



Josephine Wilkinson

February 11, 1941 - June 2, 2018

Obituary

My mother's journey is an interesting one and a traditional obituary just will not do it justice. She had such an amazing and blessed life. In my unconventional way I will attempt to share a brief narrative history of her life.

Mama was born Josephine Seniors, the only daughter of Florence Elizabeth Seniors, on February 11, 1941. At the age of 6 months old, her mother left her in the care of Mrs. Nannie Bentley, a 75 year old widow, who raised her until she was around 5 years old. Mama said that it was that time spent with BiBi that laid the foundation for the rest of her life. She shared vivid memories of her early years living in the shack on Jackson Street where she could lie in the bed and see the stars through the cracks in the roof, of going downtown with Ms. Bibi and of riding the train to Chicago. Ms. Bibi would live to be 107 years old.

Mama entered school at the tender age of 5. Ms. Bibi would not send her when it was cold outside so she missed a great deal of school and had to repeat first grade-which put her right where she should have been. She always found favor with her teachers and was often teacher's pet. She loved to dance and was often in school productions. She loved to tell me stories about her and Ms. Lottie's adventures and how she was always trying to escape from Ronald Isley and his gang. By the time she was 10 years old, her mother Florence and her father, Taylor Hughes, married and moved into the house on Jackson Street that Ms. BiBi gave to mama. Mama then became Josephine Hughes. Mama had fun as a teenager, whether it was going to dances with friends, running with her cousin Anna in Middletown or going down to the country to ride horses with Sandy and Charles.

For high school mama attended a couple of different schools, telling me that she would just go and enroll herself never needed help from Pooh (Florence). She used to tell me about riding the bus downtown to Hughes High School with Ms. Lottie and how the other kids would tease her and call her grandma because she would twiddle her thumbs. Willie

even used to say she has been an old lady all her life (smile). Mama graduated from Lincoln Heights and briefly worked in the office as a secretary.

From a very early age mama always went to Sunday school and church. She remembers being the only little girl in the Sunday school class with all the "old" people. Mama was a faithful member of Friendship Baptist church most of her life, however she did join and serve at Lincoln Height Baptist for a period of time. Even though mama's childhood was spent in church, it was not until she was an adult that she accepted Christ as her savior at a Billy Graham crusade. She said she used to think just being a good person was enough then she learned that you must confess your sins, ask for forgiveness and accept the free gift of salvation. She grew in her love of the Lord and wanted to share His saving grace with the world. One of the things mama loved to do was to pass out tracts where ever she went. She also loved young people and they loved her. Mama worked with the teens and young adults at Friendship for many years. I believe her love has positively impacted the lives of generations of young people.

Mama married Alfred Allman and they moved in to a tidy little apartment in the Valley Homes. Lisa was born shortly after. The combination of being young and new parents put stress on the relationship and they soon parted ways and Josie took her daughter and moved back home with her parents. She knew she needed a way to provide for Lisa so she went to nursing school and worked for a short while at Drake Hospital.

Prior to marrying Alfred, mama met and became friends with the Hamiltons- Willie, Gwen and Fred. Willie was crazy about Josie! He left school and home but somehow managed to keep in contact with Josie. While she was married to Alfred, Willie was drafted. I recently found an entire box of letters he wrote her while he was away. They married shortly after he returned to Cincinnati. He raised Lisa as his own and seven years later I was born. (Cue cameras and flashing lights) Mama and Willie also raised my cousin Ricky as my brother-so glad, we had a lot of fun growing up together!

Anyway, mama and Willie bought the house that we still live in and set out to build a life together. After a number of different jobs they both ended up at Avon Products. Mama started out in accounting. The stories I can tell about her time there. One in particular that stands out in my mind is the time she was having problems with a supervisor and could not seem to get it resolved. We took a trip to New York City so she could voice her grievance to the corporate office. Besides this episode, mama had a great time at Avon and made some very dear friends. I am afraid to name them because I fear I may leave someone out but here it goes: I remember stories about Ms. Delilah, Ms. Mary, Ms. Joyce, Ms. Etta, and Ms. Rose. Her early set of friends- Ms. Chris and Ms. Juanita- retired and

moved away, but they were her group of friends that introduced mama to international travel. Her first trip abroad was to Mexico when I was just a baby.

Little did she know but this trip lit a fire in her that would lead her to six of the seven continents and over four decades of travel. Mama has been visited: Canada, Mexico (6-7 times), Belize, Guatemala, Panama, Colombia, Haiti, St. Maarten, Aruba, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, India, Thailand, Turkey, Egypt, Greece, England, France, Switzerland, Italy, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Morocco, Portugal, just to name a few.

When she wasn't traveling she was keeping up with her grandkids. Dewann was the only grandchild for several years and he enjoyed all of mama's attention. When Danielle came along, Willie and mama took an active role in her rearing. Mama especially enjoyed buying them interesting and unique outfits and taking them on family vacation. I was allowed to go as well as the travel nanny (smile- I loved every minute of it). One of the things she made sure they children had was bible stories that she played for them constantly. When my boys came along the same was true and she traveled to Atlanta often to see Joey perform or Evan play soccer. In the past several years we have made so many memories in our favorite place, St. Simons Island. It will be hard to go back knowing mama will never get to sit on the pier again and eat junk food. She loved all her grandkids believed they could do anything if they put their minds to it and she always prayed for them. She started babysitting and spoiling a couple of James's great grandkids along the way- Tionne, Mariah and Kylie. The last baby she loved on was Levi, Dewann's son.

Mama and Willie were married 35 years before he passed away in 2000. This was a shock to mama and the whole family. But this was not end of her story. God was working on a part 2 that began in 2004. James remembers first seeing mama when they were kids and he and Eugene Jenkins were playing in the vacant lot beside mama's house. He says that when he got her number and called her she kept laughing on the phone and he thought she was laughing at him. No one could have imagined that 60 years later they would reconnect after the passing of his late wife. They struck up a friendship that quickly grew and in 2007 mama and James, Corey and I got married in a double ceremony. Dewann, Danielle and my boys got a new grandfather that loved to swim and spend time teaching them things. James' children welcomed mama into the family and she enjoyed spending time getting to know all of them and babysitting for the great-grands. For ten years we have built a life together, through the good times, births and graduations; to the hard times, Lisa and Pooh's passing; James has been a constant source of support for mama and all of us and I want to thank him for loving and caring for mama.

When mama was diagnosed with liver cancer she never cried because she was not afraid of death. She had a blessed assurance of her eternity with Jesus. Oh that we all live our lives with that same assurance. She was ready when He called. Though we are saddened to see her go, we know that to be absent in the body is to be present with the Lord.

Preceding her in death are her beloved mother, Florence Hughes; her father, Taylor Hughes; her husband, Will Hamilton; her daughter, Lisa McReynolds.

Mama leaves to cherish her memory her husband James Wilkinson; daughter Aprell Hamilton Taylor (Corey); son Richard Foster; Step-daughters Angie Wilkinson, Gwendolyn Brown (Harold), Deborah Neal (Michael); Step-sons James Wilkinson, Jr. (Yvette), Dwayne Wilkinson, DaMarcus Wilkinson (Brandee); one granddaughter, Danielle Horsley; three grandsons: Dewann McReynolds, Joel Hamilton and Will Evan Taylor; one great grandson: Levi McReynolds (mother Vasia Taite); one uncle, Raymond Hughes; one brother-in-law Fredrick Hamilton (Karen); godson Dwight Campbell; special nephew Byron Brown, and a host of extended family and dear friends.

If any names were omitted, please remember I am under a tremendous amount of pressure. I am trying to remember as much as I can. Charge any omission to my HEAD and not my HEART.

Cemetery

Oak Hill Cemetery
11200 Princeton Pike
Springdale, OH, 45246

Events

JUN 8 **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

Thompson, Hall & Jordan Funeral Home
11400 Winton Rd, Forest Park, OH, US, 45240

JUN 9 **Funeral** 11:00AM

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
866 Congress Avenue, Cincinnati, OH, US, 45215

Comments



“ So sorry to hear of Josephine's passing. I remember her as such a nice person and someone easy to talk to. My prayers and condolences to the family.



Joretta Kidd (Wilkinson) - June 09, 2018 at 09:50 PM



“ Joretta Kidd (Wilkinson) lit a candle in memory of Josephine Wilkinson



Joretta Kidd (Wilkinson) - June 09, 2018 at 09:46 PM



“ Sending condolences to the family. May God bless each of you for the rest of your days on this earth.



Valerie Lawrence - June 08, 2018 at 09:10 PM



“ Praying your family. May God give you peace.



Evie Caver-Williams - June 08, 2018 at 01:52 PM



“ Superior Document Solutions purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Josephine Wilkinson.



Superior Document Solutions - June 07, 2018 at 12:36 PM



“ A special lady, always a kind word and a beautiful smile. Thank you for being so kind and loving to me.



Shirley Salter - June 06, 2018 at 08:49 PM



“ The Lord brought Josie into my life a year ago February. We shared life stories and pictures of each others life. Only God know why He found it necessary to bring us together before He called her home, and I thank Him for that. I am glad that he allowed me to tell her I loved her before she left and she was able to tell me the same. I am going to miss her but I am glad we had the time we did.

Gina Brown - June 06, 2018 at 02:14 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Josephine Wilkinson.



June 06, 2018 at 02:04 PM



“ The Lord put Josy in my life a year ago February and within that year we shared so many beautiful stories about each other and share so many feelings. I don't know why God brought her into my life for the short time that He did but I thank Him and I am going to miss her so much. I love you Josy and I will miss you more than you know.

Gina Brown - June 06, 2018 at 01:46 PM



“ Bill and Annette Malone purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Josephine Wilkinson.



Bill and Annette Malone - June 06, 2018 at 06:47 AM



“ She always greeted me with a warm smile and kind words.

S Inayah Abdullah (Wilkinson) - June 06, 2018 at 05:44 AM



“ S Inayah Abdullah (Wilkinson) lit a candle in memory of Josephine Wilkinson





“ Kathy Kinsey sent a virtual gift in memory of Josephine Wilkinson



Kathy Kinsey - June 05, 2018 at 07:47 PM



“ Dea. Wilkinson, Aprell, Dewann, and Danielle, for as long as I can remember her love and warm smile, kind words and sweet laugh was a bright spot on any day. She was truly an angel on earth, and will truly be missed. Please kiss my boys Maurice and Mateo for me until we are all together again.

Love always,
Nancy & Nevaeh Coakley with
Mark, Terrika and Maya Coakley-McCoy

The Coakley-McCoy Families - June 05, 2018 at 04:12 PM



“ To James and Aprell, Sharing in your sorrow. I will always remember "Josie" as first my schoolmate, then my sister in law and lastly my niece. We shared lots of memories through our children and family. So sorry for our loss. My thoughts and prayers will be with you all in this hour and the hours to come. May GOD keep you and carry you through this at this time and in times to come. Beverly.



Beverly R Clay - June 05, 2018 at 08:25 AM



“ To the Family We are so sorry for your loss but we know that she is with God now and in no pain. To James remember the garter you caught and it will bring you peace. We will keep you in our prayers. Love Pete and Stella Fraziers

estella frazier - June 05, 2018 at 07:10 AM



“ Vickie Patton & Family lit a candle in memory of Josephine Wilkinson



Vickie Patton & Family - June 05, 2018 at 06:22 AM



“ Kathy lit a candle in memory of Josephine Wilkinson



Kathy - June 04, 2018 at 09:09 PM



“ Sending condolences to April. Dwann, Danielle and Deacon Wilkinson. Praying for strength for this difficult time.



Francine Coburn - June 04, 2018 at 08:30 PM



“ Betty Ware lit a candle in memory of Josephine Wilkinson



Betty Ware - June 04, 2018 at 07:08 PM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Sending my prayers and condolences to the Wilkinson family .

Betty Ware - June 04, 2018 at 07:11 PM