

In Loving Memory of
Delores Mae Skeete

SUNRISE:
APRIL 29, 1941

SUNSET
JULY 3, 2024



MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024
10:00 A.M. FAMILY HOUR | 11:00 A.M. SERVICE

FROM THE HEART CHURCH MINISTRIES®
5055 ALLENTOWN ROAD | SUITLAND, MARYLAND 20746
BISHOP JOHN A. CHERRY, II - PASTOR

Obituary

On April 29, 1941, Delores Mae Jones was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, to the late Charles Jones and Doris V. Williams. She was the second of five children and the only sister to four brothers.

Known to all growing up as “Dee Dee,” she proudly attended Our Lady of Victory Catholic School. She took pride in becoming a majorette in her teenage years. At the age of nineteen, after graduating from high school, she joined the United States Air Force and was subsequently stationed in Nebraska. Delores proudly served 20 years and retired as a master sergeant with the 459th Command Squadron in the Air Force Reserve. During the early part of her active-duty years, she was stationed at The Pentagon where she became the first African American switchboard operator. After working 30 years at The Pentagon, she retired as a supervisor in the Air Force Accounting Division. During her time there she received countless awards and certificates for her outstanding performance.

On July 6, 1963, Delores married William H. Spencer, Sr. The couple was blessed with three children to include a set of twins. One twin, Darryl Martin Spencer, passed away tragically on December 6, 1987, at the age of nineteen. Delores remarried in 1983 and lovingly welcomed bonus children, Lyndon and Nicole Skeete through her union with Wesley Skeete.

Delores was a true giver. She unselfishly gave her time to family, friends, the unhoused, and her church. Moreover, she opened her home to many in need of shelter—gave rides to and from church to some—and fed many others.

In February 1989, Delores joined From the Heart Church Ministries. She was a longtime dedicated member who over the years served in the Seniors Ministry, Helps Ministry, Intercessory Prayer Ministry, New Members Ministry, and Telephone Reception Ministry. The latter was her most cherished ministry; it is where she faithfully served until being lovingly told that “she had served her time.” Due to complications of Parkinson’s disease, she was no longer physically able to walk to her workstation or answer the telephone without a noticeable severe tremor.

Delores will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. She leaves to cherish her memory her son, William H. Spencer Jr.; daughter, Dana Burt; brothers, William Dempsey, III and Spencer “BB” Dempsey both of Portsmouth, Virginia; grandchildren: Jasmine, Christopher, Joshua, Alina and Mateo; great-grandchildren: Eric, Cassidy, Edan, Joshua Jr., Zachariah, Egypt and Zoey; and a host of other relatives, friends, and a loving church family.

Delores was preceded in death by her brothers, Arthur “Sticks” Jones and Jessie B. Jones.

Order of Service

Invocation

Congregational Hymn "Amazing Grace"

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 23
New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Prayer of Comfort

Selection.....Ms. Bridgette Joy Pitts

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Mr. Michael Howard, Family Friend
Mr. William H. Spencer, Jr., Son

Poem.....Mr. Christopher Spencer

Obituary.....Mr. Earl Blue

Song of Preparation.....Ms. Bridgette Joy Pitts

Message of Hope.....Reverend Willette O. Wright

Call to Christ

Benediction

Recessional



Family Sentiments

From Your Daughter...

As I tried to develop this tribute to you, I struggled terribly. There is so much to say to you and about you that I just could not pull it together. However, what I did realize is that there was a running theme of gratefulness. My spirit kept saying, "THANK YOU." So, I guess I'll go with that. I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done and sacrificed for our family, but I will try. Let me first start by thanking you for giving me life. According to the world's standards, you had a choice, and in this instance, you chose us, your twins. Thank you for keeping me safe. Thank you for teaching me how to pop gum. Thank you for always letting me have a bite of your sandwiches that you made look so good. Thank you for showing me how to eat crabs. Thank you for sharing your love of football with me. Thank you for all of the trips we took out of town to see plays. Thank you for going above and beyond to protect me from being bullied. Thank you for providing me with words of wisdom, hugs and kisses when those efforts failed, and I had to face the bully anyway. Thank you for the sacrifice you made for me to attend private school. Thank you for allowing me to witness your faith in action the night you learned that your son had been murdered at the age of 19 years old. Thank you for the countless nights that you came home tired from working overtime to provide for our family as a single mother, only to be back at work the next morning by 5 a.m. Thank you for teaching me how to drive a stick-shift. Thank you for not giving up on me when I disappointed you and when I gave up on myself. Thank you for your work ethic that has been passed on to my children. Thank you for the investment that you made in them. Thank you for trusting me with your care until your very last breath. Thank you for all the experiences and the memories. Most importantly, thank you for leading me to Christ. I could go on and on, but I won't. I will thank you from this point on by the way I live my life and continue to care for my family.

Hebrews 9:27 says that "it is appointed unto every man once to die;" but selfishly, somehow, I thought you were exempt. I thought you would be with us forever. Albeit unfortunate for me, but fortunately for you, that is not the case. Because now you are no longer bedridden, no longer unable to speak, no longer unable to swallow and no longer unable to walk. You are in your glorified body and surrounded by your son, your mother, and all of your loved ones that have left this earth before you. I love you Mommy. I will always love you. You will live on in the lives of your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and we will make sure that you will live on for generations to come. I hope I made you proud. For you are truly my *Proverbs 31* woman.

"To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." (II Corinthians 5:8)

From Your Son...

Dear Mom,

It's only been a few weeks, but it feels like a lifetime since you left. At 59 years old, I've had a lot of time to think about everything you meant to me. I tried to say everything I wanted to say to you over the last few years, but it seems I have more to say. I hope God can tell you how I feel better than I could ever express.

I appreciate all the things you showed me growing up and all the life lessons we learned together. I will always remember your smile and your laugh. I can hear your voice because I always hear your voice. I will always remember your face, especially when I look in the mirror.

Thank you, Mom, for everything. Your love, your wisdom, and your spirit will always be a part of me. Rest in joy, knowing that you are deeply missed and forever cherished.

With all My Love and Gratitude,

Your Son, B.J.

Family Sentiments

From the Grandchildren...

Nannie: The definition of unconditional love in human form.

Nannie, you loved us through it all; no judgement, no shame, just understanding, a prayer and a warm hug after. You would give your last if it meant making life for us better and at times you did. We spent most of our lives seeing you daily and for two of us...fighting over who was sleeping in your bed some nights. You always welcomed us with open arms, (after you cleaned the papers off the right side of the bed). I know you wanted us there just as much as we wanted to be there. Whether it was a cruise, Watkins Park, YAPP on Fridays, going on Andrew's AFB to ride bikes, hosting our cousins for sleepovers on the weekends or just going to Bible Study on Tuesdays, you kept us active and involved in the church. This molded our Faith and foundation in Christ. This also helped shape me, (Jasmine), to be the mother I am today. Your loving, warm, nurturing nature was always the most comforting feeling in the world. Now that feeling lives in our hearts forever. Nannie, we are forever grateful and appreciative of all the millions of sacrifices you made over the years. You never asked for anything in return, (other than a cheeseburger or a chocolate bar occasionally). I pray that the rest of our lives serves as a 'Thank You' as we aim to make you proud as you watch over us from your child-free/dog-free, refrigerator filled mansion in Heaven. You deserve absolutely nothing less. We love you until the end of time.

*Our Mother kept a garden.
A garden of the heart;
She planted all the good things
That gave our lives it's start.*

*She turned us to the sunshine;
And encouraged us to dream:
Fostering and nurturing
The seeds of self-esteem.*

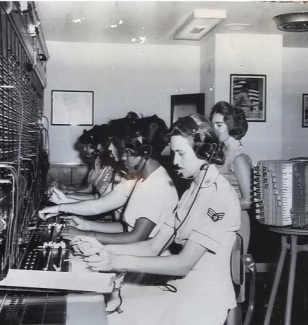
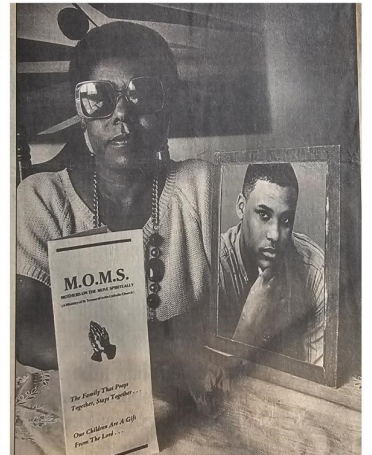
*And when the winds and rains came,
She protected us enough;
But not too much, she knew we would need
To stand up strong and tough.*

*Her constant good example,
Always taught us right from wrong:
Markers for our pathway
To last our whole life long.*

*WE are our Mother's garden,
WE are her legacy.
And I hope today she feels the love,
Reflected back from us.*

Thank you, Mommy. We love and miss you!





CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound;
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind but now I see*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear,
the hour I first believed.*

*The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures,
He will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come, 'tis grace hath
brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise,
than when we first begun.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The family would like to acknowledge all of Delores' long-time friends who have become family over the years. There are so many to name, but you all know who you are and what you meant to her and mean to our family. Also, to those who picked her up for church on Sundays and took her to church events. Everyone who visited her in her assisted living communities, at home while housebound, brought her lunch and her special treats, and the consistent calls to check on her.

Special acknowledgment goes to Sis. Lois Long for every thoughtful handwritten inspirational card that she received every month for years, no matter where she was, Bro. and Sis. Bridges for the consistent visits with her to eat lunch with her and keep her company, Sis. Nadine Hungerford and Dr. Evelyn Campbell-Leach for their loving charitable acts over the years; and to her home health aides, Ms. Elizabeth Taylor who cared for her like she was her mother while she resided in Maryland and Ms. Ebony Jarrells who took care of her in Georgia, even after her spirit had left her body to be with the Lord.

The family would also like to acknowledge our From the Heart Church Ministries family; our beloved Founding Pastor John A. Cherry and Reverend Diana P. Cherry; Bishop John A. Cherry, II and Reverend LaWanda Cherry. We are sincerely grateful for all the love and kindness shown during this time. Our hearts are full of appreciation. May God bless you all.

FLOWER BEARERS

Family and Friends

SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:

Southcare Cremation and Funeral Society
595 Franklin Gateway SE
Marietta, Georgia 30067