



Willis Deshields-Ballard

December 19, 1937 - July 22, 2025

Willis Deshields-Ballard "Pookie/Spookies"

HER JOURNEY OF LIFE

Willis Deshields-Ballard, better known as "Pookie and Spookie," went on to grace on Tuesday, July 22, 2025. "Spookie" lived eighty-seven (87) years, giving with her whole heart. Born on December 19, 1937, she was the beloved daughter of the late Dorthy Handy Deshields and Raymond Deshields.

Shortly after receiving her High School Diploma from Somerset County Public Schools, she started her career within culinary industry, as she always had a passion for food and cooking, which is how she exemplified her love for you. She showed this love while working for Johnny's and Sammy's, and Salisbury State and her own Kitchen.

In "Spookies" spare time she enjoyed her "shows" Young and the Restless, Bold and the Beautiful, Amazing Race and Survivor. Please don't call during that time. "Spookie" loved cooking southern meals such as muskrat, chitlin's, fried chicken and chicken and dumplings. Everyone loved her "French Toast." Please don't forget a cold Pepsi. During her time spent with her children and family, she loved her Burger King, McDonalds, Walmart, and a two-piece pajama set.

Cooking was "Spookie's passion" and she left those memories to cherish with: five children, Annette Lawrence (Phillip) of Salisbury, Maryland, John Ballard (Joyce) of Seaford, Delaware, Lester Ballard of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Sharon Ballard of Towson, Maryland and Clarence Ballard of Salisbury, Maryland; five sisters, Madeline Rodriguez, Emma Brown, Brenda King, Marian Deshields and Lorraine Deshields; her grandchildren, Sherron Lawrence, James Weathersby (Veronica), Tina Lawrence, April Weathersby, Phillip Lawrence, Jr., Ka'Myra Lawrence and John W. Ballard III; her great grandchildren, Kaleel Neal, Trenell Boyd, Shalief Weathersby, Braieyln Lawrence, Eriayne Lawrence, Camila Weathersby and Alana Weathersby; concluding with great-great grandchildren, Legend and Legaci Boyd, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and family friends.

"Spookie" was preceded in death by her (Mother) Dorthy Handy-Deshields and (Father) Raymond Deshields, her companion of forty (40) years, Clarence A. Ballard and her siblings, Raymond Deshields, Sr., Isaac Deshields, Lillian Deshields, Christine Deshields and George Deshields.

Goodbye may seem forever, farewell is like the end,
but in m heart's a memory and there you'll always be....
~The Fox and The Hound~

Lovingly Submitted ~ The Family

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. James Free Methodist Church
23614 Head of Creek Road
Quantico, MD 21856

Funeral Service

AUG 5. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. James Free Methodist Church
23614 Head of Creek Road
Quantico, MD 21856

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Bennie Smith Funeral Home - August 04, 2025 at 01:13 PM



“ *Bennie Smith Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Willis Deshields-Ballard*



Bennie Smith Funeral Home - August 05, 2025 at 12:16 PM

RB

“ *Thank you Aunt Pookie for always welcoming us in your home, and your delicious meals and your love. You will be greatly missed. 🥹❤️*
❤️

Roberta Brown - July 30, 2025 at 12:30 PM

NK

“ *Aunt Pookie had the fattest cheeks. She taught me cooking is about how you like things but she taught me her chicken and dumplings recipe.*

Nichole King - July 27, 2025 at 12:04 PM

TW

“ Sorry For Your Loss



Thomas Widgeon - July 25, 2025 at 07:19 AM

SB

“ Stephanie B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willis Ballard.

Stephanie B. - July 25, 2025 at 06:57 AM

MD

“ Marian DaShiell purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Willis Deshields-Ballard.

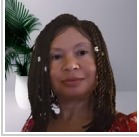


Marian DaShiell - July 24, 2025 at 10:20 PM

MD

“ Marian DaShiell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willis Ballard.

Marian DaShiell - July 24, 2025 at 10:20 PM



“ Aunt Pookie, you will be missed so much; forever in our hearts and never forgotten. I will always cherish the moments we had. I know God got you and now you can rest peacefully in his loving care. I love you aunt Pookie. I will miss you!



Tanya DaShiell - July 24, 2025 at 09:58 PM



“ Jackie & Ken Williams purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Willis Deshields-Ballard.



Jackie & Ken Williams - July 24, 2025 at 09:12 PM



“ Jackie & Ken Williams planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willis Ballard.

Jackie & Ken Williams - July 24, 2025 at 09:12 PM



“ MY AUNT WAS ABSOLUTELY TREMENDOUS IN MY GROWTH AS A MAN!! SHE WAS AN AMAZING WOMAN. I LOVE YOU AUNTIE!! #gonebutnevereverforgotten

Gregory Dashiell Sr. - July 24, 2025 at 06:25 PM