



## Odessa S. Henderson

August 24, 1946 - March 14, 2017

Odessa S. Henderson was born on August 24, 1946 in Wilmington, North Carolina to Odell and L. Virginia Stackhouse. During her youth, she attended and was baptized at Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church in Wilmington, N.C. She was a proud member of the Williston High School Class of 1965. Soon thereafter, she moved to the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area and went on to further her education to earn a degree in Business from the University of the District of Columbia. She later married and was blessed with a beautiful Daughter Robin, whom she managed to raise on her own into a beautiful, dynamic, phenomenal, Woman.

In 1966, she began her career at the National Institute of Health and worked for the National Cancer Institute for 46 years. During that time as a Contract Specialist, she enjoyed her work negotiating contracts of hundreds of clinical trials for cancer research. Over the years, Odessa had been active in the NIH Chapter of Blacks in Government. She served as Financial Secretary as well as member of the Fundraising Committee. She also volunteered her time with the Montgomery County District 19 Democratic Club, an organization that she lovingly supported. With no questions asked, she was always available to lend a hand a friend or organization in need.

Odessa was the biggest Washington Redskins fan and loved supporting her "HOGS," win or lose. She could often be heard and seen ribbing on ANY

Dallas Cowboys fan she came in contact with. She thoroughly enjoyed doing crossword puzzles, drinking coffee and watching her favorite television shows: Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, American Idol and almost any one of the Judge/Court TV shows one can think of. She could be seen tapping her foot to music from Prince, Rod Stewart, Elton John, Michael Jackson, or Whitney Houston. Odessa enjoyed her almost daily coffee talk conversations and texts with her Sisters, chatting it up about the latest and greatest in each other's lives.

Though all these things mattered to her greatly, she was most proud of her daughter Robin, son-in-law Ralph and their family. She supported Robin throughout her life, helping her with papers for school, or picking up last minute items any loving Mother would do. She loved her immensely. Her grandchildren, Capri, Courtney, and Camille, were the highlight of her life. "Nana," as she was affectionately known, could often be heard doting on them to anyone who cared to listen. After her retirement, she often was seen running up and down the road going to school events, sports practices or even taking them to her favorite store, Dollar Tree. She will be deeply missed.

She is survived by her daughter Robin Henderson-Glover (Ralph), granddaughters Capri, Courtney and Camille, her mother L. Virginia Stackhouse, her sisters Mamie Wright, Loretta Stackhouse and Karen Stackhouse, her niece Shawena Turner (Alfred) and her grandniece, Nia. She was preceded in death by her father, Odell Stackhouse, and her brother, Percy Stackhouse. Cherished friends of hers, Vivian Brown, Clara Smith, Shirl Brinson, Dianne Gray and Almeta Prather (R.I.P.) along with other relatives and friends will truly miss her.

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

MAR 26. 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore  
4300 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 542-2400  
info@marchfh.com

## Family Hour

MAR 26. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore  
4300 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 542-2400  
info@marchfh.com

## Wake

MAR 27. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

St. John Baptist Church  
9055 Tamar Drive  
Columbia, MD 21045

## Service

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MAR 27. 12:30 PM (ET)

St. John Baptist Church  
9055 Tamar Drive  
Columbia, MD 21045

# Tribute Wall



“ *Odessa S. Henderson*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *I Love You Mommy! Rest In Paradise*



**Robin Henderson-Glover** - March 27, 2017 at 01:37 AM



“ *Garden of Memories was purchased for the family of Odessa S. Henderson.*



March 24, 2017 at 11:15 PM



“ *Michael and Dianne Gray purchased the Tropical Tribute Spray for the family of Odessa S. Henderson.*



**Michael and Dianne Gray** - March 24, 2017 at 05:05 PM

TF

“ Tommy Gause and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Odessa S. Henderson.



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**Tommy Gause and Family** - March 21, 2017 at 11:45 AM

SH

“ Words cannot express the many fond memories shared with Odessa during our years at NCI. Not only was she a respected co worker but also a dear friend. She always treated people with the greatest respect. She will be sorely missed.

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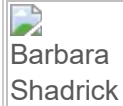
**Susan Hoffman** - March 20, 2017 at 03:53 PM

JB

*I remember her as Oddie. There are too memories shared with us since 1975. From the dreary basement of the Blair Bldg, then we graduated to the 2nd floor where we had windows to all the way to Executive Plaza where it took us so far from where we had our daughters in daycare in Silver Springs. Oddie was one of the smartest people I knew. She was so rounded in knowledge and spirits. She could speak to anyone about anything. She loved her soaps and cross word puzzles. We shared so much that I used to tell her I want to be like her when I grew up. But she left too soon. She was always misunderstood with a soft heart and people did not realize she could be a ball of fire. Robin your mom loved you dearly and made a life time of sacrifices for you because she wanted the best for you. She is going to be missed but she lives in you and her grand babies. She was my best friend and you were like a daughter to me. If ever you need me, I'm just down the road and a phone call away. Love Jacque*

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**Jacque Ballard** - March 24, 2017 at 09:37 PM



Barbara Shadrick

“ *It's not often in life you get to know a person as truly loving and caring as Odessa. I worked with her for so many years at NCI and she could quickly make you forget the stress of the job with her positive personality. She will surely be missed. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy. Barbara Shadrick*

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**Barbara Shadrick** - March 20, 2017 at 10:45 AM

MM

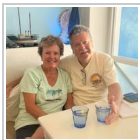
*The Williston Class of 1965 in Wilmington NC send their condolences and heartfelt sympathy. Blessings and love...Minister Barbara Page McCray.*

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**Minister Barbara McCray** - March 24, 2017 at 06:57 AM

VE

*To Robin and Family, May the constant love of caring family and friends soften your sadness. May the many cherished memories of your wonderful and loving mother bring you moments of comfort. May everlasting peace surround your grieving heart. Vernice, Melissa, Richard, Jr. and Idell.*

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**Vernice** - March 24, 2017 at 05:25 PM



“ *Robin, please accept our heartfelt love and prayers at this difficult time. I worked with Odessa for many years at the NCI, and she was a remarkable lady. She and my son Kyle became fast buddies when he visited me at work...,she even let him straighten up her office once. She will be missed. Hugs, Karen, Paul, and Kyle McFarlane*

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**Karen McFarlane** - March 20, 2017 at 10:16 AM



“ I'm very sorry to hear that Odessa has passed. I only knew her a few months before she retired from NCI, but we had some nice conversations here and there. I send my condolences to her family and longer time friends. *Christine Biser*

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**Christine Biser** - March 20, 2017 at 09:00 AM

KF

“ My condolences to the Glover family. Ms. Odessa, a wonderful, witty woman. Always a joy, to be in her presence. To the family, be encouraged, I love you.

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**Karla Fletcher** - March 19, 2017 at 01:20 PM

DG

“ My husband and I extend our deepest condolences to the Henderson, Glover and Stackhouse families. Odessa was beautiful, intelligent, articulate and witty. She was like a big sister to me. We loved her deeply and she will always be in our hearts forever. *Mr. Michael and Mrs. Dianne M. Gray*

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**Dianne Gray** - March 18, 2017 at 04:27 PM

RT

“ My deepest condolences to the Henderson and Glover family. Ms. Odessa was always so kind and gave me one of my best friends, Robin. My prayers and sympathies are with you all.

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**Rashida Tyler** - March 17, 2017 at 07:18 PM

KS

“ Odessa was a rare person who knew how to respond quickly and appropriately in a crisis. She had a sharp mind and a quick wit which she often displayed while watching tv programs she loved like Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy, and Judge Judy. No matter how poorly they played, Dessa rooted for the Washington Redskins!!!! But her grandkids were her favorite joy and she talked about them every chance she got. I'm proud to say Odessa was my sister and she was loved. She will be missed.

*Karen Stackhouse*

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**Karen Stackhouse** - March 17, 2017 at 01:08 PM

DB

“ With my deepest condolences to the family of Odessa Henderson. May the Almighty, the God of tender mercies and of all comfort, who comforts us in all our trials (2Corinthians1:3,4), comfort you and your family in this time of need.

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**D Barnes** - March 16, 2017 at 08:13 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.

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**March Funeral Homes** - March 16, 2017 at 08:05 AM

BB

*To Odessa's Family,*

*"Odessa and I were classmates and friends. She had a very witty personality and enjoyed being involved in activities in school and liked by many. Please accept my deepest condolences. May God be with you in your time of bereavement."*

*Brenda Robinson-Baptist & Family.*

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**Brenda Robinson Baptist** - March 23, 2017 at 11:30 AM