



## Marilyn Jean Motley

July 8, 1941 - September 6, 2021

Marilyn Jean Motley, affectionately known as "Sister", was born on July 8, 1941, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to the late Cleo and Alfred Brown. Marilyn was raised by Sina Smith and grew up in South Philadelphia. She graduated from South Philadelphia High School. After high school, in 1966, Marilyn was united in marriage to Harry James Miller. and that union was blessed with five children. On October 17, 1994, Harry, Sr. passed away. Marilyn was the true matriarch of the family and was a role model. She loved reading books. Her favorite book was the Bible and her favorite books in the Bible was Psalms and Revelations. Reading God's word inspired her so much that she decided to start a Bible class, teaching children and adults. Marilyn was baptized on September 19, 1976, by Reverend Camila Brown, at New Birth United Holiness Church in Philadelphia.

Marilyn had many achievements including graduating from cosmetology school in 1979 then opening her own Beauty shop. Additionally, in 1982, she received her Certificate of Ordination as a Minister. In 1985, she attended PCC Career Institute in Philadelphia to become a nursing assistant. In 1988, Marilyn went to school for Practical Nursing at Chester Upland. In March of 1996, she became a licensed nurse. She received an award for computer training in March 2002; a certificate for Evangelistic World Outreach, Inc., in July 2006; Certificate of Ordination the Gospel Ministry, in October, 2007; Christian World of College of Theology Bachelor of Ministry, in July 2009; and a Certificate of Appreciation Minister Award, in June 2014, for teaching

Vacation Bible School.

Marilyn loved staying up talking with her granddaughter, sharing memes and going over family history. She often prayed together with her family and friends. She liked watching TV and movies. She especially liked "In Our Mothers' Gardens" (on Netflix) with Dr. Koko @comptonauthor and summer of soul movies. Marilyn liked watching a few episodes of Lovecraft Country. The first episode she watched, she covered her eyes for most of the ending with her granddaughter.

Marilyn enjoyed trying new foods and fixing the healthy version of her favorites every night. Her favorites included liver and onions, watermelon, snow crabs, liverwurst, sherbet and butter almond ice-cream. She also enjoyed baking cookies. She treasured teaching her family how to garden, from her flowers, herbs and vegetable garden and the art of making soap. She derived much pleasure from crafting and was always creating. She had to stay busy. While working, she loved humming songs like "What a Friend We Have in Jesus". In addition, she liked to sing songs by Sly and the Family Stone as well as all the Mahalia Jackson songs. She LOVED listening to gospel! Not only did she listen on Sunday, but also while writing her sermons, curling her hair, and painting her nails.

Later, Marilyn met and married Jacob Motley and they made their life in Seaford, Delaware, until his passing on 3/16/2016.

Marilyn leaves to cherish her loving memories, five children, Renee Brown, Sharon Brown-Myers (Roy); Harry J. Miller, Jr. (Korey), Zaccheus Miller and Keith Miller; one sister, Edna Jackson; one foster brother, Austin Quick; one foster son, Harold Alexander; one godson, Mark Upshur; 14 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Zion Church San Domingo

25750 Cooper Mill Road  
Mardela Springs, MD 21837

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **18**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Matthews First Baptist Church  
32129 Wolfe Street  
Laurel  
Laurel, DE 19956

## Funeral Service

SEP **18**. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Matthews Church Cemetery  
32129 Wolfe Street  
Laurel, DE 19956

# Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

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**Bennie Smith Funeral Home** - September 17, 2021 at 05:08 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marilyn Jean Motley.*



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September 17, 2021 at 04:36 PM

SD

“ *Life is but a stopping place,  
A pause in what's to be,  
A resting place along the road,  
to sweet eternity.*



*We all have different journey's,  
Different paths along the way,  
We all were meant to learn some things,  
but were never meant to stay...*

*Our destination is a place,  
Far greater than we know,  
For some, the journey's quicker,  
For some the journey's slow.*

*And when the journey finally ends,  
We'll claim a great reward,  
And find an everlasting peace,  
together with the Lord."  
by Anonymous*

*My thoughts and prayers to the family. I'm really going to miss talking, laughing, and working with Ms. Marilyn. This world lost a great person!*

*Shellene Davis*

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**Shellene Davis** - September 17, 2021 at 02:05 AM

TH

“ My deepest condolences 🌸 to Shante Brown and Family



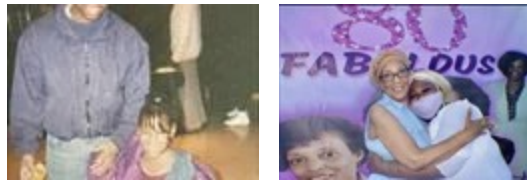
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**Tammy Hickson** - September 16, 2021 at 07:43 AM

CM

“ I will always love you Grandmom thank you everything you did for me as a child I can't stop thinking about it was a lot I had to tell you

□



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**christine miller** - September 15, 2021 at 11:28 AM

CM

“ Grandmom I will for always love you I know sometimes I didn't come see you as I should but know that I will always cherish all the good memories as a kids in til I turn to a young lady you was there when I graduated high school cheering me on and still was either if we live a far distance I call you one day to pray for me over the phone because I almost lost my life and you did you told me to get a bible and pray and you prayed for me that was or last conversation we had thank you for that

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**christine miller** - September 15, 2021 at 11:23 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Marilyn Jean Motley.



September 14, 2021 at 08:23 PM



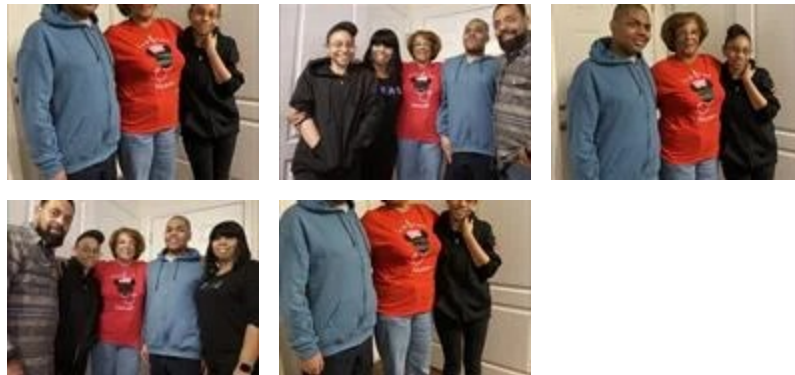
“ Sylvia Batson lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Jean Motley



Sylvia Batson - September 14, 2021 at 09:45 AM



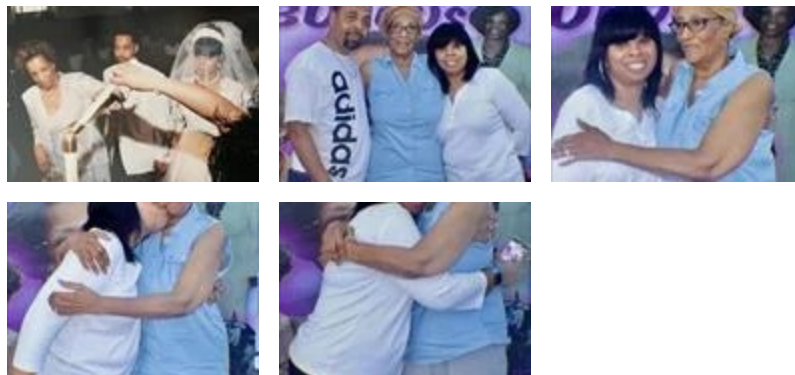
“ You're definitely going to be missed!!❤️



KOREY MILLER - September 12, 2021 at 11:02 AM

KM

“ *My Bonus Mom For Thirty-three Years  
No more suffering mom. Until we meet again.  
I will take good care of your son, Harry.  
You will never be forgotten.  
I love you!❤️  
Love Always & Forever  
Your Daughter, Korey*



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**KOREY MILLER** - September 12, 2021 at 07:59 AM

EE

*To the family of my sister motley you have my sympathy, she is loved by Bernette and I not was but is.*

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**Elder woodrow Evans** - September 12, 2021 at 08:41 AM

EB

*My sincere condolences & sympathy to the Motley/Miller family. I'm praying for you all at this difficult time*

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**Erica Brown-Young** - September 12, 2021 at 12:00 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marilyn Jean Motley.*



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September 11, 2021 at 09:09 PM



“ *I would like to send my sincere condolences on behalf of the Washington family. Grief is not a place to stay, it's a passage. We will see our loved ones again.* 💕

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**Cheryl Pollard** - September 11, 2021 at 08:57 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss, from my family to yours*  
*The Richardsons*

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**Shawna Denise Askew** - September 11, 2021 at 11:17 AM



“ *Missing you gramps, Love you*



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**vilivia** - September 10, 2021 at 04:03 PM

LA

“ Sending heartfelt prayers and condolences to the Miller, Motley and extended family. Praying God’s strength, comfort and peace over you now and in the days ahead. 🙏  
LaShawn



LaShawn - September 10, 2021 at 04:27 AM

WD

“ miss the times we had!  
❤️ hale



wee dee - September 09, 2021 at 12:18 PM

IM

“ My Deepest Condolences to The Motley/Miller Family ,Will Keep You All in My PRAYERS 🙏🙏🙏 May GOD Heal Your ❤️🙏❤️.. Sending BIG HUGS!!! Ms: Inez (Philadelphia)

Inez Morrall - September 08, 2021 at 11:13 PM

HM

“ I will always love you, grandma. Love Harley

Harley M - September 08, 2021 at 11:04 PM



Angelica  
Narciso



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**Angelica Narciso** - September 08, 2021 at 10:52 PM