



Mrs. Mary Louise Spann

November 9, 1942 - February 10, 2024

On November 9, 1942, Mary Louise Liddell Span was the sixth child of ten siblings born to Eugene Liddell and Colia Robinson Liddell. She departed this earthly life on February 10, 2024, after surviving seven years from a major stroke and eleven months from stage-four breast cancer. She certainly made it this far by God's Grace, one of her favorite songs. Being raised on a foundation of faith, Mary accepted Christ at an early age at Cade Chapel M. B. Church in Jackson Mississippi. From the beginning, she was very active in youth activities in her church and the community and was always eager to share her talents and gifts. Presenting her Easter speech was one of her favorites.

Mary attended Jackson Public Schools throughout her public-school career, graduating in the top ten percent of her high school class at Brinkley High School in 1961. Her parents instilled in her and her siblings the importance of family prayer, academic excellence, and making positive contributions to society. To that end, as a teenager, Mary was a very active member of the NAACP and the Medgar Evers Youth Council. Also, she, along with members of her family, played an active role in the Civil Rights Movement during the sixties which she was just beginning of continuing to live out the qualities of service and empowerment taught by her parents.

Mary attended Tougaloo College where she met Sylvester Spann, a

basketball player, in a psychology class. Mary was so captivated with Sylvester when he made the first move, by calling every “Liddell” in the Jackson, Mississippi phone book, of which there were seven! After finally landing on the “Liddell” he was seeking, Sylvester slyly asked her for the assignment that the teacher gave on that day; an assignment that he actually already knew. Of course, the rest is history. In two months, they would have been married for sixty years!

Mary earned a Bachelor Degree in Science from Tougaloo College in 1965, a Master’s Degree in Science from Jackson State University in 1972, and a Specialists Degree (AAA) from the University of Mississippi in 1976 in the Combined Sciences.

During her forty years of teaching, she earned numerous awards as a Science teacher. An example of her excellence as a teacher is that when schools were forced to integrate in the sixties, outstanding Black teachers were the first chosen to send to the White community schools. Mary Louise was one of the first selected.

Whenever she was assigned to a school that did not have a “Science Fair” she would start one and always had students whose projects would place in the State Science Fair Competition. One year, she had a student place in the National Science Fair Competition in Phoenix, Arizona. Jackson Public Schools sent her, her student and her husband free of charge to Phoenix, Arizona. Lastly, one of her most noteworthy accomplishments was to be named “Star Teacher” by Melvin Prester when he was the valedictorian of Murrah High school in Jackson.

Continuing her journey in faith, Mary eventually joined Greater Fairview M.B. Church in 1966 under the leadership of her father-in-law, Rev. Dr. Silas Lee Spann. She loved Sunday School and eventuaassigned to teach the Adult

Women's Class. In addition, because of her eloquence and faithful service, one year, she was chosen as the keynote speaker at the church's Annual Banquet.

She eventually retired from teaching in Jackson in 1997 and taught one year in Tallulah, Louisiana. She and her husband relocated to Memphis, Tennessee and joined New Sardis M. B. church under the leadership of Dr. L. LaSimba Gray in 1998. Within one year Mary was teaching the Adult Sunday School Class. Also, she was a member of the Drama Ministry and played key roles in several productions including "The Crucifixion," a skit from the book of "Ruth" and a dramatic reading from the "The Creation" by James Weldon Johnson. Mary became a Deaconess in 2002 after her husband was ordained as a Deacon at the church.

After nine years in Memphis, she and her husband relocated to Stone Mountain, Georgia in 2008 and joined Antioch-Lithonia Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor James C. Ward. She joined the Drama Ministry, the Couples Ministry, the Women's Ministry, the Bowling League, traveled with the NTO ("Never Too Old") group on their special trips, and faithfully attended the Co-Ed Sunday School Class and Wednesday Night Bible Class. Within a few years she was blessed to become Lead Teacher of the Co-Ed Sunday School Class. She became a Deaconess in 2010.

She leaves to cherish her precious memories her husband Sylvester, Sr., a daughter Jacqueline Marie Spann, a son Sylvester Jr. (April) and three grandchildren – Maria, Laela, and Marcellus: three brothers, Lewis (Frances), William (Joyce) and Warren (Verdean); two-sister-in-laws – Larry and Eddie; and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends. Her parents, six of her siblings (Walter, John, Eugene, Jr., Coleman, Colia, and Sammy), and one daughter, Valerie Louise Robinson Browner, preceded her in death.

Mary Louise was a child of the Most High God, a faithful and devoted wife, a loving and caring mother, and with charming personality and beautiful spirit, was a friend to all. lly was

Cemetery Details

Hillandale Memorial Gardens

6201 Hillandale Dr.
Lithonia, Ga 30058

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 16. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory-Rockdale
1999 Hwy. 138 SE
Conyers, GA 30013

Family Hour

FEB 16. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett and Sons - Rockdale Chapel
1999 Hwy 138 SE
Conyers , GA 30013

Celebration of Life

FEB 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

Antioch Lithonia Baptist Church
2152 Rock Chapel Road
Lithonia, GA 30058
<http://antiochlithonia.org>

Burial

FEB 17 (ET)

Hillandale Memorial Gardens
6201 Hillandale Dr
Lithonia, GA 30058-4759
(770) 981-1144

Tribute Wall

LJ

“ *Mrs. Mary Louise Liddell Spann was a very nice and kind spirit.*

louise h johnson - February 19, 2024 at 11:42 PM

MJ

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of your loss of My friend, Mary. Wishing you peace during this difficult time.*



Marian Johnson - February 18, 2024 at 03:06 AM

RF

“ *Sincere condolences to Deacon Spann and family. A beautiful Soul has transitioned to live with the Lord eternally. Mother Spann will be missed physically but she will always be in our hearts. I trust that God is in control and all is well with her soul. Love to yhe family and I thank God that we don't grieve as yhe world because we have HOPE.* ❤️🙏🌹📖



Rev. Dr. Shirley Browne, Jon & Family - February 17, 2024 at 03:19 PM

TB

“ True Vine Fellowship
Missionary Baptist Church
1028 MAPLESH AVENUE
COLUMBIA, TN 38401
REV. DONALD L. CONEY, SR., PASTOR
931-388-2990
February 16, 2024

Acknowledgement

We, the pastor and members of True Vine Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church would like to take this time to extend our heartfelt sympathy to Minister Bernard Lafayette and his family, in the loss of your aunt, Mrs. Mary Louise Spann.

We cannot fully understand why God calls our family members home to be with Him, but we do know that God, in His infinite wisdom, does know what is best. He cares for us, and He understands our pains and sufferings. And so it was with your loved one. God knew that she was getting tired, so He gently rocked her to sleep in His loving arms, and He took her home to be with Him. Your aunt, Mary Louise Spann, was a special lady who was loved and cherished by her family and friends. She was a caring lady, who always did what she could for anyone who needed her. She leaves beautiful memories for all of you to cherish. Just know that she loved you, and you loved her, too. But God truly loved her best.

Please know that our church family will continue to lift you up in prayer. We will be there for you with our outstretched arms of sympathy.

May God forever bless and comfort you is our prayer.

Humbly submitted,

*Donald Coney, Sr.
Pastor*

Sis. Veneda Moore Jernigan, Church Secretary

True Vine Fellowship Missionary Baptist - February 16, 2024 at 10:26 PM

BS

“ *Thinking of you With caring Sympathy in your loss of your wife. May God's Promises and Presence be your deepest comfort and your Certain Hope. My prayers are with you and your family.
Bernice Smith Conyer, Ga.30012*


Bernice T Smith - February 16, 2024 at 04:55 PM

TB

During my tenure at Antioch, Deacon Spann and Deaconess Spann were assigned as my leadership. Without a doubt, this was the greatest gift I received at Antioch. They became my friends as well as my sons' friends. My oldest son, Perry transitioned on 9/11/2012 and the Spanns were right there, along with Antioch, to serve me and my family. Perry always referred to them as "The Huxtables" ... He adored them!

Deacon Spann, you have my sincere condolences and earnest prayers.

I will always love you ... forever!

*Sincerely,
Minister Theresa Bailey  *

Theresa Bailey - February 17, 2024 at 01:48 AM

NF

“ *New Sardis Baptist Church Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Mary Louise Spann.*

New Sardis Baptist Church Family - February 16, 2024 at 12:36 PM

NF

“ *New Sardis Baptist Church Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mrs. Mary Louise Spann.*



New Sardis Baptist Church Family - February 16, 2024 at 12:36 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Louise Spann.*



February 15, 2024 at 09:37 PM