

Pallbearers

Rodney Benjamin Jr.
Justin Weller
Jaylen Benjamin
Tim Watkins
Leonate Jefferson
Sylvester Wellington Jr

Honorary Pallbearers

Sylvester Wellington Sr Jeffrey Davis

The time of departure is at hand ~ I've fought a good fight ~ I've finished my course ~ and I have kept the faith!

II Timothy 4:6,7

Expression of Gratitude

The family of the late Valerie Benjamin gratefully acknowledges with heartfelt gratitude your prayers, words of comfort and other generous acts of kindness shown during the illness of our loved one and in our time of bereavement.

May God richly bless each of you.

Sincerely The Benjamin ~ Watkins Family

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted To:



A Celebration of the Life of Valerie Gwen Benjamin



Sunrise ~ October 27, 1955 Sunset ~ August 24, 2024

Saturday, August 31, 2024 Visitation 8:30 am - 9:30 am | Service 10:00 am

> Chapel of Peace 753 McPherson St Mansfield, Ohio 44903

Pastor Robin Granger ~ Officiant/Eulogist

I'm Free

Don't' grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for ne.
I took His hand when I heard Him call,
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day, to laugh,

To love, to work or play.

Tasks left undone must stay that way

I've found my peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow

I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow.

My life's been full, I savored much,

Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my life seemed all too brief,

Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.

Lift up your hearts and share with me,

God wanted me now, He set me free.

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When tomorrow starts without me and I'm not here to see

If the sun should rise and find your eyes are filled with tears for me

I wish so much you wouldn't cry, the way you did today While thinking of the many things we didn't get to say

I know how much you love me, as much as I love you

And each time you think of me, I know you'll miss me too

But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand That an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand.

And said my place was ready in Heaven far above And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.

But when I walked through Heaven's gate, I felt so much at home When God looked down and smiled at me from his great golden throne

He said this is eternity and all I promised you

Today your life on earth is past, but here it starts anew.

I promise no tomorrow for today will always last

And since each day's the same way, there's no longing for the past

So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart, For every time you think of me, I'm right there in your heart.



A Celebration Life

Presiding Pastor Robin Granger

New Beginning Full Gospel Baptist Church, Mansfield, OH

Order of Service

Processional ~ Family and Friends

Invocation ~ Pastor Robin Granger

Hymn of Praise ~ I'm Grateful

Scriptural Readings

New Testament ~ Philippians 4:13 ~ Pastor Robin Granger

Prayer of Comfort ~ Sallie J. Sylvester

Musical Selection ~ The Storm is Over Now

Silent Reading of Obituary

Reflections ~ Limited to 2 minutes

Mr. Sylvester Wellington Jr., 1st Cousin

Cards ~ Resolutions ~ Acknowledgments ~ Gracie Shannon

Musical Selection ~ I Won't Complain

Eulogy ~ Pastor Robin Granger

Benediction ~ Pastor Robin Granger

Recessional Hymn ~ Take Me to the King

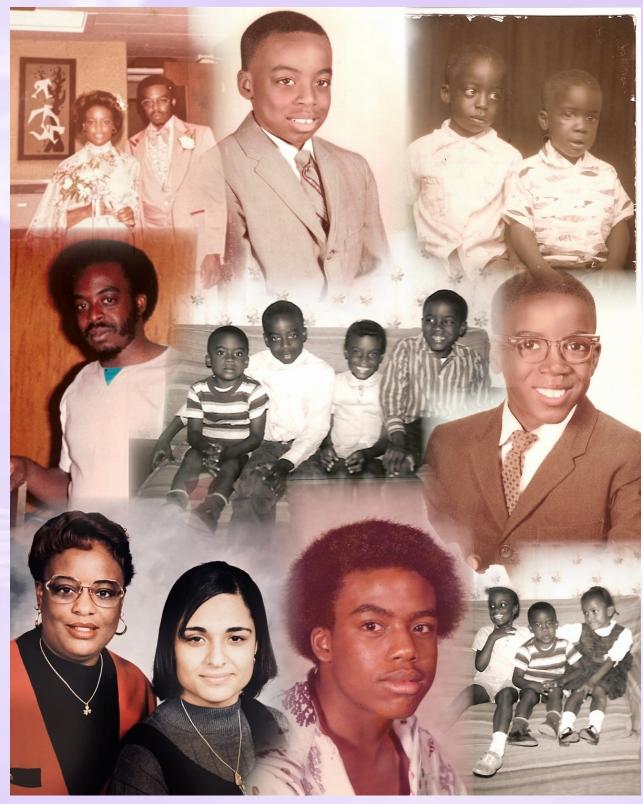
Interment ~ Mansfield Cemetery

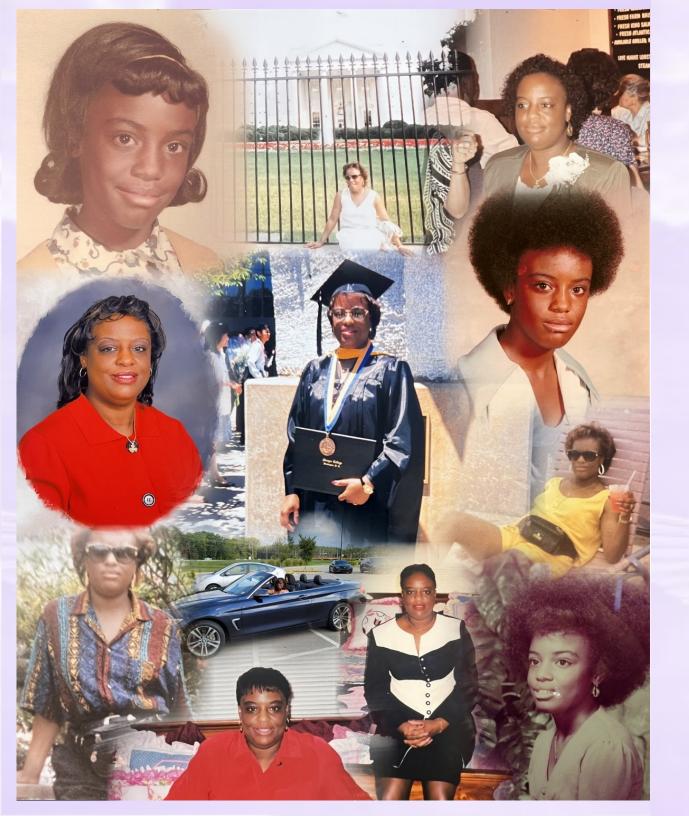
Committal ~ Pastor Robin Granger











~ The Legacy of ~ Valerie Gwen (Watkins) Benjamin

Of Sunbury Ohio, born October 27, 1955 in Mansfield, OH passed away Saturday, August 24, 2024. The 2nd of four children, and the only female born to the late Otis (OT) Watkins and Hattie Sue (Wellington) Watkins.

Valerie was a graduate of Mansfield Senior High, Class of '73. She accepted Christ at an early age and was a member of Mt. Herman Baptist Church. After graduation she attended North Central Technical College and received an AA, in Business/Secretarial Science class of '75 and a BS in Business from Urbana University class of '82.

Following the passage of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) in 1973, Valerie worked for the Federal Agency 20+ years training workers and providing them with jobs in the public service. She the married Rodney Benjamin Sr. July 12, 1975 and to that union a son was born.

In 1993 she relocated initially to Manassas and later Gainesville Virginia and was a member of Antioch Baptist Church in Fairfax, VA. She received a MS in Business Administration, Finance/Business in '93 from Strayer University and a Certificate in Purchasing, Procurement/Acquisition & Contracts Management from the University of Virginia in 2000.

While in the DMV area she worked for Northrop Grumman as a Management Analyst/Sr. Program Control and later as a Business Manager for 18+ years, then at Govplace, Inc as a Financial Analyst and lastly at General Dynamics CSC/CSRA Inc. as Senior/Professional Program Analyst providing financial management & control in support of business Technology Departments. Thankfully, her a position allowed her to "work from home" and in 2019 she returned to Ohio to care for her elderly Mother. In 2020 she moved to Sunbury, OH and retired in 2022.

Valerie's unique and sparkling personality, laughter, grin, and beautiful smile warmed your heart and made you love her even more. She was tenacious about caring for her family. She displayed these same qualities in her work and performed in an exceptional manner. However, when it came to family, her tenacity was most vividly displayed.

She was preceded in death by her grand-parents, Jesse Wellington and Lula Mae (Caldwell) Wellington; parents, Otis (OT) and Hattie Sue (Wellington) Watkins; siblings, Joseph and Michael Watkins.

She leaves to cherish her memory son Rodney Benjamin Jr. of Powell, OH, brother Tim Watkins (Paula) of Mansfield, OH; Grandchildren, Jojuana Taitano, Justin Weller, Rahja Benjamin & Jaylen Benjamin; Great-grandson, Antonio III; Aunts, a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, family and friends.