



*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 me.  
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.*

*~ Shannon Lee Moseley ~*

## *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.*

*~ Unknown*



## *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 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 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.

