



Jerris L. Cates-Booker

August 21, 1962 - May 9, 2016

JERRIS LEOLA CATES BOOKER, youngest daughter of the late Willie and Luvenia (Evans) Cates, was born August 21, 1962, in Baltimore, Maryland. She was called to be with Lord on May 9, 2016, after lengthy illness. Her sister, Joyce Cates Vaughan, preceded her in death in January 2016.

She was married to Robert Booker and there were no children from this union. Frisky and Sasha, her dogs, were the other loves of her life. She treated them just like children.

She was a member of Knox Presbyterian Church since birth and sang with the Graham Gospels & Tones of Faith (female choir); she also served as a Junior Usher, and was a member of the Youth Group.

Jerris was educated in the Baltimore City Public School System, and graduated from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School (1980) and Howard University (1984) where she majored in music and singing.

Hugh Carey, her former high school teacher and mentor, helped in developing her classical soprano operatic voice. She further fine-tuned her singing skills at the Peabody Conservatory of Music.

Jerris sang in Baltimore Opera/Lyric Opera Baltimore Chorus for over 20

years and was a valued member of the education/outreach department as well James Harp, founding director of Lyric Opera Baltimore stated, “We will remember her beautiful smile, her fierce fashion sense, and above all that gorgeous, opulent soprano voice.

She was most known for her portrayal as Bess, in the opera “Porgy and Bess”. She toured with Peter Klein and the Living Arts productions from 1988 – 2005 throughout the world and United States. She always wanted to take her nieces and nephews on tour with her, but never had the opportunity. One year she brought them outfits from Japan and they surprised her and wore the outfits for Easter.

She was employed at Big Steaks (Ruth Chris) as an Administrative Assistant since the 2000's Many thanks to Big Steaks, who always allowed her to pursue her musical endeavors. She often sang at both Madison Avenue and Lochearn Presbyterian Churches as a soloist. She had a love for family and friends, and was always ready for family get-together. We all knew she was bringing the sauerkraut for Thanksgiving and a garden salad at all other time, One of her finest family moments was to embrace her youngest great-niece Savannah.

Jerris leaves to cherish her life: brothers, Willie (Arlene) and Quinton (Collen); aunts: Viola Evans and Margaret Evans; nephews, Derrick Vaughan (Deborah Poupolo), Troy Cates (Darice), Wesley Vaughan (Lisa); nieces, Ebony Cates Brown (Antoino) and Tiffney Chen (Michael); devoted friends, Shelton Goins, Dorothy “Dot” Glisson, Eddie Satterfield and Valerie Lewis; along with a host of other relatives and friends.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAY 16. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - East Baltimore
1101 East North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 727-3300
info@marchfh.com

Family Hour

MAY 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - East Baltimore
1101 East North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 727-3300
info@marchfh.com

Wake

MAY 17. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Knox Presbyterian Church
1300 N. Eden Street
Baltimore, MD

Service

MAY 17. 10:30 AM (ET)

Knox Presbyterian Church
1300 N. Eden Street
Baltimore, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Jerris L. Cates-Booker*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Words just cant express how she is missed as a colleague....her sweet spirit and that gorgeous voice singing Summertime.*

Girdon easley - June 28, 2017 at 11:16 AM



“ *To our beloved Aunt Jerris...your beautiful music and everlasting love is in our hearts forever. Rest in peace. We know you are singing with the Angels. All our love, Derrick E. Vaughan, Deborah and Santino*

Deborah Puopolo - May 18, 2016 at 07:22 AM



“ *Dana Thomas Tapley lit a candle in memory of Jerris L. Cates-Booker*



dana thomas tapley - May 17, 2016 at 10:15 PM



To family, May this candle lead you through the darkness of night for Joy comes in the morning. Keep your faith in God and he will give you peace.

dana thomas Tapley-your knox fam - May 17, 2016 at 10:52 PM

MB

“ *May God be with the Cates family. Know that God will never leave of forsake you. We continue to pray that God will comfort you all. We will miss but never forget Jerris's beautiful voice.*
Love,

Wanda and Michael Braxton

Mr and Mrs Braxton - May 17, 2016 at 05:51 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jerris L. Cates-Booker.*



May 16, 2016 at 07:47 PM

WC

“ *Jerris was very special to our family. My mother, Ruth Briddell, also a graduate of Peabody, met Jerris when she was still a student. My parents brought Jerris to sing at Old Otterbein Church in downtown Baltimore every Easter, she sang at my niece's wedding, and blessed us at my mother's memorial in 2004. Her voice was amazing and this world has certainly lost a very special person and an incredible voice. I'm not sure I can make it to Baltimore tomorrow, but just wanted to reach out to her family to offer my deepest sympathies. Perhaps my mother and Jerris will be singing to the heavens.*

Wink Briddell Cowee, Neavitt, MD

Wink Briddell Cowee - May 15, 2016 at 07:42 PM

SH

“ Jerris was one of the sweetest people I have ever known. I have been calling on Steve DeCastro for 20 years and each time I went in to see him she was bright and sweet every time. I will miss her beautiful smile...thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends. Sharon Woschitz

Sharon - May 14, 2016 at 12:07 PM

DS

“ My sincere condolences to the Booker Family. May you find comfort in the promise from the Scriptures at Isaiah 25:8 where we're told that death will be swallowed up and and Jehovah will wipe away the tears from our faces.

D Scott

D Scott - May 14, 2016 at 07:01 AM

T.

“ My heartfelt condolence to the family. May you place your burdens on the shoulders of the MOST HIGH GOD so that he may sustain you all during this difficult time. (Psalms 55:22)

T.Parker - May 13, 2016 at 07:12 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 - May 12, 2016 at 05:23 PM