and nephews: Crystal Murrell-Wilson, Ta'bra Burnside, Evelyn Watson, Myeisha Johnson, (Lil) Gwen Murrell, (Lil) Edwin Murrell, (Lil) Ashley Williams, Jacoby Dumas, Jaden Dumas, Robert Moore, Erica Henderson, and Kortni Charles, special friends: Crystal King, and Kenneth Massengile. She also leaves a horde of second and third cousins, great nieces' and nephews, and many; many friends.





*Sis, God called you home because he had bigger plans for you; those we don't quite understand, but we had to let go. So my beautiful angel until we meet again. I love you, and you will be missed love
Kristal King*



pallbearers:

Eddie A. Murrell
Edwin Murrell
Raphael Campbell
Wayde Johnson
Terrell Brown
Willie P Johnson

Honorary Pallbearers:

Damien Polk
Kenneth Massengile
Lil Edwin Murrell
Robert Moore
Jacoby Dumas
Bruce Williams

Flower Bearers:

Aaniyah Kerley
Aamora Kerley
Aaliyah Kerley
Aamiah Kerley

Honorary Flower Bearers:

Myeisha Johnson
Lil Ashley Williams
Sherry Murrell
Wilhelmina A. Murrell
Marilyn Johnson

Acknowledgements:

The family of Valerie L. Polk wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement. May God bless and keep you!

~ The Polk / Murrell Family ~

Interment

Detroit Memorial Park-West
25200 Plymouth Road
Redford, MI 48239
(313) 533-1302