

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



Joyce Ann Cunningham

SUNRISE

May 21, 1955

SUNSET

August 2, 2016

ABSENT FROM BODY, PRESENT WITH THE LORD

OBITUARY



Joyce Ann Cunningham was born on May 21, 1955 in Kingstree, S.C. to her parents, Lawrence and Virginia Cunningham.

She graduated from Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn, NY and earned her B.A. in Communication from The New York Institute of Technology. She also received a B.S. in Early Childhood Education from Guilford Technical Community College in Greensboro N.C. She worked for Guilford Child Development in North Carolina for 11 years and also ran her own business teaching early childhood.

Joyce's greatest joy was her daughter Katrina. These two had an amazing and unbreakable bond—and eternal bond of love. She raised Katrina to be just as strong and independent as she was. Joyce also cherished the very special relationship she had with her mother, Virginia. Always checking on each other to make sure the other was okay, this mother-daughter duo was more like sisters or best friends.

Joyce loved working with children. She took pride in her job—molding these young people and giving them the guidance and tools to be the best of the best young men and women of tomorrow.

Jazz music was a favorite for Joyce, but she had her fiery side too and would throw down to Aretha Franklin, Patti LaBelle and even a little Lauren Hill. Her favorite color was green and she would often say it reminded her of money. Now, we would not be talking about Joyce if we did not mention her absolute most favorite place in the world, Wal-Mart. On a good day, a bad day, a cold day, a warm day, well, just about any day was a Wal-Mart day! For Joyce, shopping in Wal-Mart, was a good time.

A wonderful woman with a big heart, Joyce was always there when you needed her and never turned her back on anyone. She never asked for much, except what was necessary. Although she didn't go to church as often as she would have liked, her faith in God was strong.

Joyce was preceded in death by her father, Lawrence Cunningham, who passed on August 31, 1975. She is survived by her daughter, Dr. Katrina Roberts; her parents, Virginia Cunningham and John Walls; her five brothers Andre, Terry, Tracy, Raymond, and Donte; her one and only sister Cliftina, and her two sisters-in-law, Tosha and Sade. She also leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, family and friends

Joyce you loved all who were in your circle and they love you back even more. You will be missed, always.

**For every thing there is
a season, and a time
for every matter under
heaven: a time to be
born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a
time to pluck up what
is planted.**

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-2)

LETTER TO MY MOTHER

Hello My Madee, Mommy, Ma, Mother

For my entire life you have been by my side, in that time you have been my mother, my best friend, my confidant, my teacher, my ace, my faithful companion and my biggest cheerleader.

You dedicated your life to caring, nurturing and providing for me. You pushed me when I needed to be pushed, comforted me when I needed that embrace. When I needed an ear, you just listened. When I need a shoulder to cry on, you opened your arms.

I have learned strength by watching you struggle, love by watching you care for others. And even though I don't have much, I've learned patience by watching you keep calm under pressure. You never turned your back on anyone no matter how they treated you.

I never got to tell you how proud of you I truly was. When you went back to school, while raising three kids and graduating in a field that fit you perfectly, teaching.

Words cannot express the pain, emptiness and loneliness I feel not having you here. My heart aches, I am completely numb, the world is moving but since you've been gone, I am at a standstill. I feel like the biggest part of me is gone.

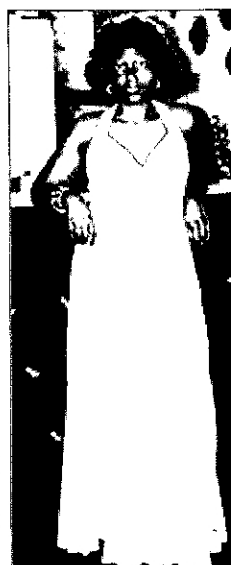
I hope that wherever you have gone, you are at peace. You fought a good fight for four and a half years. Refusing to give up, you battled until the end. I hope you don't remember those last four days of your life, but remember the 61 years of happiness, love, and joy you bought to everyone in your world.

I am beyond lucky, honored and blessed to have had you as my mom. You are, were and forever will be, my heart my joy, my world, my everything, my mother.

With All My Love, Katrina



IN MEMORY OF JOYCE CUNNINGHAM



MEMORIAL SERVICE

What then shall we
say to these things?
If God is for us, who
can be against us?

(Romans 8:31)

Friday, August 12, 2016

Viewing 4pm - 5pm / Service 5pm - 6pm

Greater Rose of Sharon Church

224 Buffalo Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11213

Officiating Pastor

Rev. Gregory Anderson

Organ Prelude

Processional (*Please Stand*) Family

Selection: *How Great Thou Art* Choir

Scripture Reading

Old Testament Reading: *Ecclesiastes 3:1-4* Elder McMillan

New Testament Reading: *John 14:1-4* Elder McMillan

Prayer of Comfort Joe Williams

Selection: *It Is Well With My Soul* Choir

Reflections Jennifer Anisette

Anyone else wishing to say a few words in tribute
to Joyce may do so at this time (3-5 minutes)

Acknowledgment of Condolences Tierra Anderson

Obituary Tierra Anderson

Selection: *His Eye Is On The Sparrow*

Eulogy Rev. Gregory Anderson

Selection

Final Viewing

Prayer of Departure

Recessional: When We All Go To Heaven

Fear not, for I am with
you; be not dismayed,
for I am your God; I will
strengthen you, I will
help you, I will uphold
you with my righteous
right hand ... For I, the
LORD your God, hold
your right hand; it is I
who say to you, "Fear
not, I am the one who
helps you."

(Isaiah 41:10-13)

FAMILY TRIBUTES



To My Daughter: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Joyce, you were my Heaven on Earth my World. Joyce, we spent some of the most wonderful times together and I thank you for those wonderful memories. I will miss you walking through my door, I will miss our conversations. Baby, I will miss you. I'm sorry if I didn't tell you I loved you every day a million times a day but Joyce, my first born, I love you!

Always, Mom

Joyce, I want to thank you for all that you have done for me. I appreciate everything. Without your guidance, I wouldn't be half the man that I am today. I can't imagine not being able to call you when I need advice or just want to talk. I love you and will always hold you close to my heart!

Love Always, Tracy

Dear Aunt Joyce, Noah and I will miss you, I am so glad he got a chance to spend some time with you and bond during breakfast every morning. (He knew you would be up making his breakfast.) We love you very much!

Love, Jasmine & Noah

To my Beautiful Sister: Although you are gone, I can still feel you are with me. My emotions are sad because you are no longer here, but please rest assure, I love you for all you've instilled in me mentally, physically and emotionally. I find comfort in knowing you'll be walking beside me as well as looking over me. Until we meet again, I Love You ALWAYS!

Your little brother, Andre

When I think about you Joyce, my sister, I think about how strong you were. You taught me a lot over the years, like the importance of my life and how I cannot always depend on others to do anything for me. You gave me a sense of independence and when needed, tough love. You loved kids and yard sales and on Saturday mornings you would wake me and say, "Terry, come go with me to a yard sale." That became our special time we shared. And, although I was tired and wanted to rest, a part of me looked forward to that time with you, Sis. It hurts to know we won't have that time again but I have so many memories of the times we did share. I know you were greeted with open arms by so many of our loves ones. Sleep in heavenly peace. I love you and miss you, but I take solace in knowing that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord, so I know your good!

Love You Always, Terry

**Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.**

(Matthew 5:4)

During your time of sorrow, bring your family together and not pull it apart. Realize that each person is different and will grieve in ways you may not understand. Be patient and find ways to support each other.



IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION

The family of the late Joyce Cunningham would like to take this time to say thank you to everyone for their love, support and prayers through this difficult time.

We give a special acknowledgment to three of Joyce's close friends Helen Porter, Jennifer Anisette and Joann Hall. We appreciate each of you for being there when she needed you, even when she was not at her best.

Arrangements: Park Avenue Funeral Home
121 Park Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205