



PALLBEARERS

Grandsons & Nephews

Floral Bearers

Granddaughters & Nieces

Acknowledgements

The family of **Shirley Diane Franklin Stewart** is deeply appreciative of all acts of kindness, deeds of thoughtfulness, and words of sympathy expressed, implied or demonstrated to them during their bereavement.

Job's Mortuary, Inc.

Ralph W. Canty Sr., Director

312 South Main St.
P. O. Box 1231 - Sumter, SC 29151
803-773-3323 or 803-773-3324



Home of Distinctively Finer
Funeral Service

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

September 27, 1956 - August 20, 2026



*Shirley Franklin
Stewart*



Saturday, August, 29, 2026
2:00PM

Salem Chapel & Heritage Center
101 S. Salem Avenue, Sumter SC 29150

Pastor Terry Franklin, Eulogist
Pastor Mary Smiling, Presiding

Life Reflections

Shirley Diane Franklin Stewart, affectionately known as “Diane,” departed this life peacefully on August 20, 2026, leaving behind a beautiful legacy of love, laughter, family, and unwavering devotion to those she held dear.

Born on September 27, 1956, in Alcolu, South Carolina, Shirley was the cherished daughter of the late Melvin and Elizabeth Franklin. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Richard Stewart Sr.; her son, Richard Stewart Jr.; her great-granddaughter, Madliyn Hicks; her stepdaughter, Jennifer Anderson; and her sisters, Cora Bookhart and Vivian Franklin.

Diane leaves to cherish her precious memories and continue her legacy, her two devoted daughters, Akeya (Michael) Hicks of Sumter, SC, and Mercedes (Marvin) Hicks of Woodbridge, VA. She also leaves her longtime companion, Charles Blair, and his children, whom she embraced and loved as her own: Reginald Blair, Domonique and Charlene Anderson, and Shaniqua (Jonathan) Ragin, all of Sumter, SC.

Diane was a proud grandmother of 26 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren, each one holding a special and irreplaceable place in her heart. Her love for them was deep, unconditional, and wholehearted.

She is also survived by her siblings: Rozeal “Sister” White, Camillian Kingwood, Melvin (Jean) Harvin, all of Alcolu, SC; Magdline (JC) Prezzie of Elloree, SC; Curtis (Annie) Franklin of Bridgeport, CT; and Guy Franklin of Sumter, SC. She will also be lovingly remembered by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and countless friends.

Diane lived life to the fullest. During her years in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and later after relocating to Sumter, South Carolina, in January 1994, she made an unforgettable impression wherever she went. She was full of life, humor, and personality. There was never a dull moment when Diane was around. She had a way of bringing laughter and joy into the lives of those around her, but above all else, family always came first.

A Message From Grandma Diane

“Most importantly, to the ones I love the most—my grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I never knew this kind of love because I never experienced having grandparents. I love all of you wholeheartedly, to my soul. Every one of you gave me the strength to live each day.

Even though I had to go for now, it’s never goodbye. It’s only until next time.
Make me proud.

**Love always,
“Grandma Diane Babies”**

A Final Letter of Love

To my family, please don’t cry,
*For I am with you, though I had to say goodbye.
My time here was precious, my memories are too,
And every moment I shared was because I loved
you.*

*To my children, my grandchildren too,
Know that my heart will always be with you.
Hold on to each other, love one another,
And remember the lessons I taught you as your
mother.*

*When you laugh, I’ll be there in the sound,
When you need me, my love will surround.
When you gather together, remember me,
For family was always where I wanted to be.*

*Don’t remember me only with tears in your eyes,
Remember my laughter, my love, and my advice.*

*Keep making memories, keep holding on tight,
And know that I’m resting peacefully tonight.
I may not be able to hug you or say your name,
But the love in my heart will forever remain.*

*So celebrate my life and all that we shared,
And know that, through every moment, I cared.
Until we meet again, my family, be strong.
Keep God in your hearts and keep moving along.*

*I’m resting now, but one thing is true—
My greatest blessing was loving all of you.*

Forever and Always,

Shirley Diane Franklin Stewart





Order of Service

Pastor Mary Smiling, Presiding

Prelude Soft Instrumental Music

Processional Clergy and Family

Scripture Psalm 23 - KJV

Prayer Officiating Minister

Musical Selection *His Eye Is On The Sparrow*

Reading of the Obituary Family Member

Reflections and Tributes

Please limit all remarks and poems to 3 minutes or less

Grandchildren

Ajaque Brown | Michael Hicks | My'a Hicks | Lauren Anderson

Nephew - Dwight Franklin

Niece - Ieasha Bookhart

Acknowledgements Family Member

Musical Tribute Jasmine White, Great Niece
For Your Glory - Tasha Cobbs

Eulogy Pastor Terry Franklin

Recessional Medley of Songs

Committal | Benediction | Interment
Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery

A Daughter's Love

For Shirley Diane Franklin Stewart

*The moment that you died
my heart was torn in two,
one side filled with heartache,
the other died with you.*

*I often lie awake at night,
when the world is fast asleep,
and take a walk down memory lane,
with tears upon my cheeks.*

*Remembering you is easy,
I do it every day.
But missing you is heartache
that never goes away.*

*I hold you tightly within my heart
and there you will remain.
Until the joyous day arrives,
that we will meet again.*

— Author Unknown



Grieve Not for Me

To My Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren

*I cannot let you grieve for me,
For those who love must let us go.
In comfort, please believe I'm free,
From all the pain life can bestow.*

*As I begin my world anew,
Consider not what used to be,
I'm sending happy smiles to you
While I enjoy eternity.*

*Lord, bless the home from which I came,
Yet brush each lonely hour away,
With fond remembrance of my name,
With a sunshine for a newer day.*

*Look to the wind to find me there,
Beside the hardest thing you do.
I've left my love within this prayer—
I'm always watching over you.*

— Author Unknown

