



## Marilyn Burnett

October 4, 1943 - May 28, 2020

### Reflections of Life

“Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” Mathew 11:28

On May 28, 2020, God sent for His Angel, Marilyn Burnett, to leave her earthly home and to say farewell as she entered her heavenly home. She was a virtuous woman with great faith and loved the Lord. She shared her love with her family, her friends and all she encountered. Marilyn was a giver! She genuinely cared for others, enjoyed having fun, dancing and celebrating, and she was an extraordinary cook! Marilyn had Godgiven strength and courage, as she would not hesitate to call things the way she saw it, yet in love; and was steadfast in faith through the challenges of life. She was a “special gift from God” who blessed the lives of many, for she was a “Gift” that never stopped giving.

Marilyn Kemp (Harden) Coast Burnett was born October 4, 1943 to the late Richard and Bertha Kemp Harden in Savannah, GA. Marilyn grew up in West Savannah on Scarborough Street. She was raised with her nine brothers and was the only girl.

Marilyn received her education and training while in Savannah. She graduated from Sophronia M. Thompkins High School in Savannah, Georgia. After

dating in high school, Marilyn married Joe Coast Sr. and moved to Rochester, New York. From this union, they were blessed with four children: Antoinette, Joseph, Jeffrey and Jerome. Upon returning to Savannah, GA, she continued her education and training at Savannah Vocational Technical College. Marilyn began her career working at Candler Hospital as a Central Service Technician. She retired from Emory University Hospital, as a Central Service Technician.

During her time in Savannah, she worshiped and attended the United House of Prayer for All People. She loved to work with the young children. Every year, she enjoyed working with the children for the Easter program. She ensured the facility was beautifully decorated with pastel colors as the children were excited to parade their new outfits going up to recite their Easter speeches. This joy continued over the years as she moved on in her life, giving Easter baskets/gifts to her children, grandchildren, and the many children she embraced as her own.

After many years passed, Marilyn met her prince charming, William Burnett, while still in Savannah. He captured her heart and brought a new joy to her life. William and Marilyn married on June 7, 1980. They later moved to Metro Atlanta and settled in Decatur.

Marilyn joined New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in December 1989. She loved her church and her pastors: the late Bishop Eddie L Long, Bishop Stephen Davis and Dr. Jamal Harrison Bryant. Over the years, she served her church in many capacities: Bessie Grady Usher Board, Nurses Guild, she was one of the first who cooked and served meals before Bible Study, Repasts and other various events. She served alongside her husband in the Deacons Ministry as a Deacon's Wife. She and Deacon Burnett took the lead role in serving the Mother's Board. Marilyn continued serving faithfully in the Deacons Ministry, even after her husband's passing. She had a gift to connect

with people in a way that made them feel very special, and it was genuine. Marilyn's ministry extended to others inside and outside the church, as she was an encourager, sending cards, flowers or making phone calls to check on others. Her delicious meals would always lift your spirit, as well. The Deacons Ministry and New Birth, was not just the ministry where she served, but her extended family. Marilyn was very special to, and loved, by her New Birth Family.

You can't mention Marilyn without mentioning her passion for cooking. She became known as "Marilyn the Cook." She never met a stranger and would feed everyone that came into her presence whether you wanted to eat or not, she was not taking "no" for an answer. Her love for cooking began in Savannah and little did she know that it would one day become a business for her. She had what you called back in the day "Rent Parties" where she sold dinners, etc. This later evolved into a business where she received contracts to cater and decorate events for hundreds of people.

Time with family and friends were very important and special to Marilyn. Every holiday her house was decorated with the theme of that season. She prepared Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners every year for her family. Her children and grandchildren also looked forward to her preparing their special Birthday Dinners. Family Reunions was an all-time favorite of hers. She would cook, decorate and buy special gifts for everyone. Over time, her daughter, Antoinette convinced her to pass the baton for planning the family reunions to her.

The 2020 Family Reunion Cruise was cancelled this year due to the Corona Virus. Marilyn had asked her daughter, "what was the plan?" She suggested having it in Atlanta. With all the last-minute changes, Marilyn encouraged her daughter not to stress and offered her backyard as the venue

for the reunion. As Marilyn would have it, the family reunion will be in her backyard today.

From Marilyn's daughter, Antoinette's heart she shares:

"She was a special lady. She was more than special; she was my mother."

Marilyn leaves to cherish her memories: her loving daughter, Antoinette Coast; special daughter, Mattie Cox (Robert); special son, Hasan "Butchie" Abdul Salaam; brothers: Percy L. Harden (Sheila), Lishus Gross (Melvina), LeRoy Gross, Ronald Gross (Evelyn), Michael C. Harden (Yvette), Theodore (Teddy) Harden; sister-in-laws: Mary Harden, Lisa Coast Reese (Russell), Gwendolyn (Sammie) Kenty, Janice Jackson, and Angela (Frank) Simmon; brother-in-laws: Grady Burnett Jr., and Jerome Burnett; special sisters: Rose Mary Williams, Myra Mitchell, and Linda Jones; Nine Grandchildren: Calvin Maurice Mars III, Semetria Mars-Woodley, Jerome Coast, Jr., Latosha Coast, Stephanie Benjamin (Anthony), Felisha Coast Upshaw, Chadwick Coast Johnson, Carlton Coast Johnson, Brandon Coast Woodley, and fourteen great-grandchildren and, a myriad of other relatives (nieces, nephews, cousins), devoted friends and extended family.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents: Richard and Bertha Harden; husband, William Burnett; brothers: Richard J. Harden Jr., Jonny Collins Harden (Baby Man), and Eric Van Harden; and sons: Joseph Coast III (Buster), Jeffery L. Coast and Jerome Coast.

# Tribute Wall



“ Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Marilyn Burnett



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**Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc.** - June 04, 2020 at 07:42 PM



“ My condolences to the family of Marilyn Burnett. I can't believe she's gone home to be with the Lord! Marilyn was such a sweet and generous person. When I heard that she was in the hospital, I waited for word that she was coming home. After all, I had just seen her the month before! I will miss her so much! Rest in peace my dear friend! I love you and will never forget you. Another angel has gone home. Now you and Freeda behave up there now!

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**Beverly Taylor** - June 23, 2020 at 11:30 PM



“ Marilyn was a wonderful soul that God placed in our presence and I am sincerely and gratefully thankful for our acquaintance..RIP Marilyn 🌹 God is Good!!

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**Martha Cody** - June 23, 2020 at 06:05 PM

DD

“ Loved you, your uniqueness, classiness, witty personality. I have many memories of you my dear cousin. Rest in peace. Love you always.  
Your cousin  
Niecey and family.  
Deborah D. Daughtry



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Deborah Daughtry - June 18, 2020 at 03:20 AM

DG

“ To the family of a very special woman, I met My friend in 1974 for the first time, and our close friendship never ended. she was my daughter's Godmother, she was there for us from day 1 Marilyn and Myra also stepped in and took total control of planning my wedding, from start to finish, it was as beautiful as their spirits. Rest in Peace my dear Friend, you will never be FORGOTTEN. ❤️🌹🙏🙏🙏



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Deborah Govan - June 16, 2020 at 09:45 AM

EB

“ Evon Bryant lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Burnett



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Evon Bryant - June 11, 2020 at 06:11 PM

RD

“ Marilyn, my big sister, my friend, missing you already. I thank God for the time we shared (29 years) together good time, sad time, trying times through it all God brought us through. Marilyn was loving, giving, caring, inspiring, bossy (lol) I will cherish all of our time together. Dorothy Parks and I will miss our Sunday brunch and fellowship. Now I will have to use my GPS when I travel, for someone that never drove a vehicle you would get us there short cuts and all. I will miss your good cooking and all the other tokens of love, always made me feel good being around you. To the family cherish the memories and time you had with Marilyn. I Pray that God Peace and love kindness be your comforter during these difficult time. As God showed me the morning He called Marilyn home three Angels and doves ascending up to heaven, I knew God was calling her home saying my good and faithful servant your time is up on earth, come on home and put on your crown and robe. Peace & Love Rebecca (Becky)



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Rebecca Day - June 10, 2020 at 02:26 PM

SH

“ Marilyn was my childhood friend from kindergarten to present. A gift from God; we've shared so many memories and she will remain in my heart and thoughts! I know she is at rest!!! We will meet again in glory!!! Love and friendship! Sunomia Humphries-Haines

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Sunomia Humphries-Haines - June 06, 2020 at 06:24 PM

EP

“ *Marilyn you will truly be missed. No more pain we love you but God love you more. Praying for the family peace be still. We will see you again.*

*Edna*

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**Edna Phillips** - June 06, 2020 at 04:23 PM

DS

“ *Marilyn will be truly missed by all that were Blessed to be touched by her kindness and sincere love for everyone that crossed her path. She never met a stranger and would go out of her way to help in anyway that she could if she saw a need that should be met. Her love everyone and most importantly her Love for our Lord and Savoir Jesus the Christ. I was always amazed at how Marilyn managed to get to places and attend events when she didn't drive a car during the times that I knew her -- LOL. She Blessed me when she traveled to just be in attendance as we Celebrated the Life of my Father. Right there in the midst was Marilyn as always showing her Love and caring for all that she touched. I send all my prayers to the family during this time. Marilyn is now at Peace with the Father and has obtained her Crowns.*

*Much Love Deacon Tim Smith*

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**Deacon Tim Smith** - June 06, 2020 at 01:47 PM

MM

“ *To the Family:  
Marilyn was my namesake and dear next door neighbor for fifteen years. You could not find a more compassionate and loving person to bond with immediately. She watched out for me and my home over the years and if anything or anyone looked suspicious, she would call me. My heart is broken but I know she is in God's loving arms and preparing a meal just for him. On any given day she would call me and say, "are you at home?" Based on my reply, she would say "stop by" I have something for you.*

*I have chosen to find my peace, in the loss of my dear friend, my personal chef, my spiritual sister. My comfort is in pursuing my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ to help pass through the grief rather than take up residence in it.*

*Marilyn, you hold a place in my heart forever.*

*Marilyn Moss*

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**Marilyn Moss** - June 06, 2020 at 01:41 PM

GC

“ *I'll Love you forever Aunt Marilyn. Rest in heaven with Uncle Bill. Love to you Antoinette, Maurice and Baby Doll.*

*Love to you from Barbie doll  
"Nikki"*

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**Gwen " Nikki" Campbell** - June 06, 2020 at 01:27 PM

FA

“ *My deepest condolences to you and your family during this time.*

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**Falena** - June 06, 2020 at 01:16 PM

MH

“ *RIP Mrs. Marilyn, I will miss you; my prayers to the family.*

*Minister Hannah*

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**Minister Glenett Hannah** - June 06, 2020 at 01:06 PM

SH

“ *We will truly miss Marilyn, she was such a beautiful lady, inside and out. She loved our family and strived to keep us together. Percy and I are praying for the family that God will give you the comfort and strength to accept His taking home another one of His Angels. Antoinette, you have our support and love. May God continue to hold you in His loving arms. We didn't send flowers since the burial is at a military cemetery. You will hear from Percy and I via mail.*

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**Shelia Harden** - June 06, 2020 at 12:43 PM

OB

“ I have had two Spiritual sisters to transition this week Marilyn was special with the gift of giving always cooking for anyone, I believe all of NB has eaten some of her food Marilyn also had a gift of discernment, she would encourage my spirit with the most beautiful cards just because. I will truly miss her calls, cards her beautiful hospitality and many dinners we thank God for the time we shared my last phone call she talked about how she didn't feel like doing for herself, however wanted to do for others, RIH my Sister



Love

The Brooks Family

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Oda Brooks - June 06, 2020 at 12:18 PM

OB

“ To th



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Oda Brooks - June 06, 2020 at 12:06 PM

DN

“ Dear Antoinette and Family,

*Comfort is a prayer away, please know that you're in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Praying you'll be comforted with precious memories and God's presence to care for you and your family in your loss.*

*My deepest condolences,  
Darlene Norman,  
Baltimore, Maryland*

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**Darlene Norman** - June 05, 2020 at 11:06 PM

MF

“ Dear family we are saddened to hear of Marilyn's passing. She was such a blessing to my entire family and the body of Christ. She was with us always as we had so many deaths in my family. My mother, two aunts all were members of the Mother's Board! She loved them in good health and sad times! I could never repay Marilyn for all the love, food, hugs and sacrifices, I personally witnessed. Her gift of hospitality was her heart, which was so big!! We give God all the Glory, Praise and Honor for loaning Marilyn to us! God got His Queen that He created and purposed to do great things for soooo many people. Take your seat my dear sister, you are already missed, you've gone to a greater glory! Family you all are in our prayers. We wish you strength, peace, courage and comfort! 💜🌸



*Margaret Rivers Freeman and the Family of Mothers, Elizabeth Rivers, Cora Goodman and Gladys Warner*

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**Margaret Rivers Freeman** - June 05, 2020 at 09:43 PM

LO

“ My family and I send our heartfelt condolences to Antoinette Coast and family in the loss of her mother. Marilyn Burnett was a true friend, and a great servant of God to whom many of us were blessed to have known for many years. The legacy she leaves will be remembered by so many who knew her, and was blessed by her presence. May God bless each member in this family always.  
*Lovingly Submitted,  
Luretha O'Conner*

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**Luretha O'Conner** - June 05, 2020 at 01:54 PM

LL

“ Love Leroy purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Marilyn Burnett.



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**Love Leroy** - June 04, 2020 at 09:58 PM

JJ

“ Condolences and prayers for the family. I will keep the family uplifted in prayer. I'm glade I had the pleasure of meeting this beautiful lady. A sweetheart she was and I'll always remember her warm heart and her pleasant smile. Praying for you Antonette.  
*Jackie Jones*

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**Jacqueline Jones** - June 04, 2020 at 09:10 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Marilyn Burnett.*



June 04, 2020 at 12:36 PM



“ *My Forever Friend. I miss you dearly. To the family my heartfelt prayers to all of you. Your new Guardian Angel will shine an eternal light over you with her beautiful smile yet from afar.* 🙏👤



**Teresa Bush** - June 03, 2020 at 10:20 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Teresa Bush** - June 03, 2020 at 10:04 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Marilyn Burnett.*



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June 01, 2020 at 12:14 PM



“ *My thoughts and words will never be expressive enough, but I will forever be grateful. Thank you for everything you done for me, the support, care and concerns you had proved your genuine care for others. You took me in when my own excluded me, for that I will always be remember and hold that close to my heart. No matter the situation you loved me unconditionally and I loved you the same. Heart rejoices in knowing your are free and with the Lord. Rest well.... Heaven Awaits!*

*Sincerely your other daughter,*

*Rochelle*



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**Rochelle Hines** - June 01, 2020 at 09:59 AM

HA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



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**Hasan Abdulsalaam** - May 31, 2020 at 08:53 AM

TK

*God be the Glory, nothing like a Momma, may she rest in peace*

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**Thomas kelly** - May 31, 2020 at 09:12 AM

CB

“ *Claudine Benton lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Burnett*



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**Claudine Benton** - May 30, 2020 at 09:19 PM