

IN LOVING  
MEMORY

Deniece



A DIVA'S  
LEGACY  
*of Love*

HER SPIRIT WAS UNDENIABLE.  
HER LOVE ETERNAL.

APRIL 26, 1960 – APRIL 5, 2026

# *Her Glow, Her Grace, Her Legacy*

With heavy hearts and deep love, we announce the passing of Deniece, beloved daughter of Ed Sanders and Mary Lou Key. Deniece was a woman whose strength, presence, and undeniable spirit left a lasting imprint on everyone blessed to know her.

Deniece was not simply a woman you met she was a woman you felt. She carried a boldness in her voice, confidence in her walk, and a warmth in her love that made people feel seen, protected, and understood. She was outspoken in the way truth lives out loud, yet nurturing in a way that made those she loved feel safe, no matter what they faced.

To know Deniece was to experience her glow. It was not something that could be ignored; it was something that surrounded her. She was a shining light, always lit guiding, covering, and uplifting those around her. She had a way of providing a path for others without ever asking them to walk it alone.

Above all, Deniece was a mother. To her daughter, Shantaya, she was an anchor the steady place in every storm, the one who showed up, stood firm, and made sure her child never felt alone, even in life's hardest moments. Her presence was constant, and her love was unwavering.

At times, it may have seemed as though she was judging, but in truth, Deniece loved deeply. She carried a quiet but powerful pride, the kind that was not always spoken aloud, yet was always present. It was a love that could be felt in her care, her protection, and the way she stood for the ones she loved.

The love Deniece gave was not ordinary it was agape love: selfless, unconditional, and enduring. It was the kind of love that covered, protected, remained, and never let go. Even now, that love lives on in the strength she poured into her daughter, in the lessons she taught, and in the bold, beautiful spirit she carried throughout her life.

Deniece leaves to cherish her memory her loving daughter, Shantaya, and her son-in-love, Jack Jack. She was a proud grandmother to Brandon, Briana, and Journi, and a loving grandmother in heart to her grandchildren of love, Azariah and Aenaya, each of whom she cherished deeply.

She is also survived by her sisters, Helen and Marilyn; her brothers, Anthony and Roy; and a host of nieces and nephews who dearly loved and cherished their Aunt Niecy. Her presence, love, and unforgettable spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Deniece leaves behind a legacy of love, resilience, strength, and presence a legacy that will continue to live on through her family, her memories, and the countless lives she touched. As we gather to celebrate her life, we remember not only that she has passed, but that she lived, she loved, and she left behind something powerful. Her spirit was undeniable. Her love eternal.



# A DIVA'S Final Encore

## OPENING SCENE

Prelude

## A MOMENT OF GRACE

Opening Prayer

## CENTER STAGE SELECTION

“Take Me to the King”

## WORDS OF STRENGTH

Scripture – Psalm 46:10

## HER STORY, HER LEGACY

Obituary Reading

## LOVE NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Family & Friend Reflections

## FEATURED TRIBUTE SELECTION

“A Song for Mama” – Boyz II Men  
and/or

“A Mother Love” Xania Monet

## FROM THE HEART

Tribute – Shantaya

## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“Still Her Baby” Xania Monet

## FINAL REFLECTIONS

Closing Words

## THE FINAL CURTAIN CALL

“Thank You” Ashanti/ Benediction

# Her Lasting Impact

### My Mama's Best Friend, My Auntie

My mama's best friend—my Auntie. You used to think it was so funny when I called you Auntie. You would say I was “country,” and I would just laugh. You have been in my life for as long as I can remember. Though by blood I do not have any aunts, through loyalty and love you played your role to the fullest, and for that I will forever be grateful to have had you in my life. I used to say and do things just to get on your nerves so you could fuss at me. I would laugh, and you would roll your eyes. Those are the moments I will always hold close. When my mom was gone and we reunited, you made sure I knew that I was forever a part of your family and that I was not alone. Thank you. Thank you for loving me just as I am. Thank you for the lessons you taught and for the prayers you prayed for me. I am going to miss you, lady. Me and Taya got it from here—we promise. Shantaya, Lil B, Bri, Juju, and all my cousins—I love y'all so much, and y'all know I am forever just a phone call away. Get your rest, Auntie. I love you.

Love Brandy aka “B”

### A Beautiful Soul Remembered

There are some people who leave a mark on your heart that will never fade, and Mama Deniece was one of them. She was such a beautiful soul. I truly loved her, and I am so grateful for the time I was blessed to spend with her. One of my favorite things we shared was our love for cooking. She poured so much love into every recipe, and I learned so much simply by listening to her talk about the dishes she created with such care and passion. But beyond that, she was just a genuinely good person—kind, warm, and full of love. She was an incredible mother and someone who made everyone around her feel special. Mama Deniece will be truly missed, but her love, her spirit, and the memories she gave us will live on forever. I am holding her family so close in my heart. I love you all.

Love, Madlon

### Moms, You Can Rest Peacefully

In Loving Memory of Moms, also known as Deniece I am usually the least emotional person you will ever meet, but today, I want to empty my heart. Deniece was a woman full of strength, fire, and energy. She was not just a mother and grandmother—she was a force. Her daughter and I have been together for over six years, and in that time, she became more than my mother-in-law. She became Moms to me. We went through some tough times early on, but even in those moments, I saw her strength and how deeply she loved her daughter. That built a respect between us that never left. I will always remember the good moments—the laughter, the music, her cooking, and getting to be her taste tester. And every Christmas or New Year's, there was that big pot of gumbo bringing everybody together. She loved her grandchildren deeply, and her love did not stop at blood. That is just the kind of heart she had. And today, on her birthday, we do not just mourn—we celebrate her life. As a parent, I know all you really want is the peace of knowing your child will be okay. So I want to say this: Moms, you can rest peacefully. Your daughter is loved, protected, and never alone. I will stand beside her and honor everything you poured into her. I do not think I ever called you Deniece, because to me, you were always Moms.

Rest in peace. We love you, and we celebrate you.

—Jack

From the moment I first met you, I thought you were an exceptionally beautiful woman. You radiated such outward beauty, only for me to discover that the beauty within you was beyond measure. You raised a phenomenal woman, and I am so blessed to call her my dearest friend. Through her, and through the love you extended to me, I came to know a depth of care that left a lasting mark on my life. You poured into me golden nuggets of wisdom with a kind of love I had never experienced with my own mother. In so many ways, you became the mother I always wished I had, and I only wish I could have had more time with you. I will forever treasure the moments we shared. Even more, I will be eternally grateful that you became the grandmother for my daughter that she never had. The unconditional love, guidance, and care you gave her are gifts that can never be replaced. No lifetime could ever fully express the depth of my gratitude for your presence in our lives. You were truly a guiding light—an angel on earth. It is no surprise to know that the same love, warmth, and unconditional care you gave to us was the very same love you shared with everyone around you. Your absence from this earth leaves a tremendous void that nothing and no one can ever fill. Yet even in your absence, your legacy lives on. Your spirit remains in each of us you poured into, and you will be forever in our hearts from here to eternity.

Love, Anna

### Momma,

Once upon a time, I was blessed when you chose to take me in as one of your own and show me what genuine love for a child truly looks like. You did not just speak it—you lived it every single day. Through the way you loved Taya and me, you taught me how to love my own children unconditionally and fiercely. You showed me how to love myself by the way you carried yourself—with confidence, strength, and grace. You taught me to let my light shine on the outside, no matter what I may have been feeling on the inside, and to always put my best forward. I will forever cherish every moment we shared—every laugh, every lesson, and every memory. Thank you for opening not only your home, but also your heart to me. And thank you especially for giving the world my Bestie Boo, one of the greatest gifts in my life. I appreciate you, I honor you, and I feel so blessed to have been loved by you. My Diva, I will always love you, miss you, remember you, and celebrate you.

Forever your bonus daughter, Sabrina





Forever  
in Our  
*Hearts*

