



Minerva Marie Phillips

November 2, 1938 - April 3, 2024

HER LIFE STORY

Minerva Marie Smith Duker Phillips, affectionately known as Bitsy, entered this world on November 2, 1938, in Chester, PA, born to the late Rothwell Newman and the late Frances Marshall Smith. She was later welcomed into the loving arms of the late William Henry Duker Sr., and the late Reba Elizabeth Duker through adoption. She received her golden crown on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at home surrounded by family.

Minerva exchanged vows with her beloved soulmate, Hubert Harold Phillips, Sr. on April 23, 1966. Their bond was inseparable, as they traversed through life's journey together, sharing adventures in travel, joys in shopping, and devotion to gospel events. Minerva ardently supported Hubert in his singing engagements with the 5 Stars and the Sensational Stars.

Minerva was a dedicated member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Georgetown, MD for over sixty (60) years. She embodied her faith through active participation. Minerva's love and devotion to the Lord shone through every aspect of her life. She contributed her talents to various church activities, serving as a vital member of the "Gospelletts" female group, the senior choir and president of the worship committee. She was always available for words of encouragement or a comforting prayer; always accessible with just a phone call.

She received her education within the Kent County Public School System, where she excelled as her class treasurer and proudly represented Garnett as

one of the twenty-five Black females. Her college years were divided between Swarthmore, PA, where she pursued a degree in Business Administration and Princess Anne, MD.

Minerva embarked on her professional journey in 1955 at Tolchester Beach Amusement Park in Chestertown, MD. Breaking barriers, she was the first Black employee in several stores in Chestertown, including Fox's Five & Dime, where she commenced her tenure in October 1963. Her employment journey spanned across diverse roles until her retirement in 2020 from Upper Shore Aging in Chestertown, MD.

Minerva's heart overflowed with love for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, whom she cherished dearly. Any time you would have a conversation with her she always mentioned her grandbabies. In her leisure time, she delighted in watching classic TV shows such as Matlock, Perry Mason, Good Times, and Golden Girls, Joel Osteen, and Jimmie Swaggart's choir and praise team. Minerva meticulously gathered tidbits of vital information, snippets from newspapers, and cherished photographs, evolving into a true connoisseur of knowledge. She also took pleasure in line dancing, crocheting, eating crabs, and cherishing moments spent with family.

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She was preceded in death by: her parents, Rothwell Newman and Frances Marshall Smith; her adoptive parents, William Henry Duker, Sr. and Reba Elizabeth Duker; sister, Eloise Brooks; husband, Hubert Phillips, Sr.; son, Emmons Brown; brothers, James Brodie and William Duker, Jr.; sister-in-law, Carolyn Brodie; brother-in-law, Robert Brooks; nephew, Shawn Brodie; daughter-in-law, Ramona Walley and son-in-law, Charles Phillips.

She leaves to cherish her memories: her caring and devoted daughter, Kathleen Murray of Dover, DE; daughter-in-law, Lucille Brown of Cheswold, DE; 4 daughters-in-law, Portia Turner (Ronald) of Chestertown, MD, Hope Cotton of Chestertown, MD, Rosemary Johnson-Eaton (Curtis) of Newark, DE and Benita Harris of Fairlee, MD; 2 sons-in-law, Hubert Phillips, Jr. (Jolly) of Stevensville, MD and Ronnie Phillips (Val) of Newark, DE; 5 Granddaughters,

Tiasha Brown of MD, TiShawn Brown of Cheswold, DE, Cameika Boyer of Dover, DE, LaToya Brown of Cheswold, DE and Shaneika Boyer of Dover, DE; 9 great grands, MyKiah Driggus, Ameria Boyer, JKhai Driggus, MyKhala Driggus and Londynn Whipple, all of Dover, DE, Nalani Bhatti and Skylar Smith, both of Cheswold, DE; Tiasha's (3) children; 8 Goddaughters, Ursula Massey, Antoinette Barrett, Edna Briscoe, Sheila Lively, Beverly Lively, Kia Lomax, Lori Perry and Megan Pinder; 1 Godson, James Phillips, Jr. (JR) and a host of nieces, nephews, additional family members and friends.

Sorrowfully Submitted ~ The Family

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 20. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church (Worton)
24840 Lambs Meadow Road
Worton, MD

Funeral Service

APR 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church (Worton)
24840 Lambs Meadow Road
Worton, MD

Tribute Wall

DH

“ *Donna Hollett lit a candle in memory of Minerva Marie Phillips*



Donna Hollett - April 28, 2024 at 01:01 PM

DH

Miss Minerva was such a sweetheart. Prayers for her family.

Donna Hollett - April 28, 2024 at 01:02 PM

SM

“ *My condolences to Kathleen and all of her family. Minerva was a sweet lady that made you smile as soon as you saw her. Rest in peace sweet lady.*

Susan Morris - April 25, 2024 at 01:32 PM

TG

“ *Sending our condolences. Our Prayers are with the family. Tammy Wrght Griffin & Family*



TG - April 19, 2024 at 10:17 PM

DP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Diane Phillips - April 19, 2024 at 09:34 PM

DP

“ *Minerva was a sweet person always smiling. kathleen you just keep on praying n God will see you thought may God bless you today and always*



Diane Phillips - April 19, 2024 at 09:22 PM

TO

“ *Toy purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Minerva Marie Phillips.*



Toy - April 19, 2024 at 01:23 PM



“ Kathleen so to hear this about your mom You are in my prayers



Sharon McClinton - April 18, 2024 at 11:56 PM



“ Leonard And Denise Palmer lit a candle in memory of Minerva Marie Phillips



Leonard and Denise Palmer - April 18, 2024 at 09:53 PM



“ Jennifer Christy lit a candle in memory of Minerva Marie Phillips



Jennifer Christy - April 18, 2024 at 07:15 PM



“ Condolences to the family during this difficult time, I will always remember Minerva working in foxes 5 and 10 cents store working in the candy department, such a lovely person.



James Munson Sr. - April 18, 2024 at 04:19 PM

HH

“ *Minerva was a trusted and valuable member of the Small World Day Care staff, respected and well-liked by all that knew her. Her pleasant disposition helped create a positive environment.*

Harry Hart - April 18, 2024 at 12:05 PM

AE

“ *One of the sweetest ladies I ever met! I know she is singing in glory! Prayers of comfort to her family.*



Andrea Edwards - April 18, 2024 at 12:04 PM

NL

“ *Nakia Lomax lit a candle in memory of Minerva Marie Phillips*



Nakia Lomax - April 17, 2024 at 09:32 PM

MG

“ *I will truly Miss her smile and stories. She always brighten my day whenever I saw her. Sending my condolences to Kathleen and family*



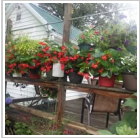
Monica Graves-Bentley - April 17, 2024 at 07:00 PM

LP

“ *LORI BUTLER PERRY lit a candle in memory of Minerva Marie Phillips*



LORI BUTLER PERRY - April 17, 2024 at 05:51 PM



“ *Sherrie Jacobs lit a candle in memory of Minerva Marie Phillips*



Sherrie Jacobs - April 17, 2024 at 11:32 AM

SM

“ *I have known Minerva most of my life and never saw her without a smile on her face. She brought joy to all who knew her and will be missed.*



Sandy McClary - April 17, 2024 at 11:31 AM

JB

“ *Jackie Brown lit a candle in memory of Minerva Marie Phillips*



Jackie Brown - April 17, 2024 at 09:16 AM

KD

“ *Katie DiSano lit a candle in memory of Minerva Marie Phillips*



Katie DiSano - April 17, 2024 at 09:04 AM

KD

Ms. Minerva was the kindest, sweetest lady. She brighten a room with her infectious smile and kind and warming demeanor. She will be greatly missed!

Katie DiSano - April 17, 2024 at 09:06 AM

JC

“ *I am so sorry for your loss; she was such a sweet lady. I am going to miss her for sure!*



Jennifer Cox - April 17, 2024 at 08:37 AM

CB

“ *Cheryl Butler lit a candle in memory of Minerva Marie Phillips*



Cheryl Butler - April 17, 2024 at 01:21 AM




TN

“ Terrell Needam lit a candle in memory of
Minerva Marie Phillips



Terrell Needam - April 16, 2024 at 07:23 PM

VP

“ Aunt Minerva, was one of the sweetest lady I
know she was my Son God Mother and she
loved   him and he loved her. .
Kathleen my Prays are with you and the girls.
Love you Auntie take you rest. James,
Voncille,Nya, Jay and Dawn



Voncille Phillips - April 16, 2024 at 04:17 PM