



Janet McKay Blackmon

August 14, 1940 - August 13, 2022

In Lillington, NC, on August 14, 1940, Mack and Ethel McKay welcomed their firstborn. To the first, they gave the name Janet, “God is gracious or a gift from God”. Much is in a name. God’s gift, JANET MCKAY BLACKMON, fashioned a tapestry of life woven with threads of faith that led to a life of service and leadership.

As the eldest, leading often seems inherent. Whether self-appointed or chosen, Janet never hesitated to decisively command control. As a child, Janet’s dedication to evolving skills that influence action began at home with her younger siblings Randolph and Helen. With her siblings, she learned not only to be a leader that can persuade, but one that can also accept resistance. Resistance builds resilience, which Janet embraced and embodied.

It was resilience, strong intellect, and faith that facilitated Janet’s graduation as salutatorian from Shawtown High School in 1957, ushering in a path to Johnson C. Smith University. In true Janet fashion, she embraced every opportunity that college had to offer. She pledged Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. sorority, was named “Miss Lampadas” by the Omega Psi Phi, Inc. fraternity and still found time to share her vocal talents as a member of the Touring Choir. And at the culmination of her undergraduate career, in 1961 she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education. What better way to lead

than to cultivate tomorrow's leaders?

And so, began a 54-year journey serving countless young people and families in the City of Baltimore as teacher, librarian, mentor, mother (as needed) and friend. She was affectionately teased as the teacher of the entire east side of Baltimore. The first stop on Janet's footpath was Samuel Chase Elementary School #135. Subsequent sites on the journey included Collington Square Elementary School (ES) where she not only taught the students, but also coached the student teachers, chaired the school improvement committee, and served as the school treasurer. 30 years of impact. Janet not only expected excellence from her students but required it of herself. Janet continued her education and earned a Master of Science degree in Elementary Education from Morgan State University in 1972. This opened doors to serve as an adjunct faculty member at Catonsville Community College in their Upward Bound program.

Always seeking to influence change, Janet did not let Collington Square ES be her last stop. She also graced the halls of Belmont ES and finally retired from Bay Brook Elementary Middle School as their Librarian.

Teacher. Leader. Giver.

Janet was bestowed by God the gift of being a giver. She often exemplified this in her role as a teacher. For her, being a teacher was not just a profession, it was a calling. Janet would keep healthy snacks in her desk for children that came to school hungry, not just for her students, but for any child. It was a common occurrence for parents that were once her students to request that their children be assigned to "Mrs. Blackmon's class". There, they knew their child would be cared for, and that excellence, whatever that meant for any individual student, would be not only expected, but nurtured in him or her. Janet birthed two children but raised many.

Clearly, one of Janet's passions lay in the provision of opportunity through education, but, undoubtedly, her deepest passion lay in her love of God and family. In 1962, her cousin John McKay introduced Janet to Franklin Curtis Blackmon and in 1963, they were wed in Lillington, NC. Their greatest accomplishments: Franklin Curtis Blackmon, Jr., born in 1973 and Janell Victoria Blackmon (Pryor) born in 1982.

Curtis and Janet shared a love not only for one another, but also for the Lord. As an outpouring of this love and faith, the two, once members of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church (East Preston Street), eventually became Pastor and First Lady of Zion Hill Baptist Church. In 1980, Curtis and Janet founded and organized New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church where Janet remained a member until her passing. Janet could often be found during the service in Sunday's best, always modeling a stunning church hat.

Janet lived a life of purpose. Even after losing her beloved Curtis in 1986, Janet continued her service for the Lord interlacing her passion for education with her faith. Janet created and established the Tutorial Program and Children's Ministry at New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, assisted with Vacation Bible School, served as President of the Baltimore Chapter of the Association of Minister Wives and Minister Widows, was an active member of the National Baptist Convention and served as Director of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education Choir for the State of Maryland.

And as hard as Janet worked, Janet played. Family gatherings always had a game courtesy of Janet, ushering in much laughter as she shared her rules of play, which may or may not have matched the printed document. Janet enjoyed traveling, writing poetry, debating (even without a formal debate

platform) and of course, a good book.

As sunset neared for Janet, her great niece Shalicia Jenkins Rich (“Zeebee”), provided special care for her to which all are especially grateful.

Janet was preceded in death by her parents Mack and Ethel McKay Jr., husband Rev. Dr. Franklin Curtis Blackmon Sr., son Franklin Curtis Blackmon, Jr. and godson George A. Vaden. She leaves to cherish her memory: her daughter Janell Blackmon Pryor and husband Ernest Pryor and their son Ernest Adam Pryor; daughter-in-law Christine H. Blackmon and husband Mark Leverett, and Christine’s son Franklin Curtis Blackmon III, and daughter Sophia Christine Blackmon who will treasure the memories of their mother and grandmother forever; her brother Edward Randolph McKay Sr. and his wife Peggy and her sister Helen McKay Wright who will continue to celebrate her life. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, and friends, all held a special place in her heart.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

AUG 26. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home - East
1101 E. North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202

Wake

AUG 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Pleasant Church and Ministries
6000 Radecke Avenue
Balto, MD 21206

Service

AUG 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Pleasant Church and Ministries
6000 Radecke Avenue
Balto, MD 21206

Tribute Wall



“ Janet McKay Blackmon

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ Jathan Barrett lit a candle in memory of Janet McKay Blackmon



Jathan Barrett - August 28, 2022 at 08:24 PM



“ Tami Moore lit a candle in memory of Janet McKay Blackmon



Tami Moore - August 28, 2022 at 02:24 PM



Janelle & family ..my condolences. Cousin Janet will be missed but memories of her will forever live on. I am most grateful for her consistency ...she'd call weekly to invite me to attend her Church. New Pleasant Grove 🙏 Her tenacity paid off...we became members there. Janelle ..your Mom always made you believe in yourself never doubt ..her mantra was "The good thing about that is".... definitely a God Fearing Put God 1st Boss Lady 🌹

Tami Moore - August 28, 2022 at 02:38 PM

RH

“ *To the family
We are saddened to hear of the loss of Janet,
our cousin. Please know that our hearts and
prayers are with you. May God hold you close,
comfort you gently, and carry you through. Your
cousins, Aunt Myrt and Uncle Felix Mckay’s
children*



Rixene McKay Hicks - August 26, 2022 at 04:46 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family
of Janet McKay Blackmon.*



August 25, 2022 at 04:10 PM

TF

“ *The Parks Family purchased the Simply Elegant
Spathiphyllum for the family of Janet McKay
Blackmon.*



The Parks Family - August 25, 2022 at 07:38 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
Janet McKay Blackmon.*



August 24, 2022 at 07:53 PM

FJ

“ Dear Cousin Helen, this is to let you, Randolph, and the rest of the family know that we are praying for you during this time of sadness and sorrow. Janet was so full of energy and optimism about life. She is now resting in God's arms for eternity. May God comfort you and the family now and in the days ahead.



Love, Tom & Betty . .

Felix McKay Jr. - August 23, 2022 at 04:02 PM

SH

“ To the family, I pray that you're surrounded with love, blessings and peace during this time and beyond.



Sharon Harrington - August 22, 2022 at 04:01 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Janet McKay Blackmon.



August 22, 2022 at 03:19 PM

ET

“ To The Family of Janet McKay Blackmon
I was saddened to learn of the passing of Janet, our "homegirl" and friend. Please accept my sincere condolences in your loss. I commend you to God, our Father, who is our refuge and strength, a very present help in the time of trouble. I pray you will find comfort in knowing she is in safety with the Lord. May the peace of God that surpasses all understanding keep your minds and hearts throughout this difficult season. Blessings and love from back home.



Yours In His Service,
Elder Bessie B. Taylor
Solid Rock Church of A Higher Calling
Raleigh, NC

Elder Bessie B. Taylor - August 22, 2022 at 02:36 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Janet McKay Blackmon.



August 22, 2022 at 12:08 AM

GC

“ To the family of Janet McKay Blackmon. With deepest sympathy for the loss of our cousin Janet. Wishing you comfort and peace during this difficult time. Your cousins Robert Jr., Gloria, Conrad, Donna and Dorothy, children of Robert and Claudia Allen; descendants of John D. and Cornelia McKay.

Gloria Allen Carrington - August 21, 2022 at 10:48 PM

GW

“ To Janell and family. May you find peace and comfort in knowing that your loss is shared by many. Precious memories forever. Be blessed. G.Walker

gwalker - August 21, 2022 at 07:47 AM

SE

“ I'm sorry for your loss. Mrs. was my mother that I lost when I first met her. She was always there for me to give me that encouragement that I needed. I will truly miss her. Rest In Peace. Love you Diva. Shirley Johnson EI from Bay Brook Elementary #124

Shirley Johnson EI - August 18, 2022 at 10:31 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Janet McKay Blackmon.



August 18, 2022 at 05:14 PM

CM

“ Condolences to Helen, and all of my cousins for the passing of our cousin Janet. May she rest in heaven with The Lord, and the rest of our family members that have gone on to be with The Lord. Chris McKay and family.

Cousin Chris McKay - August 18, 2022 at 04:17 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Janet McKay Blackmon.*



August 18, 2022 at 09:43 AM



“ *my deepest condolence may the memories you cherish of brighter and happy days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you forever . marjorie morgan parker shawtown ,BALTIMORE,MARYLAND*

MARJORIE M. PARKER - August 17, 2022 at 11:56 PM



“ *My heartfelt condolences. May God's strength carry you thru this journey of grief. 😭*

*Debra Marsh Galbreath
Lillington,NC*



Debra Galbreath - August 17, 2022 at 07:28 PM



“ *To The Blackmon Family: Mother Janet has been a blessing to me for so many years. Thank you for sharing her with me and my family. She has a new address now. One day, we will meet again on that Peaceful Shore. God bless.*

Floyd Brice - August 17, 2022 at 06:09 AM



“ *To: The Family of Janet McKay Blackman. You have my deepest sympathy in the lost of your love one. Your Cousin on Uncle Mac side. Paul McKoy. Lillington, NC.*

Paul McKoy (Cousin) - August 16, 2022 at 09:10 PM



“ *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 - August 16, 2022 at 11:37 AM