



## Joyce Elaine (McNeil) Latson

December 16, 1946 - February 17, 2024

Joyce Elaine McNeil was born on December 16, 1946 to Mrs. Francine Stephel McNeil and Mr. Matthew McNeil in Tampa, Florida. She was the third child of a family of six girls born to the McNeils. Joyce attended local schools and graduated from Middleton High School in Tampa in 1964. She graduated from Florida A and M University in Tallahassee and she earned a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Chicago. In 1995 she married Donald C. Latson. Joyce retired from public service in 2002 after serving for 17 years as Chief Deputy to the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Hillsborough County, Florida. After retiring, Joyce and her husband moved to Stone Mountain, Georgia where they have resided for the past 20 plus years. Joyce was a stalwart Christian, a devoted wife, loving mother, sister, aunt, and friend. She is survived by her loving husband, Colonel Donald C. Latson, daughter, Amber D. Boglin, son DeMarcus E. Latson (Elizabeth), daughter Kaffie "Kitty" Latson, granddaughters: Dasia, Lyric, Kaffie Maylea, Ayanna, and Harmony and grandsons: Israel, David, and Mark, sisters Pamela M. Heglar and Stephanie Burrell. Brother-in-laws Lewis Latson (Joann), Therone Latson, Jerry Latson (Lexie), Robert Latson (Velma) and Dennis Latson (Miquel), and a host of nieces, nephews and "adopted" children.

Services for Mrs. Latson are as follows: On Friday, March 1, 2024, the wake will be held at Gregory Levitt & Sons Funeral Home, 4347 Flat Shoals Parkway, Decatur, GA from 6 to 8 p.m. The Celebration of Life Service will be

held on Saturday, March 2, at 2 p.m. at New Life Church, 3592 Flat Shoals Parkway, Decatur, GA 30034. Additionally, Internment will be held on March 22 at 11 a.m. at Florida National Cemetery, 6502 SW 102nd Avenue, Bushnell, FL 33513. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that a donation be made to her ministry, Women Helping Women, Inc, at: [www.womenhelpingwomenatl.org](http://www.womenhelpingwomenatl.org)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAR 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

New Life Church  
3592 Flat Shoals Road  
Decatur, GA 30034-1601

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Joyce Elaine (McNeil) Latson*



**Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc.** - March 01, 2024 at 06:13 PM

ML

*Aunt Joyce and uncle Don are the first people I met when I came to the states. Since then she became a mentor, a mother, a friend. She was the inspiration to me. Beautiful, strong, kind, loving, generous woman I will always love you and thank God for giving me the opportunity to know you 🙏.*

**Mariama Lee** - March 07, 2024 at 08:37 PM

BM

“ *Barbara J Mobley lit a candle in memory of Joyce Elaine (McNeil) Latson*



**Barbara J Mobley** - March 02, 2024 at 10:08 AM

BM

*I grew up in Tampa and attended Middleton High School with Joyce, Pamela & Cynthia. Joyce saw the good in others and in situations. In her cherished memory, we should continue to support her non-profit work helping girls and women in Africa. Joyce had a sharing & caring heart for others. Let's continue her legacy. To her family, we stretch our arms around you with prayers of support.*

Barbara J Mobley - March 02, 2024 at 10:16 AM

MC

“ Joyce was my neighbor and friend she is the epitome of a beautiful soul ,graceful ,gentle ,warm and always smiling .Joyce you will be missed and never forgotten we love you ❤️

meryck & wintrell collins - March 02, 2024 at 09:31 AM

DB

“ My condolences, thoughts and prayers to the family. I'm going to miss sis. Latson's radiant smile and warm personality. Thank you Lord for sharing her with New Life and the world!  
Love, Debbie Bynum 🙏



Debbie Bynum - March 02, 2024 at 09:22 AM

SF

“ Spencer, Georgia & family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Joyce Elaine (McNeil) Latson.



Spencer, Georgia & family - March 01, 2024 at 10:15 AM

SF

“ Spencer, Georgia & family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joyce Elaine (McNeil) Latson.

Spencer, Georgia & family - March 01, 2024 at 10:15 AM

RH

“ No word to be wrote, no tears that can hide,  
All I know is You made it to the other side.  
Heaven has gained a general, a leader so true,  
In every heart you touched, your spirit still brews.



Your legacy lives on in every soul you inspired,  
In the memories we cherish, in moments admired.  
Though you've left this earthly plane, your light shines bright,  
Guiding us through darkness, like a beacon in the night.

Love you always  
Thank you  
Rick Hamilton

Rick Hamilton - March 01, 2024 at 09:21 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Joyce Elaine (McNeil) Latson.



March 01, 2024 at 09:15 AM

RH

“ Rick Hamilton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joyce Elaine (McNeil) Latson.

Rick Hamilton - March 01, 2024 at 09:15 AM

RH

“ Rick H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joyce Elaine (McNeil) Latson.

Rick H. - March 01, 2024 at 09:11 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joyce Elaine (McNeil) Latson.



February 29, 2024 at 09:35 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Joyce Elaine (McNeil) Latson.



February 29, 2024 at 03:46 PM

MF

“ *Mohamed, Tweetie, Tiffani, Bre & family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Joyce Elaine (McNeil) Latson.*



---

**Mohamed, Tweetie, Tiffani, Bre & family** - February 28, 2024 at 11:15 PM



“ *Sweet Aunt Joyce,*

*I don't remember the exact day I met Mrs Joyce, but I remember that smile. Any time I saw her she had a big smile on her face, gave me a hug, and made sure I was doing okay. (Like a true auntie). She had the auntie behavior towards me when I would see her in church. She and Bro Don would volunteer at the New Life afterschool program with me, and the kids lovedddd them. I appreciate all the small moments I had with her when I would see her. I want to send my love, prayers, and condolences to Unc Don and the family. She will be greatly missed and I hope God grants you peace/strength to get through each day and God's love comfort you.*

---

**Reese Wright** - February 28, 2024 at 05:58 PM

JS

“ Amber,

*I knew Mrs. Joyce through our conversations and your spirit. Through that alone gave me enough to know the type woman she was and the impactful life she lived. I pray that God provide you with the comfort and strength you need during this difficult time.*

*Love you much,*

*Jackie Sampson*

---

**Jacquelyn Sampson** - February 28, 2024 at 12:13 PM

SD

*Amber, I didn't get a chance to meet your mother. I heard that she was a very sweet woman..and I know that you're going to miss her dearly .always remember that she will forever be in your heart. My prayers and condolences are with you and your family..I pray that God sends his ministering angels to comfort you and your family in every way..love you ❤️Daytona Beach Florida, Family..*

---

**Suelene Davis** - February 28, 2024 at 05:30 PM

WC

“ *In loving memory of sweet Joyce! Grateful for her kind and joyous spirit and the conversations/dinners we shared with her. You made an impact, Joyce, and will be dearly missed. 🌺🕊️*

---

**Will & Dakar De La Cruz** - February 28, 2024 at 09:27 AM

MC

“ We met auntie Joyce and uncle Donald at church and they immediately adopted and welcome me and my daughters into their family. Thank you Amber for sharing your mom with many of us, she was truly a virtuous woman, and we will forever be grateful to have experienced the love she gave to those around her. 🙏🙏🙏

---

**Mahalia Callaway** - February 28, 2024 at 12:48 AM

MJ

“ Aunt Joyce,  
I honestly don't know where to begin with the happy memories that I have of you! I can remember the early days in high school when the “crew” would hang out at your home in Tampa to Amber and I still hanging at your home in GA. Seems like I was following you now that I think about it...hmmm, you had your own personal stalker ;) LOL.

You were so supportive, loving, kind and quick to set someone straight, in that graceful way of course! I remember you and Amber being the eyes and ears for my Mom when I was in the hospital and the many plates of food I took home. Those were the days!!! You have been a blessing to me and I will miss your earthly presence. You have given me encouragement through the word of God and I will remember them always. Until we meet again. I love you!  
Melissa

---

**Melissa Jackson** - February 27, 2024 at 07:43 PM

LM

“ When we moved to the Fishbowl area. Amber and Monica were the first kids that we played with. Our families became so close Ms. Jocye and Ms. Stephanie we're now Aunt Joyce and Aunt Stephanie. We would spend all of our days and nights together. Growing up with my family and all of your family was the best childhood anyone could ask for. Aunt Joyce you will truly be missed. Tell mama that I miss her. Two best friends are finally together again. 💔😭

-----  
**LeJean (Lele) Miller-Harper** - February 27, 2024 at 06:12 PM

AM

“ Sis. Joyce, you will be greatly missed. No matter how long it took us to see each other again. I could always count on a big smile and a big hug whenever you and I would see each other in the sanctuary. I saw you last at the after-school program for the kids. You were as beautiful then as you have always been. Two Florida sisters in Christ. Rest well my good and faithful servant.

-----  
**Andrea Madison** - February 27, 2024 at 12:56 PM

CT

“ I love you Aunt Joyce

-----  
**Charlinia Thomas** - February 27, 2024 at 12:10 PM

BH

“ Remembering that loving smile and little chuckle behind it and the way she affectionately said Donald. How she lived her name (Joy)ce.



-----  
**Barbara Hudgeon** - February 27, 2024 at 11:47 AM

DM

“ Our condolences to your family . Joyce was a dear friend to our family. Her big heart and beautiful smile will be missed

---

**David Myers** - February 27, 2024 at 12:12 AM

MC

“ Joyce was a dear friend with a heart of gold, she will be missed by all of her Tampa associates and friends.  
Marion Cole and family.



---

**Marion D Cole** - February 26, 2024 at 06:26 PM

PF

“ I met Joyce at Bible Study Fellowship. She floated into the sanctuary where we would gather for group assignments and introductions to the weekly lessons, and I thought she was the most elegant and graceful woman I had ever seen. I wondered which group she had been assigned.

After the introduction, we broke into our small groups session and I was delighted to discover that she was in my group! I loved her from the moment I saw her, are her insights and wisdom during our classes blessed me beyond words. Not only was she beautiful on the outside; more importantly she had the inner beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit (though she did not hesitate to share her thoughts, mind you!). Her words were always seasoned with love and compassion.

I want her family to know that the light she carried will never be extinguished; all who are blessed to have known her will carry it with us always. I feel blessed to have crossed paths with such an impactful woman of God. I will miss her. I pray for strength and comfort for her family and for all who were touched by her loving presence.

---

**Phyllis Frierson** - February 26, 2024 at 01:14 PM

EH

“ I send my love & prayers to the entire family in the loss of such a beautiful woman who was full of life! May God bless you all! Ashley, I send my love to you, I know how close you were to Auntie Joyce. Love Ms. Elaine Harris 🙏💜

---

**Elaine Harris** - February 26, 2024 at 01:09 PM

PS

“ I would like Amber to know that your mother, Mrs. Joyce McNeil Latson, lives on through you. I did not have the opportunity to meet your mother but was allowed to stay in your mother and father’s beautiful home on my the way to the wedding of your cousin, Ashlie, in Florida. I met you, Amber, and you warmly made me feel like family and I will never forget the short time and lifelong impression you left with me. Keep that beautiful smile. Your mother lives through what she has instilled in you. May God continue to bless you and your family.

---

**Paige Dodd Searcy** - February 26, 2024 at 07:51 AM

“ Chère Soeur Joyce,

*C'est certe avec une profonde tristesse, mais sans aucun doute une immense reconnaissance que je t'écris ces mots aujourd'hui. Ta lumière, ton amour inconditionnel et ta dévotion envers les femmes, les filles et les enfants déshérités en Guinée resteront à jamais gravés dans nos cœurs et nos esprits.*

*Ta présence rayonnante en tant que présidente de Women Helping Women a apporté un espoir immense à tant de personnes dans le besoin. Ton dévouement sans faille, ta compassion infinie et ta force inspirante ont été une source de soutien et d'inspiration pour nous tous.*

*Ta passion pour la Guinée, ce pays que tu as tant aimé et chéri, était palpable à chaque instant. Ton désir ardent d'apporter un changement positif et de faire une différence dans la vie des plus vulnérables était une force motrice incroyable.*

*Ma très chère et bien-aimée soeur Joyce*

*Nous n'oublierons jamais les nombreux moments de joie, d'amour et de solidarité que tu as semés tout au long de ta vie. Ta générosité sans limite, ta gentillesse infinie et ta bienveillance sans bornes ont touché tant de vies et laissé un héritage indélébile.*

*Aujourd'hui, alors que nous pleurons ta perte, nous tenons également à célébrer ta vie extraordinaire et tout ce que tu as accompli. Tu étais une source de lumière et d'espoir pour nous tous, et ton héritage vivra à travers les nombreuses vies que tu as touchées et transformées.*

*Ta présence aimante et ton esprit inspirant continueront à illuminer nos vies pour toujours. Merci pour tout ce que tu as fait, tout ce que tu as été et tout l'amour que tu as partagé.*

*Repose dans les bras de notre Seigneur et sauveur Jésus Christ  
chère Joyce.*

*Avec tout mon amour et reconnaissance éternelle de toute ta famille  
en Guinée*

---

**Madeleine Kolié** - February 26, 2024 at 06:34 AM

MD

“ *I worked with Joyce at the Clerks Office. What a beautiful person. I  
will always remember her smile.*

*Millie Davis*

---

**Millie Davis** - February 25, 2024 at 08:24 PM

WW

“ *I met Mrs. Joyce and Mr. Donald via of my daughter Laura Covile. I  
am grateful for the both of them. She was so vibrant and kind and  
willing to share all she had to offer and more. That beautiful smile  
and personality will be missed. Praying God's comfort to the family.*

---

**Wendy Whitaker** - February 24, 2024 at 09:41 PM

LS

“ My Aunt Joyce would light up the room everywhere she went with the reflection of the LOVE that comes only from JESUS CHRIST. Aunt Joyce always made me feel special as I'm sure she does with everyone who has been blessed to be in her presence. God allowed me to visit with my wonderful Aunt Joyce and my awesome Uncle Donald recently. We prayed together and got to talk about life and my plans for the future. I got to share with them the good news that GOD has sent me a Christian woman after many years of prayer. My Aunt Joyce was so happy and made plans to go see and mentor Kristen my Blessing from GOD. You see, Aunt Joyce was hands on about Kingdom service!

For my own selfish reasons I miss her so bad and want her back by my Uncle D's side. But there is no doubt in my heart that my Aunt Joyce is in paradise right next to The King Of Glory Jesus Christ smiling down on all of us!!!! Her LOVE will continue to mentor me and Kristen forever!!!!

---

**Levite Skye** - February 24, 2024 at 03:41 PM



I had the privilege of meeting Joyce and her husband Don while living in Atlanta. I enjoyed visiting them and know that she truly loved the Loed ..rest in God's Peace Joyce 🙏🙏

---

**Mikell Barnett** - February 25, 2024 at 05:15 PM

PT

“ Joyce was a woman who loved God and her Savior, Jesus Christ, with all her heart. She also loved her husband Don, with all her heart. Joyce was one of the original members of our New Life Small Group. She served the small group its entire existence for over 15 years. It was an honor to hear Joyce share her love of God and the Lord Jesus Christ during our meetings. We all loved her dearly and will miss her presence. However, we shall see her again in heaven. We trust in the Lord with all our hearts, just as did Joyce. We will continue to pray for Don and their family. To God be the glory for all He has done. Amen.

---

**Paul Tucker** - February 24, 2024 at 01:48 PM

BG

“ I am so sad to hear the news of Joyce's passing. I worked at the Clerk of The Circuit Court and admired Joyce as did others. My condolences to the family.  
Beverly Gruber

---

**Beverly Gruber** - February 23, 2024 at 07:48 PM

MM

I was overwhelmed 😞 when hearing of Joyce's death. We were neighbors as children growing up in the Jackson Heights section of Tampa, Florida. Always admired her spirit, values, challenges she spearheaded. I miss her dearly so much. May God bless, the family because she will be missed immensely

---

**Miriam Owens Mitchell** - February 24, 2024 at 12:30 PM

SW

*I was taken back when I heard the news of Joyce's passing on to paradise, I know the Angels rejoiced at welcoming her. It's bittersweet for us left here on Earth. I haven't seen her in a while but when we talked we can always pick right back up where we left off. She was just on my mind days before getting the news . My heart ❤️ goes out to her family, my prayers are with you . I pray Mr . Don and the family strength during this time RIP Joyce*

---

**Sheena Wallace** - February 24, 2024 at 06:35 PM

JW

*I met Joyce through her sister, Pam, who was my neighbor. We became fast friends because her sister was and still is a very good friend. We volunteered at Tampa Urban League for many years raising funds and attending conferences. Although not being from Tampa, the McNeil sisters/family were loving and caring to me. This true bond grew and has lasted over fifty years. My prayers for my McNeil sisters/friends, Amber, family, and of course, Donald. May God keep the family close. ❤️❤️❤️❤️*

---

**Jacqueline Smith Wilds** - February 26, 2024 at 06:04 PM