

Pallbearers

Nephews

Floral Bearers

SHS Class of 1973 and  
Close Friends



Home of Distinctively Finer Funeral Service



### Acknowledgement

The family of the late *Dian Walters Smalls* wishes to express their appreciation for your kind thoughts and expressions of sympathy through prayers, cards, beautiful flowers, food, and for those appearing on the program. We are profoundly appreciative of your kindness, which has sustained us during these difficult times. We ask for continued prayers for our family, and may God bless you.

**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

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

**Dian**

**Walters**  
**SMALLS**

Sunrise  
August 5, 1955

Sunset  
January 23, 2026

Saturday, January 31, 2026  
1:00pm

Salem Missionary Baptist Church  
320 W Fulton St.

Sumter, South Carolina 29150

Pastor Cartrell Woods, Officiating

## Reflections of a Life Well Lived

Mrs. Dian Walters Smalls was born on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1955 in Sumter, South Carolina to the late Mrs. Hattie Mae Thomas Walters and the late Joshua Walters, and the stepdaughter of Mary Walters. She departed this life on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. Early in life, she was married to the late Frank Shelton Smalls. From this union, two children were born.

She was educated in the public schools of Sumter County. She was a graduate of the Sumter High School Class of 1973. And a graduate of Columbia College with a degree in Business.

Dian lived every day walking in the Spirit of the Lord. Dian joined Salem Missionary Baptist Church and served as Vice Chair of the Queen Esther Ministry and on the SMBC Choir.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her two loving, caring, and devoted children, Brandon (Samantha) Smalls of Duluth, Georgia, Joscelyn (Jon) Ford of Mount Holly, North Carolina; five grandchildren, BreAnna Genae Smalls, D’Nasia Potts, and Josiah Potts, of Duluth, Georgia; Cairo Shelton Ford and Caison Frank Ford of Mount Holly, North Carolina. Two Sisters, Jacqueline (Lenard) Abrams of Sumter, South Carolina, Winifred Walters-Irvin (David) of Dallas, TX, along with a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and beloved friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Hattie Mae Thomas Walters, her father, Joshua Walters, her husband Frank Shelton Smalls, and brother, Joshua “Ricky” Walters.

A special thank you to Lashawn Williams, Melody Harvin-Smalls, and Sallie Oxendine.



### *For Our Mother*

Dear Mom, Joscelyn and I are incredibly hurting that you had to depart this world early. But we know the Lord doesn’t make any mistakes. We need you to understand that we are forever grateful and indebted to you. You were the greatest Mom God could have given us. While we do not understand this journey in life at times, God said He wanted you to rejoin Dad in heaven. Please tell Dad we love and miss him and lastly, we will always love and miss you dearly! Thank you so much for the 35 and 42 years you gave us your all on the earth.

*Love Brandon and Joscelyn*

### *“To Our Sweet Dee”*

*Words are inadequate to describe the emptiness that we feel! We’ll miss your presence but most of all the love that you’ve always given. You were definitely a shining star and the sweetest of them all and if our love could’ve kept you here, you’d be here forever. You gave so much to so many and asked for so little in return. Your stories, laughter, zest for life and strength will live on in all of us. You weren’t just a “Sissy” and an “Auntie,” you were one of the kindest souls we’ve ever known. You were definitely one of a kind! We love you and we know you danced your way through those Pearly Gates. Sleep on and take your rest, for as much as we loved you...God loved you best!*

*Love you, Mel and Brandi*

### *From the Grandchildren*

#### *Poem for Nana by Sara Vines*

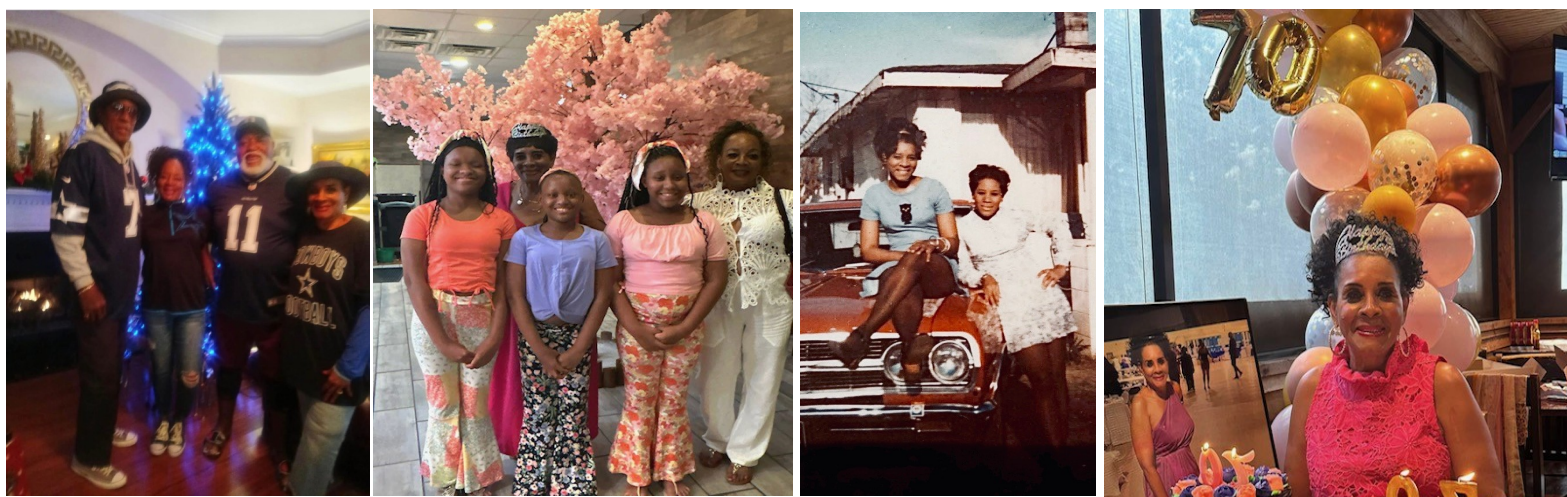
*To our dearest darling Nana, up in heaven, high above.  
We know today you’re with us all, and sending all your love.  
Today we all remember you and bid you one last goodbye,  
Celebrate the life you’ve had, and maybe have a cry.  
You’ll never be forgotten, Nan. I’ll just close my eyes and see,  
Your smiling face and feel your love, and you’ll be close to me.  
You had such a long life, so many have so much less.  
It was your time; the angels came and placed you with the best  
So dear Nana, up above, although you’re no longer here,  
In our hearts is where we’ll keep you, Forever, you’ll be near.  
Love BreAnna, Cairo, Caison, Josiah and D’Nasia*

### *“To Our Loving Family Angel, ‘Dee Dee”*

*Our time together was special, so were the memories we made  
And although you live in Heaven now, those memories never fade  
We bow our head in silence, and remember our sister with love  
and we know that you are up there watching from above  
Every day’s a struggle, and nothing feels the same  
And our hearts break a little more, every time we hear your name  
You’ll always be remembered and time may heal our hearts  
But a piece of us is missing, since the day we had to part  
We will cherish the love and the memories we created in our family*

*You were a caring, loving sister and auntie. You were always placing God first in your life. Even though our hearts are broken, we know that your love for the Lord gives us hope in one day seeing one another again. Gone too soon.  
We love you, but God loves you more.*

*Love Jackie, Winifred, David, Eric. Kristen. Kimberly and the Triplets*



**Order of Service**  
 Reverend Leroy Blanding, Pastor Officiating  
 Mulberry Baptist Church

**Musical Prelude** ..... Musician

**Processional & Viewing** ..... Clergy and Family

**Opening Hymn** ..... *Time Is Filled With Swift Transition*

**Scripture Reading:**  
**Old Testament** ..... Reverend Michael Walters, Cousin  
**New Testament** ..... Reverend Sandra Simmons  
 Bethany Baptist Church

**Prayer** ..... Reverend Willie Wright, Pastor  
 New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

**Musical Selection** ..... The Sumter Violinaires  
*Down In The Water*

**Reflections:**  
**Church** ..... Deacon Jeremy Farmer

**Classmates** ..... Sallie Oxendine, President of Sumter High Class of 1973  
 Solicitor Chip Finney, III

**Friend** ..... Sharon Thomas

**Solo** ..... *Spirit* ..... Myra Pressley

**Acknowledgements** ..... Tiffany McCants Walters

**Family Tributes:**  
 Marcella Swain, Sister-in-law  
 Kimberly Abrams, Niece  
 Brandon Smalls, Son  
 Joscelyn Ford, Daughter

**Solo** ..... *Somewhere To Lay My Head* ..... Elijah Bradford

**Words of Comfort** ..... Pastor Cartrell Woods

**Recessional** ..... *Medley of Hymns* ..... SMBC Choir

**Interment**  
 Hillside Memorial Park

