



Gladys Lucille Upshur

June 30, 1951 - January 28, 2025

GLADYS' JOURNEY

Gladys Lucille Upshur was born to the late Lillie Florence Upshur and James Otis Johnson in Northampton County, Virginia on June 30, 1951. She departed this earthly life on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 in her home. She was affectionately known as “Gladys Mae”, “Ma Duke” and “Do Do Brown.”

Gladys received her education from the Northampton Country Public School System. She was a member of Restoration Outreach Healing Ministries under the leadership of Bishop JoAnn McCrary. She served on hospitality ministry and as one of the church mothers, she faithfully attended church until her health started to decline.

Gladys worked at a number of places including Perdue, Little Caesars and McDonalds where she touched many hearts along the way.

Gladys' life was a true testament of how nurturing and loving she was. From a young age, she dropped out of school to help take care of her siblings. She dedicated over thirty (30) years to being a daycare provider. She took care of her mom, helped to raise her grandchildren and practically everyone's children. She was an encourager who did not hesitate to help anyone in need. If she could, she would give her last without a second thought.

Gladys loved to cook, bake, watch her favorite TV shows and she absolutely loved all things leopard. But most of all she loved her family.

Gladys leaves to cherish her memories: two aunts, Louise Upshur of Belle Haven, Virginia and Mary Williams of Eastville, Virginia; seven siblings, Irene Upshur of Trenton, New Jersey, Bobby Upshur of Trenton New Jersey, Barbara Upshur of Exmore, Virginia, Victoria (Alfred) Holmes of Painter, Virginia, Fred Upshur of Chesapeake, Virginia, Robert (Connie) Upshur of Hampton, Virginia and Mack Upshur of York, Pennsylvania; three children, Alexis (Dwayne) Allen of Melfa, Virginia, Leticia Barnes of Cheriton, Virginia and Christopher Upshur of Trenton, New Jersey; ten grandchildren, Ishamekia (Marquie), Regineka (Crca), Aizmani, Heavenlei, Christopher, Jr. Kristian, Cianna, Cherish, Destiny and Kahleya; four great-grandchildren, Jazyiah, Ikerya, Tahj, and Yvonne; special friend, Carleen Battle and a host of nieces, nephews and loved ones.

Gladys was preceded in death by: her mother, Lillie Florence Upshur and father, James Otis Johnson; sister, Lillie Mae Upshur; brother, Wilbert Church; grandson, Orlando Upshur and two special cousins, Big Brown and Junior.

LOVINGLY SUBMITTED ~ THE FAMILY

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 8. 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church (Painter)
17450 Coal Kiln Road
Painter, VA 23420

Funeral Service

FEB 8. 12:00 PM (ET)

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church (Painter)
17450 Coal Kiln Road
Painter, VA 23420

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Bennie Smith Funeral Home - February 06, 2025 at 12:51 PM



“ *Bennie Smith Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gladys Lucille Upshur*



Bennie Smith Funeral Home - February 06, 2025 at 12:51 PM

BW

“ *Sorry to hear of your passing. This is your cousin Barbara. Sorry I couldn't attend the funeral, I was helping my brothers get the paperwork to put my mother in the nursing home. My prayers and thoughts are with you. I'm not doing good myself. The doctor told me not to go to her by myself. My nerves are messed up 💕💕 You now.*

Cousin Barbara and John West

Barbara West - February 09, 2025 at 09:33 AM

CK

“ *This is Christine Kellam again I just want to let the family to no that I couldn't make it there today cause I just have surgery on the 4 of February*

Christine Kellam - February 08, 2025 at 12:21 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gladys Lucille Upshur.*



February 07, 2025 at 08:19 AM



“ *Our prayers and condolences to the family.*

Vanessa and Frizzell Burton - February 05, 2025 at 07:53 PM



“ *Heartfelt condolences goes out to the entire Upshur family. I had the pleasure of knowing Mrs Duke as we called her since a young kid in the neighborhood. She has always been a very sweet, kind and loving person. You will be missed by all. Rest in peace Mom Duke. Luv u much and will see you on the other side.*



gregory johnson - February 04, 2025 at 11:27 PM



My Condolences goes out to the family Gladys was like family to me i loved her and her family, wherever I saw her she had a smile for you. R.I.P

Mary Thomas AKA Jenny - February 05, 2025 at 08:05 AM



My condolences goes out to the family and she going to be miss she was a good person and special friend to me.

Christine kellam - February 08, 2025 at 12:10 PM

CH

Please accept our condolences to the entire Upshur Family. We extend our love and prayers to you!

Claudette J. Davis (nee Hyslop) - February 08, 2025 at 03:07 PM