

A Celebration of Life



Malikia Deborah Navalee Daniels

November 22, 1973 - December 17, 2025

JANUARY 17TH

2026

Obituary

Malikia Deborah Novalee Daniels was born on November 22, 1973, in Sacramento, California, to Kenneth and Juanita Daniels. She was the second and middle child born to this union. Malikia was christened as an infant at the family church, Century Chapel CME Church, where the foundation of her faith and values was lovingly laid.

As a young child, Malikia was gentle, creative, and observant, with a quiet spirit that drew people to her. She enjoyed spending time with family, dancing, singing, drawing, and expressing herself through art even at an early age. Her creativity and imagination were evident from childhood and remained a defining part of who she was throughout her life.

Growing up, Malikia was extremely close to her older sister Fuhara and younger brother Akili, as well as her youngest sister Camelia, born to her other mom, Joyce Garcia Daniels, and her father, Kenneth Daniels. Family meant everything to Malikia. She often participated in her Granny Daniels' fashion shows and loved being part of activities that allowed her to express her sense of style and creativity. Malikia loved art, fashion, music, and anything that allowed her to create beauty and meaning.

Malikia attended Luther Burbank High School in Sacramento before moving to Washington, DC, to live with her Aunt Deborah to complete her final two years of high school at High Point High School. While in high school, Malikia played volleyball, took art classes, and was active in several school clubs, forming friendships and memories that she cherished. After graduating, she attended Montgomery College School of Art and Design, pursuing her passion for art, before being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) at the age of nineteen. As the disease progressed, she faced this life-altering challenge with remarkable grace and strength.

While living in Maryland, Malikia attended From the Heart Church Ministries with her Aunt Deborah and future uncle, Fred Wilds. In February 1992, she recommitted her life to Jesus Christ and joined the Church, where she was a faithful and devoted member. She enjoyed participating in the church's youth group, Youth Against Peer Pressure (YAPP), and other youth activities, finding fellowship, encouragement, and spiritual strength.

Malikia later began a relationship with Eric Smith of Fort Washington, Maryland, and in September 1995, she gave birth to their son, Eric Kenneth Smith, Jr.—the greatest joy of her life. When Eric was six months old, Malikia returned to Sacramento with her son to live with her mother, Juanita, and her grandmother, Angelina Russell. She took several art courses at Cosumnes River College while devoting most of her time, love, and energy to raising her son, whom she adored beyond measure.

Despite her life-altering illness, Malikia continued to find joy in listening to music, attending family gatherings, reminiscing over old photographs, laughing with loved ones, and cherishing quiet moments with those closest to her. As her MS progressed, she was able to do less physically, but her spirit remained strong. She never became despondent or resentful. Instead, she faced each day with humility, gratitude, and faith. Her beautiful smile, gentle demeanor, and deep appreciation for the care and love shown to her touched everyone who knew her. Malikia's life was a testament to perseverance, faith, creativity, and unconditional love.

She is survived by her beloved son, Eric Kenneth Smith, Jr.; her mother, Juanita Daniels; sisters, Fuhara Gaskins (David) and Camelia Daniels; brother, Akili Daniels (Kashani); second mother, Joyce Garcia Daniels; aunt, Deborah Wilds (Fred); uncles, Oliver Daniels, Frederick Daniels, and David Russell; nephews, Akili Daniels, Jr. and Kenneth Irvin; niece, Justyce Gaskins; great nephew, Jaziah Brown; and a host of cousins, other relatives, and dear friends who will forever cherish her memory.

Order of Service

Officiating Minister
Pastor Brenda Sharp

Prayer

Scripture Reading
Kendrick Daniels & Justyce Gaskins

Musical Selection
Charil Daniels

Obituary
Judy Jones

Poem Reading
Fuhara Gaskins

Acknowledgements
Judy Jones

Words From the Family
Halima LaPlante, Oliver Daniels III, Jovita Bland, Fred & Deborah Wilds

Musical Selection
Rickey Center

Message of Hope
Pastor Ron Barrow

Recessional









Held by Grace

Held by Grace, Carried to Glory

When the night feels long and the road is steep,
And tears fall quietly while the world still sleeps,

Hope whispers softly, “You are not alone,”
For God walks beside you, His love your home.

Through storms that bend but do not break,
Through trials that ask more than hearts can take,
Faith stands firm when strength feels small,

Held by grace that will not let us fall.

Love endures beyond what eyes can see,
It lives in memories, in eternity.

It stretches from earth to heaven’s door,
Binding hearts forevermore.

Perseverance is prayer when words run dry,
A steady breath, a lifted eye.

It’s choosing light when shadows appear,
Trusting God is always near.

And when the journey reaches heaven’s shore,

Pain is gone, and tears no more,
We’ll rest in peace, made whole again,
Safe in God’s arms—where love has no end.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO CAREGIVERS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the compassionate caregivers whose kindness, patience, and dedication brought comfort and dignity during this time. Your selfless care and unwavering support meant more than words can express and will always be remembered with deep appreciation.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

- Pastor Brenda Sharp & Century Chapel CME Church
- Pastor Ron Barrow of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 - From the Heart Church Ministries
- Nellie Limón & Georgia Russell Floral Services

FAMILY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family would like to express gratitude as well as a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who sent prayers, comforting words, cards, flowers, meals, donations, and expressions of sympathy during this time.



Century Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
2801 29th Avenue
Sacramento, California 95820

Immediately following the service, please join the family for the repast in the Social Hall next door.