



Mabeline McFadden Franklin

July 15, 1940 - January 31, 2026

God called His beloved servant, Mabeline McFadden Franklin, to eternal rest on Friday, January 31, 2026.

Mabeline was born on July 15, 1940, in Richmond, Virginia, in the Navy Hill community off 6th Street. She was the youngest child of the late Willie Harrison McFadden and Cassie Stukes McFadden. She attended Navy Hill Elementary School and Maggie Walker High School.

Mabeline began her career at Philip Morris USA at the Stockton Street Plant, and later continued at the Philip Morris Manufacturing Center in South Richmond after its opening in 1973. She served as a laboratory inspector in Bay 2 and was well known and respected throughout the facility. She loved her job and took great pride in her work. She retired in 2003 with thirty-two years of service.

At the age of sixteen, Mabeline met the love of her life, Reginald Franklin. They were united in marriage on December 15, 1958, and from their union were born three daughters: Robin, Iris, and Valerie. Their love was evident to all who knew them. They enjoyed life together, especially spending time with family and friends. It was a great joy to see them take the floor and began to swing dance, which they did with style and pizzazz.

In 1975, the family moved to Henrico, Virginia. There, Mabeline's natural

talent for decorating and gardening flourished. She transformed her home into a beautiful and welcoming space, filled with warmth, style, and professional detail. Outside, she created a peaceful oasis with colorful flowers, tall trees, and carefully manicured landscaping. Mabeline also had an exceptional sense of fashion and loved to sashay in high-heel shoes, which she wore proudly until her health declined.

After moving to Henrico, the family joined Saint James Baptist Church. Mabeline remained a faithful and active member for more than thirty-five years. She loved the Lord and her church family and served faithfully in the Ladies Auxiliary and Ader Shemuel Sheepfold.

Mabeline was a woman who could not be defined by one word. She was sociable, outgoing, friendly, fun, feisty, direct, quick-witted, strong-minded, and opinionated—and never afraid to stand firmly for what she believed. At the same time, she was generous, caring, loyal and deeply devoted to family and friends. She gave quietly to others, without seeking recognition. As in every life, there were challenges: the devastating loss of her daughter and husband and her own battle with serious illness. However, she met each one with remarkable strength, grace, and unwavering trust in the Lord.

Mabeline leaves a legacy of love as a devoted mother, matriarch, sister, and friend. “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three: but the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NKJV).

She was preceded in death by her parents, Willie Harrison McFadden and Cassie Stukes McFadden; her husband, Reginald Franklin; her daughter, Valerie Franklin; and her siblings, Ida M. Boisseau, Willie “Billy” McFadden, Jr., Rev. Delores Robinson Seay; and her son-in-law, Carroll “Goo” Morton.

She is lovingly remembered by her daughters, Robin Franklin-Morton and Iris Farrow; her devoted sister, Jean Woodson; her grandchildren, Chiwale

Farrow, Michael Farrow, Jr., Reginald Farrow, Jade Morton, and Cassidy Morton; her great-grandsons, Ca'lad Farrow and ItzaKing Farrow; two brothers-in-laws, Clarence Franklin and Ronald Johnson; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. She is also lovingly cherished by her lifelong friend, Blanch Ruffin; her lifelong beloved elder, Daisy Mae McFadden; her devoted caregiver, Shaquana Duncan; and her nurse, Marilyn O'Neill.

Watch the funeral service live online:

YouTube:

<https://youtube.com/@sjbcofvarina5087?si=3O28DOgxfLqDineQ>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/sjbcofvarina>

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn Cemetery

4000 Pilots Lane
Richmond, VA 23222

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **19**. 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Avenue
Richmond, VA 23222
(804) 321-4200
info@marchfh.com
<https://www.marchfuneralhomevirginia.com/>

Celebration of life with live streaming

FEB **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. James Baptist Church
2169 New Market Road
Richmond, VA 23231

Tribute Wall

DP

“ *My deepest condolences to the entire family of Mableleen Franklin. Mableleen was a friend to everyone she would meet and she will be truly missed. I pray that God will comfort her family and give them the strength to get through the upcoming difficult days. Dear God bless the caregiver of Mableleen A remarkable well done job.*

Diane Parker - February 20 at 12:34 PM

VW

“ *To Brother Ronald Woodson and family,*

My sincere condolences to you and your family on the loss of your aunt, Mabel Franklin. May God surround you with his peace, love and comfort during this time.

Veronica Williams

Veronica Williams - February 19 at 10:06 PM

FP

“ *Condolences to the Family may God comfort you during this difficult time .*

Freida Parker - February 19 at 09:11 PM

PW

“ Iris and Family,
Our Deepest Condolences go out to you during this difficult time.
May cherished memories bring comfort and solace, and may you
find strength in the love and support of those around you. Our
thoughts and prayers are with you as you navigate this journey of
grief. 🙏❤️

Pamela & Dwight Wiggins

Pamela& Dwight Wiggins - February 19 at 12:26 PM

MF

“ Robin, we are deeply sorry for your loss. You were such a devoted
daughter and a loving caregiver, and your commitment to your
mother was truly beautiful. May God surround you and your family
with strength, comfort, and peace as you navigate this difficult time.

Mautricia Young & family - February 19 at 10:11 AM

RF

“ Raymond McFadden and Family purchased the L
avender Reflections Spray for the family of
Mabeline McFadden Franklin.



Raymond McFadden and Family - February 17 at 10:38 PM

RF

“ Raymond McFadden and Family planted a Memorial Tree in
honor of Mabeline McFadden Franklin.

Raymond McFadden and Family - February 17 at 10:38 PM

R(

“ *Maybeline was my youngest auntie but more like a big sister to me. She always joked and gave me a hard time and I will never forget the enjoyment I had when she was around. I will never forget one of her favorite sayings. “ God does not like ugly.”*
Raymond McFadden, nephew

Raymond McFadden (nephew) - February 17 at 10:05 PM

AJ

“ *Mrs. Mabeline, you will be missed but not forgotten. As you always said to me, “Your daughter from another mother!” Inky (Adriene Hall Johnson) My condolences to the family that are dear to me.*

Adriene Johnson - February 16 at 04:59 PM

CS

“ *My friend of 60 years, I will surely miss you my friend. The good times we shared will forever be in my heart.*



Cherrice Scott - February 15 at 11:40 AM

MS

“ *I had the pleasure of meeting Ms Madeline one summer at a cookout and enjoyed setting and talking with her. She was a joy to be around. She looked at me and said “ you could be my daughter “ and I just fell in love with her. My condolences to her Family. I am so sorry for your loss. Heaven has certainly gained a beautiful angel* ❤️🌹



Marie Smith - February 14 at 08:07 PM

JH

“ To Robin and family your mom and my mom worked at PM together and Robin and i went to school together i love your mother so much my 2nd mom we partied and had a ball I'll keep her memories alive



Jackie Harris - February 12 at 10:12 PM

MS

“ Mabeline ...you was one of my favorite mentors. My condolences love and prayers to your family..



Ms.Edna - February 12 at 10:30 AM

MS

“ My condolences ..love❤️ and prayers🙏 to Pat..Goo and Family Its so many great/ wonderful things I could say about Mabeline ..my most memorable days her fashions and how she and Reggie use to two step❤️ RIH Mabline 🕊️

Ms.Edna - February 12 at 10:19 AM

SP

“ To the Franklin family your mother will be truly miss. She always kept you laughing and smiling and free spirit remarkable. Pat you and your family has my deepest condolences.

Shelia Plummer - February 11 at 04:17 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 - February 11 at 09:49 AM