



Bessie Lee Burgess

December 25, 1948 - October 29, 2012

Bessie Lee Burgess, affectionately known as, "Aunt Lee", "Granny", "BB", "Big Ma" was born December 25, 1948 to the late Walter Henderson, Sr. and Gladys Chapman. She was educated in Wilmington Public Schools and at the age of 12 moved to Richmond, Virginia where she helped with the rearing of her siblings. After graduating from Armstrong High School she met and married Oliver Adams. From this union three children were born; Joseph, Nikita and Dawn. Having been a caretaker all of her life, Bessie enrolled in MCV School of Nursing. It was through nursing that she was able to provide a stable environment after becoming a single parent. Bessie went on to work for MCV Hospital before joining the staff of Richmond Nursing Home, where she retired in 2007.

Being a caretaker she was always willing to extend herself to family, friends, neighbors and co-workers... (everybody). As the matriarch of the family she instilled the importance of family by always having family events for all holidays, birthday recognition and planning of family reunions.

She was always there to support family no matter the need. Bessie was famous for her "straight" forward, need to know" personality. She never sugar coated anything. Although harsh, it was said out of love. No matter the circumstance she was always there to lend a helping hand and any resources she had.

While attending Mt. Calvary Holiness Church #2, she reconnected with her childhood friend, Andrew "Jack" Burgess, Jr. After a long courtship she finally said "Yes" and they married in January of 1984. Jack would prove to be an important part of this family. Bessie later embraced two of her sister's children, Michael and Kisha that she cared for like her own. She will be forever remembered as a loving wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, grandmother and a phenomenal friend. She is preceded in death by her father, Walter Henderson, Sr., sister Delores Keel, brother Michael Chapman, nephew Lamar Chapman and goddaughter, Michelle Bracey.

She leaves to cherish her memory her devoted husband of 28 years Andrew "Jack" Burgess, three sons: Joseph, Michael and Adrian; three daughters: Nikita, Dawn and Kisha; nine grandchildren: Shanika, Jo'Mar, Linwood, LeSuane, Anisha, Shaquille, KeShon, Alexis & Alecia; great grandson: Dreshan "DJ"; mother Gladys Chapman; brothers: Richard, Keith, Craig (Cindy) and Paul (Nina); sisters: Barbara, Sharon (William) and Carolyn; sister-in-laws: Pam Iantha and Iris; nieces and nephews: Andre', Pamela, Lamont, Geneva, Denise, LaShonda, Alecia, Candice, Niecy Poo, Kevin, Lil Keith, Reginna, KoKo, Sharonda, Andrew, Xavier Makia, Makenzie, Sharmela, Terrell, Ciarra, Marshall, Carlehr, LaPrecious, Lamar; a multitude of great nieces, nephews and cousins. Two devoted cousins Selena & Teresa. Two adopted daughters Janice and Shawndel. Extended families: Adams, Whites, Browns, Waller, Beard, Booker, Perry, Mills, Coleman, Caldwell, Gaines, Carrington, Johnson, Smith and Whitehead; Devoted friends: Robinette and Quayatta and one god brother Andre. A devoted companion and grandchild, "ANGEL"

God knew that it would take a special act from him to bring you to him...he knew that you wouldn't want to leave this place and leave all of us behind.... so he sent a tsunami and earthquake and a storm named Sandy to bring you home...I can't imagine being one of God's favorites to the point of him truly

opening up his flood gates of HAVEN and saying, Well Done, you can come on in... FAMILY

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

3101 Nine Mile Road
Richmond, VA 23223

Previous Events

Public Viewing

NOV 4. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Service

NOV 5. 1:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Tribute Wall



“ *Bessie Lee Burgess*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Barbie Howdeshell lit a candle in memory of Bessie Lee Burgess*



Barbie Howdeshell - November 06, 2012 at 07:45 PM



May God give you peace and comfort during this trying time. Her wonderful family and friends are in my thoughts and prayers as she was a very beautiful person and is now taking her rightful place in Heaven.

Barbie Howdeshell - November 06, 2012 at 07:47 PM



“ *To Nikita and the Burgess family, She will be missed, she was an example of what healthcare needs, a wonderful nurse, a wonderful daughter and mom, a role model and a keep real person with everyone. She was one of my examples of what I try to be. I know God is saying well done, thy faithful servant. Najah Bashir, Richmond Nursing Home Family*

Najah Bashir - November 06, 2012 at 05:41 PM

SM

“ Sarah McLeod lit a candle in memory of
Bessie Lee Burgess



Sarah McLeod - November 05, 2012 at 04:09 AM

AD

“ Alice A. Davis lit a candle in memory of
Bessie Lee Burgess



Alice A. Davis - November 04, 2012 at 09:05 AM

AD

May God continue to give you comfort and peace.

Alice A. Davis - November 04, 2012 at 09:07 AM

SH

“ Dear Burgess Family,

Please accept my sincerest condolences for your loss. I did not know Ms. Burgess personally, but I know she will be missed. Death is such an enemy, we were not created just to live a short period of time and then die. God intended for us to live forever. (Genesis 1:28) His plans will not be thwarted. That is why the Bible says that “Death as the last enemy will be brought to nothing.” (1 Corinthians 15:26) Jesus proved that he has God-given power to bring death to nothing. He demonstrated this when Lazarus died, Jesus brought him back to life, and he resurrected his friend. He has the ability to one day destroy death for all and call our loved ones from death to life again. I hope you will find comfort from these scriptures, please review them in your personal copy of the Bible; and may Jehovah be with your during this difficult time. (Psalms 83:18)

*Sincerely,
Sister Hughes*

Sister Hughes - November 04, 2012 at 05:55 AM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - October 31, 2012 at 03:34 PM