

***Celebrating the Life
of
Martha J. White***

***Sunrise
September 3, 1941***

***Sunset
March 30, 2021***



Monday, April 19, 2021

Viewing: 10:00 a.m.

Service: 11:00 a.m.

***From the Heart Church Ministries®
Annex at 5055 Allentown Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746***

Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor

Obituary



Martha J. White was born on September 3, 1941, to the late Lawyer T. and Fannie B. White. She entered eternal rest on Tuesday, March 30, 2021.

Martha, the youngest of seven children, grew up in Trenton, North Carolina, where she graduated from Jones High School. In the late 1960s, she relocated to Washington, D.C., and shortly thereafter took a job as a housekeeper. Later, she was employed at Woodward & Lothrop Department Store, commonly known as Woodies, as a supervisor. While working at Woodies, she trained at the Opportunities Industrialization Center and received an Office Practice (Secretary) Certificate of Completion in 1972.

In January 1973, she gave birth to her only child, Nikki Elise. Several years later, Martha began her long career with the Federal Government working at the U.S. Department of Education in the District. She eventually obtained a management operations specialist position in the Management Executive Office. And, in 2005, Martha retired after 30 years of committed service.

In 1993, she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior and subsequently joined From the Heart Church Ministries. Martha was very active in the church for many years and remained faithful in her attendance until her passing. Moreover, she was a dedicated member of the Seniors Ministry, Helps Ministry, and the Nursing Ministry Homegoing Team. Martha was also a volunteer for the From the Heart Christian School lunch program. She truly loved and cared about her church family and enjoyed working her multiple ministries.

Martha most certainly will be remembered for her love for God and family. She was steadfast, a fighter and warrior who persevered through many difficult times—and was always thankful to God for her abundant blessings. Throughout each day she was often heard saying, “Thank you Lord Jesus.” Furthermore, when she believed in something she stood with it. During her illness, she continued to fight, never giving up, never giving in. Martha will also be remembered for the love and attention she showered on her precious granddaughters, Ashlee, and Chelsea. She was a kind, generous woman who will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Martha leaves to cherish her memory her daughter, Nikki Barber; granddaughters, Ashlee Barber, and Chelsea Barber; niece/daughter, Debra White; and a host of other loving family and friends.

In addition to her parents, Martha was preceded in death by sisters, Hazel L. White, Sadie L. Koonce, Rosa L. Simmons, and Clara M. White; brother, Russell T. White; and a brother who died in infancy.

Order of Service

Invocation

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 121
New Testament: II Corinthians 5:1-8

Prayer of Comfort

Selection *FTH Psalmist*

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Marie Kemp, Former Co-worker
Mary Coleman, Neighbor
Debra White, Niece/Daughter

Obituary (Read Silently)

Song of Preparation *FTH Psalmist*

Message of Hope *Reverend Reuben Monmouth, III*

Call to Christ

Recessional

Interment
Haiti Cemetery
Trenton, North Carolina



Remembering My Mom!

My mom was the most amazing woman I've known. My whole life was filled with so much love and support. You made sure my childhood was filled with family, friends, pets, Easy Bake Ovens, Barbie, Atari, and so much more. You made it clear that my education was a priority and was so proud to show photo albums of my certificates and accomplishments. But you also encouraged me to be a cheerleader, participate in school parades and so many other activities and clubs. When financial difficulties came, you sacrificed so much to make sure that I had what I needed. As a child, I never knew how you struggled at times because all I knew was your love and the wonderful home you created for us. It was even difficult when I finally moved out of the house after college. I had my own apartment but it still took about 3 days to actually live and sleep there. You and I just didn't want to separate because we were so close.

Our favorite times of the year were Christmas and Mother's Day. We loved to decorate the tree, the house, and the front porch. We danced and sang holiday songs from the 60's through the 2000's. We had a soul Christmas with the Temptations and Motown, operatic Christmas with Il Divo, a classic Christmas from Nat King Cole, and so many more. On Mother's Day we were able to celebrate you, but the real fun was that we could start all of our gardening projects. For weeks, we planned which flowers and plants we would get and where they would go. We laughed and talked as we walked up and down aisles and loaded up our carts. The funniest part was always trying to figure out how we were going to get everything in my truck and get it home. You taught me the beauty of nature, the cool, refreshing feeling of earth and soil on my hands, the feeling of accomplishment when you've given your plants a new home, the responsibility of caring for them, and the immense happiness of watching them grow and flourish every day. I remember when you planted a rose bush in front of your house years ago and how you enjoyed watching it grow. So Ashlee, Chelsea, and I have decided to plant a rose bush in front of our house this Spring to honor and remember you.

I thought nothing in the world could top your mothering skills, but then you became a grandmother. From that point on, you were known as Gammy. Watching you light up every time you held Ashlee and Chelsea when they were babies made my heart melt. You took care of Ashlee Monday-Friday for the first year of her life, so we could save money. But I really think you just didn't trust anyone else to care for Ashlee, at least to your high standards for your granddaughter. You took care of both girls when I had to work and they were out of school. You loved to buy them things not just at holidays, but throughout the year. You loved to see them happy and having fun when we took our family vacations. I loved watching you while you watched Ashlee and Chelsea. You looked at them with such overwhelming love and you were so proud of them. Being Gammy brought you such happiness, joy and love.

When you were in the hospital, I was blessed with two amazing gifts. The first was being able to FaceTime you. I told you how good it was to hear your voice and see your face and you told me how happy you were to see and hear me. Your face lit up when you had a chance to speak with Ashlee and Chelsea. It was the last time we spoke but we were both able to say "I love you" to each other. The second was when the hospital allowed Debbie and I to come see you to say our goodbyes. I kissed your hand and your face over and over. I told you that Debbie, Ashlee, Chelsea, and I would be okay and that you could move on because you deserved your rest and reward. I asked you to be our guardian angel and watch over us. Finally, I told you that I just wanted to be as good a mother to Ashlee and Chelsea as you were to me. If I could do that, then your legacy of love, strength, and dedication to family would continue on.

Thank you for being an amazing mother and grandmother. Ashlee, Chelsea, and I will miss you more than words can express. But I know we'll be stronger and happy because we had you in our lives. I love you mommy!!

Love, Nikki





YOU WILL BE FOREVER IN MY HEART!

I loved you then and I love you now. I can't begin to tell you what you meant to me and how you impacted my life. You always treated me like a daughter and never like a niece. You took me into your home, nourished me, cared for me, and helped me in ways that only a mother would do. I owe so much gratitude and thanksgiving to God for you.

Mah, my heart is saddened of your passing. I imagined that you would have gotten a release date from the hospital and would have come back home. That's how I envisioned it to be. But you won't be coming home and I know that you are in a better place. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

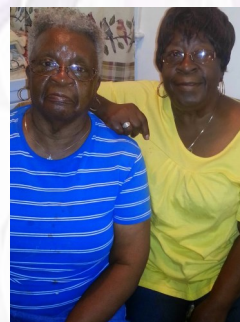
I can imagine that you received an incredible celebration in heaven. First to look upon Jesus' face had to be the ultimate. I can hear granddaddy and grandma saying, there's my baby and Aunt Hazel, Aunt Sadie, Uncle Buck, mom (Clara), and Aunt Rosa all gathering around and hugging you. Finally, the family is complete and you are at peace.

I want you to know that Nikki, Ashlee, Chelsea, and I are fine. We love you and we will continue to love each other. We miss you but we will cleave to one another, support one another, and stay together just as you instructed us to do. Life without you in it is our "new norm" but we will learn to get through this. You imparted a lot of love and wisdom in us and now we have to take what we were taught and apply it to our everyday lives.

There are so many memories that I have and I will miss all of them. For example, watching the men's Maryland basketball games with you, watching gospel videos on YouTube until all hours of the night, eating popcorn, going to Costco and BJ's, accompanying me on my errands, ordering out, watching your favorite TV shows - Gunsmoke and as you would say Pow, Pow, Pow (Rifleman). The house will not be same without you. Over the years we learned from each other and enjoyed each other's company. This is a bitter pill to swallow but with the help of God, I will get through this.

Love you always and forever, Debbie







Pallbearers

Family and Friends

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

We the family of Martha J. White sincerely thank all of you for your prayers, comfort, love and support. Your many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy have been a blessing to us. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless and keep you in perfect peace!



Services Entrusted to:

*Hodges and Edwards Funeral Home
Suitland, Maryland*