



## Mrs. Joy Amelita Jackson

June 7, 1931 - September 21, 2020

Joy Amelita Rogers was born in Pottsville, PA on June 7, 1931, to the union of Albert Lewis Rogers and Rachel Ann Hawkins Rogers. She was baptized, as an infant, at the Bethel AME Church of Pottsville. She later made her confirmation in the Roman Catholic Church receiving the names of Saints Cecilia and Bernadette. She enjoyed telling us her name was Joy Amelita Cecilia Bernadette Rogers Jackson!

Because Joy's mother died when she was three years old, she was raised alternately between her paternal grandmother and aunts in Los Angeles, California and her maternal grandparents, aunts and uncles in Pottsville and later in Washington, DC. She and her brother, Reece, lived a year in each environment until high school when it was decided she and her brother should remain in Los Angeles to complete their education. It would be 17 years before Joy would see her beloved Aunt Dorothy again.

Joy graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in Los Angeles in 1949. While at 'Jeff', she met Mance Cal Jackson, the young man who would be her husband. Mance and Joy married on December 17, 1950. Their first child, Diantha (DeeDee), was born in 1951, during their time in the US Army at Fort Lewis, Washington. After Mance's discharge from the service, he and Joy returned to Los Angeles where they welcomed four more children: Claudius, Darlene, Deborah and Doreen. While living and pastoring in Seattle, WA,

Myron was born. Donna, the last of the children, was born in Atlanta, GA. Joy considered her children her 'treasures' and she cherished each of them.

In 1955, Mance accepted the "Call to Ministry" in the CME Church. Joy, the dutiful wife, never considered not accompanying him in his work. In 1957, the first charge took him weekly to a mission church in Fontana, CA. Joy would spend Saturday preparing clothes and polishing shoes to ready herself and her family for the hour drive to worship. We fondly remembered the many Sundays when the only congregants were the Jackson family, however we had Sunday School and worship anyway! The next charge was about an hour and a half from Los Angeles in Santa Barbara. Joy, again made sure the small family was ready to go each Sunday morning to support her husband. Her love for the work and God gained her lifelong friendships along the way. From California to Seattle, Washington to Atlanta, Georgia, Joy learned to minister to her husband, children and the church in her sweet, quiet way. She was a genuine example of a pastor's wife and helpmeet.

The last move the family would make occurred in 1968 when Mance accepted an Associate Professorship with the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA.

Joy continued to put all her efforts into seeing to the needs of her children. The family joined the Shy Temple CME Church under the pastoral leadership of Rev. W. Clyde Williams. During her membership, she served with her time, talents, tithes and resources. She was a willing and dedicated worker and financial supporter of the Missionaries, Ministers' wives organizations, Pastor's Aide Board, Children's and Youth departments, Culinary Staff, and any special event held at Shy Temple. After the death of her husband, she donated his books and many papers to the establishment of the Rev. Dr. Mance C. Jackson Memorial Library at Shy Temple Church.

In the summer of 1970, in order to meet the needs of her daughters, she created educational, as well as fun activities for her daughters and their friends in her family's recreation room. She provided indoor and outdoor activities such as cooking, sewing, games, songs, poise and etiquette. Each week more girls wanted to attend Mrs. Jackson's summer camp. By the next summer, she had joined forces with some friends she made through the PTA, to establish a summer camp program through the auspices of the Decatur Recreation Program for the community's children at McKoy Park. Two years later, with the opening of the Samuel L. Jones Boys Club, Joy accepted an offer from the Decatur City Schools for use of a house on Mead Rd and she named the program the Decatur Girls club. With no official funding, but support from the Board of Education and the Decatur business community, Joy Jackson's Girls Club became one of the best summer programs in Decatur. They outgrew the house donated by the Board of Education in just two years. More than 150 girls were served each summer with many turned away due to a lack of space and funds.

In 1974, the Decatur Girls Club joined the Metropolitan Atlanta Girls Clubs, Inc. (MAGiC). It began operating out of two floors of the Oakhurst Presbyterian Church's recreational building near the Jones Boys Club. During the course of the first year's program at Oakhurst Presbyterian, over 600 girls attended. Because of her endeavors, the Decatur-DeKalb Girls Club won the Hazel B. Eubanks Expansion Award for the fastest growing girls club in Region I of International Girls Clubs of America that same year.

Joy continued to run the club she started until she retired in 1988. Increased activities included dramatic arts, dance, photography, macramé, sculpting, painting, tutoring and organized sports. Special events were held to which other clubs were invited to participate such as Field Day, International Day,

Circus Day (A MAGiC annual event), Fall Festival featuring a haunted house (that received rave reviews), and Dramatic productions, (most notably was a production of 'The Wiz'). Many girls went to State and National Conventions where they won awards in various disciplines. The motto "to take up where school and home leave off" was to help girls build a powerful self-image and give each child individual attention.

Though Joy officially retired in 1988, she was lured back into service in 1990 as an Area Director after the Boys and Girls Clubs merger. Her major concern was developing and maintaining the high standards and integrity she had realized as founder and director of Decatur/DeKalb Girls Club.

There is so much more to the life of this gentle, precious woman. She had the gift of service and she served wherever she saw a need. Joy was a civic-minded citizen. In the 52 years of Joy's residency in the City of Decatur, she was an active member of the PTAs of College Heights Elementary, Renfroe Middle, and Decatur High Schools. Memberships include: Decatur High Band and Sports Booster Clubs; Downtown Development Board; South Decatur Community Council; Oakhurst Community Health Center Board; She was the Campaign manager for her friend Elizabeth Wilson's successful runs for both Mayor of Decatur and City Commissioner; She founded the College Heights Neighborhood Association and Volunteered with the Beacon Hill Senior Citizen's Club. In 2003, The City of Decatur honored Joy and Mance with a Decatur Hometown Hero award. At the time she became ill, she was sewing masks for healthcare workers at a Senior Nursing Home. Over these past few weeks, the outpouring of love from all over the country is a testament to the Christ-like life she lived. Joy loved her family, Shy Temple, the CME Connectional Church, and friends. They in turn loved her.

We, her children: Diantha, Claudius, Darlene, Deborah (Carl), Doreen (Sheryl), Myron and Donna (Keith); and her grandchildren: John, Avien,

Derek, Christopher, Ethan, Ariel, Nina, Danielle, Xyron and Deonna, her 10 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild have a void only God can fill. Mommy/Grandmommy was all encompassing in our lives. It is difficult to imagine what lies before us as we contemplate an existence without her.

Joy has been greeted in heaven by: her husband, parents, grandparents, brother, aunts, uncles, and a host of friends!

Proverbs 31:25-31

...Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all. Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.

A Memorial Service Celebrating the Life of Mrs. Joy Jackson will be held at 1:00PM Saturday, October 3, 2020 at Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home SOUTH DEKALB Chapel. Attendance is by INVITATION only. The Memorial Service will be Live Streamed.

Due to the COVID-19, a mask is required to enter the Chapel

# Tribute Wall



“ Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Joy Amelita Jackson



Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc. - October 01, 2020 at 03:55 PM

DT

*Praying Always for the family.*

Darcia Thomas - October 03, 2020 at 02:22 PM

AC

*Ms. Joy's homegoing was truly a glorious service. To the Jackson family may the peace of God and the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit be with you forever Amen, Arnitta Collier*

Arnitta Collier - October 03, 2020 at 02:33 PM



Denise Roberts

*Mrs. Jackson told a joke about Myron and some "elbow grease" at my baby shower, 41 yrs. ago and I still laugh thinking about it. Much Love to THE JACKSON FAMILY. Be Blessed*

Denise Roberts - October 03, 2020 at 02:49 PM

MH

*To Jackson Family, my sincere condolences. You will all be in my thoughts and prayers. I'm sorry for your loss!*

MARILYN Harris-Davis - October 05, 2020 at 08:24 AM

DM

“ Mrs. Jackson was an amazing woman. I meet her when I work for her one summer during my college years. We became like a family when Donna and my late brother starting the dating. We remain close even after their relationship ended. The Jackson will always be my family. I love each and everyone of them. I am praying for all of you and I am here if you all need anything. Mom will truly be missed. You have your Heavenly Wings now so soar.



Much love,  
Dr. Janice Moore

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**Dr. Janice Moore** - October 17, 2020 at 10:27 AM

DB

“ To the Jackson Family, on behalf of the Atlanta-Rome District Lay Ministry we would like to send our expressions of sympathy and celebration of life for the wonderful example that your mother (Mrs. Jackson) gave us. Always supportive and encouraging. May the peace of God give you comfort during this difficult time. your family is in our prayers,

*Derrick Borders, Atlanta-Rome District Lay President*

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**Derrick Borders** - October 04, 2020 at 09:02 AM

ST

“ Grandmommy, I love and miss you so much. I always considered us kindred spirits. We had a special bond that can never be replaced. We also had a secret language with each other to where a moment would not go by when we can look at each other and laugh or make a certain look at each other without saying a word. We laughed together, cried together, and took on the world together. You have ALWAYS been there for me through the ups, downs, sickness and health; and I am truly blessed to have you in my life. I will always be forever grateful for our special relationship and your love; and your memory and smile is forever embedded in my heart and spirit.  
Love you Always,  
Shannon Tolefree

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**Shannon Tolefree** - October 03, 2020 at 03:09 PM

 Denise Roberts

“ Denise Roberts lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Joy Amelita Jackson



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**Denise Roberts** - October 03, 2020 at 02:51 PM

 Denise Roberts

*Keep Smiling*

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**Denise Roberts** - October 03, 2020 at 02:53 PM

RT

“ My husband, and I, The Reverends Truman and Bettie A. Tolefree, send our condolences to THE JACKSON FAMILY. Truman and I met Joy when our daughter, Shannon, married her grandson, Derek, and she and her husband, Dr. Jackson accepted us as a part of their very own family. She was found to be A Sweet, Kind, Loving, and Caring Woman of Faith, and we shall always remember her for the love she showed our family, especially our grandsons, Jordan and Chase, until the very end. Rest in Love and Peace Joy, until we meet again. Love You.



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**Rev. Bettie Tolefree** - October 03, 2020 at 02:40 PM

DR

“ Thank you Mrs. Jackson for treating me as one of your own.



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**Denise Roberts** - October 03, 2020 at 12:54 PM

AH

“ Amber Hemphill lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Joy Amelita Jackson



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**Amber Hemphill** - October 03, 2020 at 12:48 PM

KD

“ I met Mrs Jackson , though her daughter Darleen, a wonderful woman who always had a smile on her face and a welcoming embrace for everyone, may she rest in peace. love KAREN

KAREN DOXEN - October 03, 2020 at 11:55 AM

RS

“ To the family, I am very sorry, and I do understand your pain because a year ago to this date, October 3, 2020 is my mother one year anniversary when we had my mother service at Shy Temple, and not realizing I was looking at Mrs. Joy Jackson for the last time. Additionally, I could sense her love and compassion as she looked me in my eyes because of the loss of my mother. Many times we do not say it, but I do love the Jackson's family. Deborah I love you.  
Rev. June Sutton-Turk



Rev. June Sutton-Tur - October 03, 2020 at 11:45 AM

PJ

“ Condolences to Joy family May God bless each one during this season of bereavement  
Pat Jackson

Patricia Jackson - October 02, 2020 at 09:12 PM

BT

🙏🙏🙏 Condolences are sent to the Jackson Family with love! 🎵❤️  
Immanuel! Barbara Harris Thomas

Barbara Harris Thomas - October 03, 2020 at 01:41 PM

SC

“ Sincerely, Mr JD's Children purchased the Arrive i  
n Style for the family of Mrs. Joy Amelita  
Jackson.



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**Sincerely, Mr JD's Children** - October 02, 2020 at 01:55 PM

SN

“ Mother Joy Jackson, was such a special and  
a wonderful lady. Thank you for everything  
you taught me and for always being my  
second mother. Rest On Sweet Lady. ♡♡♡♡  
♡♡



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**Shirley Harris Newman** - October 01, 2020 at 07:08 PM

DC

“ *In memory of Joy Jackson,  
My memories are all of love and laughter with this wonderful, lady of distinction.*

*She was first and foremost a devoted family member to her husband and children. She had seven unique children and she knew the personalities of each one and how to meet their individual needs. She could rarely finish a conversation without mentioning one of her children. Family gatherings were important to her and they had Thanksgiving, Christmas, Fourth of July, & everybody's birthday as a celebration, often gathering at her home. I remember they went to Piedmont Park and had a water gun fight and they got wet and loved it, because the family was doing something together. During my husband's transition Joy was there, at the hospital, at my home and on the phone, she gave me comfort and hope. A God fearing woman, she reminded me to trust in the Lord and He would take care of everything. She lived the word and it wasn't just something she said, it was her living testimony to God and praises were her daily ritual as she gave thanks for her life and how God has blessed her to live a long, happy, productive life.*

*This world is the land of the dying, the next is the land of the living.  
Live on Joy for surely you have been gifted with eternal life.*

*Lovingly,*

*Your extended family: Barbara and Tobias Campbell*

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**Dr. Barbara Campbell** - October 01, 2020 at 05:02 PM

LH

“ I cannot think of anyone more deserving of the name Joy than Mrs. Jackson. I always felt great joy after speaking with her. I will never forget how she taught herself how to make face masks during the pandemic by watching YouTube. She was concerned that she would run out of elastic or cloth for the masks. I had an old tablecloth that I hadn't used for years because there was a small stain I couldn't get out. I asked her if she could use it. She was so happy to get it that you would think it was gold. I know my mother would have loved to know that her old tablecloth was being used by Mrs. Jackson in that way. She made such a big impact on so many people and yet it was also the small things she did that people will fondly recall, including me.

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**LeeAnn Harvey** - October 01, 2020 at 02:40 PM

AI

“ My sincere condolences to the Jackson family regarding the death of your beautiful matriarch. I have fond memories from my youth of your mother's kindness and love for each of you. She was a beautiful and warm spirit; and a tremendous compliment in ministry to your father. Warm regards, and please know that we are praying for each of you.

*Rev. Allen Page III  
Metropolitan CME Church  
8955 South Freeway  
Houston, Texas 77051  
713-748-5947 - Church Office*

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**Allen Page III** - September 30, 2020 at 11:32 PM

CM

“ Ms Joy was an inspiration to me because she was always kind, happy and full of life. I am sad to hear of her loss but happy to know that she is on her way to heaven. I pray for her family that they may find comfort in the happy memories they made & shared together.

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**Carmen Mitchell** - September 30, 2020 at 11:07 AM

EF

“ We are saddened to learn about your family loss. Continue to rely on God and know that he hears your prayers, because he cares for you.

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**Evans family** - September 30, 2020 at 05:26 AM

AM

“ What a sweet sweet LADY with the biggest loving heart and the Mosley Family loved Mrs. Jackson dearly. Our prayers and love is still with her family, God Bless!!!!

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**Ann Mosley** - September 29, 2020 at 01:54 PM



“ Valencia Cooper lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Joy Amelita Jackson



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**Valencia Cooper** - September 29, 2020 at 01:46 PM



“ *Mrs Jackson gave me my first job and my first plane ride. Her kindness will never ever ever be forgotten or replaced. My love for her will never ever diminish.*

#OurJoy❤️❤️🥰

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**Michelle Tyus** - September 28, 2020 at 10:28 PM