

*A Call from Heaven...
Michelle on the Line*

To my kids, family, and friends
this won't be a long call.
I just have a few words to provide
some reassurance to you all.

Tony, everybody knew you were a Momma's boy,
and I'm sure since I left, it's been hard to find joy.
Please know I'm ok now, don't worry about me,
my body is healed, and my soul is set free.

Nika, baby girl I'm alright,
anything you could do, you did;
now all I want you to do, is continue
being a great Mother to those kids.

To my family, thanks for taking care of me, in my last days,
I'm so glad during tough times, we never loss our praise.
Always remember to pray, for your burdens God will bear,
and always hold on, to all the memories we share.

Now I know no one can sing like me,
except my cousin Andy,
but if you could remember a few songs I sung,
they will sure come in handy.

Songs like "Spirit", "Claim It", or "Precious Lord";
and to my precious grandchildren,
never forget you all were my joy!

When you all are in school, or playing sports,
I want you to do good;
Oh and somebody tell all my people
I love them back in Kirkwood.

Well I got to go now, Gramae, Momma, Daddy,
Auntie Bobbie, Henrietta and Elouise are calling for me.
The Lord has calmed the Jordan River,
I'm going to enjoy my mansion now,
PRAISE THE LORD, HALLELUJAH I'M FREE!

Written with love by,
Quazena Thomas

Pallbearers

Kevin Martin Rico Salmon
Gregory Thomas Otis Macklin
Marcus Boyles Lance McCray

Honorary Floral Bearers

Evangelist Greta Favor Graham Donna Moses
Deborah Gray Cindy Massey Tyrishia Thomas
Denise Massey Tabitha Williams Quazena Thomas
Carolyn Smith Haile Allison Harrison Teresa Mackin

Floral Bearers

Camden High School Class of 1985

Acknowledgement

The Family of *Nichelle Yvette Drakeford* gratefully
acknowledges and extends sincere appreciation for all
prayers, acts of kindness and comforting expressions of
love and sympathy bestowed upon them during this time
of bereavement. We thank you and Pray God's richest
Blessings upon each of you.

The Drakeford Family



"Honoring Memories, Celebrating Life!"



Collins Funeral Home, Inc.
714 West DeKalb Street
Camden, South Carolina 29020
803-432-3636
www.georgecollinsfh.com

Celebration of Life

for

Nichelle Y. Drakeford

Sunrise:
June 8, 1967

Sunset:
March 5, 2024



Saturday, March 16, 2024 • 1:00 p.m.

Sanders Creek Baptist Church
520 Nelson Road
Camden, South Carolina 29020

Rev. Dr. P.L. Griffin, Jr., Presiding
Rev. Dr. James Coleman, Officiating

Life's Reflections

"For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."
 -- 2 Corinthians 5:1

NICHELLE YVETTE DRAKEFORD was born June 8, 1967, a beautiful daughter of the late Alma Lyles Drakeford and John Drakeford, Jr. in Camden, South Carolina.

Nichelle was educated in Kershaw County School District, in Camden South Carolina, and graduated of Camden High School class of 1985.

She started her Christian journey early in the home of her grandmother, Ms. Willie Catherine Lyles with other family members. Nichelle was baptized at Sanders Creek Baptist Church. She was an active member until recently when her health enabled her. When the church doors were open she was sure to attend. She had an angelic voice that sang praises for the Lord as a youth throughout adulthood. Nichelle was a dedicated Sanders Creek Baptist Church member as she served on many committees. Participated faithfully during revivals with the Adult Choir and was a lead singer on The Inspirational Mass Choir of Camden, South Carolina toured across the U.S. and she made many friends along the way.

Friendship and passion for Christ.

Nichelle was an avid supporter of her grandchildren and Camden High School sports. She went to every event she could to support the team. When she couldn't attend you could find her on the porch tuning in on the radio station. She loved to cook and was famous for her fried chicken.

Nichelle descended from her earthly dwelling on March 5, 2024, to enter her internal home to rest. She knew the joy of the Lord!

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Willie C. Lyles, John and Lucille Drakeford; her aunts, Elouise (Eugene) Drakeford, Bobbie Robinson, Henrietta Lyles-Gray and Mary Sue Truesdale; great-aunts, Betty Davis and Sally W. Oliver; uncle, John Truesdale, Sr.; great-uncle, Larry Lyles.

Nichelle cherished and leaves fond memories with: a son, Antonio D. Drakeford of Camden, South Carolina; a daughter, Annika Drakeford-Johnson (Nicholas) of Camden, South Carolina; brothers, John Drakeford, III and Judge Darrell Drakeford, both of Camden, South Carolina, Christopher Griffin of Long Beach, California and Larry (Freeze) Pearson of Columbia, South Carolina; sisters, Judy Pugh (Willie) of Elgin, South Carolina, Jazmina McEleveen of Camden, South Carolina; treasures of her heart grandchildren, Tylin Drakeford, Alijah Drakeford, Jai'u Drakeford, Jai'Layshia Drakeford, Kinslee Johnson and Khilee Drakeford, all of Camden, South Carolina; aunts, Wilhelmina L. Drakeford of Camden, South Carolina, Louise D. Adamson of Spring, Texas, Barbara (Woody) "Bobo" Woodard and Louvenia Drakeford, both of New York, New York; great-aunts, Mary Brevard of Camden, South Carolina and Lynette Lyles of Ashville, North Carolina; nieces, Anté Harrison and Iman Drakeford, both of Camden, South Carolina and Shanquita Moore, Camden, South Carolina; nephews, Antonio Harrison of Columbia, South Carolina, Ethan Drakeford of Camden, South Carolina, Leron Wheeler of Greensboro, North Carolina and Isaiah Pearson of Charlotte, North Carolina; godson, DaVea' Cauthen of Camden, South Carolina; god-sisters, Ronetta Pickney and Paris Salmond, both of Camden, South Carolina; her loving cousins that were by her side each day in the midst of her illness, Catherine Robinson, Janice Robinson, Renee L. Cauthen, Valerie Cooke, Lakhen Cooke, Courtney Massey, and the ENTIRE "2504" FAMILY; a cousin close as a brother, Teddy Nelson; sister at heart Jermaine Eason; special daughter, Felicia Cooke and a host of other relatives.

Nichelle had an abundance of love and support from her lifelong friends; Evangelist Deborah Gray, Denise Massey, Carolyn Smith Haile, Greta Favor Graham, Cindy Massey, Tabitha Williams, Carrie Wheeler, Donna Moses and Teresa Warren.

Remembering Nichelle...



Order of Service

Rev. Dr. P.L. Griffin, Jr., Presiding

PROCESSIONAL

SONGS OF PRAISE SCBC Choir
 "Every Praise"

Tia Cooke
 "All Night"

SCRIPTURE READING

OLD TESTAMENT Rev. Gregory Smith
 NEW TESTAMENT Rev. Dr. Annie Powell

PRAYER OF COMFORT Rev. Ryan S. Warren

SOLO Tia Cooke
 "Precious Lord"

LIFE REFLECTIONS..... Rev. Ronald Williams, *Community*
 Deacon Willie Reed, *Church*
 Prophetess Kenyatta Murphy, *Friend*
 Judge Darrell Drakeford, *Family*

TRIBUTE..... Carrie Wheeler

SONG OF PRAISE SCBC Choir
 "I Never Lost My Praise"

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS..... Mrs. April Bouknight

OBITUARY READ SILENTLY

SONG OF PRAISE SCBC Choir
 "Higher Ground"

WORDS OF COMFORT Rev. Dr. James Coleman

MUSICAL MEDLEY &
 RECESSIONAL SCBC Choir

INTERMENT
 Sanders Creek Baptist Church Cemetery
 Friendship Road • Camden, South Carolina 29020

COMMITTAL, CLOSING PRAYER &
 BENECTION

2504!!! Love my family ❤️