

Celebration of Life for
Jacqueline Lorraine Hill Bryant



Saturday, March 2, 2024 | 11:00 AM
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
1401 Martin Luther King Blvd | Savannah, Georgia 31415
The Reverend Guerillmo Arboleda, Officiant

Obituary

Jacqueline Lorraine Hill Bryant

Jacqueline (Jackie) Lorraine Hill Bryant was born on November 8, 1927, in Newark, New Jersey. She was the youngest of two children born to Eula M. Saxon Hill and Jack Hubbard Hill. Her father, Jack owned and operated a laundry in Newark. Her mother was a stay-at-home mother until Jackie left for college. Jackie attended grammar school in Newark, NJ. The family later moved to East Orange, NJ where Jackie graduated from East Orange High School.

Jackie loved sharing fond memories of growing up in "Jersey," spending time with her paternal grandparents, maternal aunt, making life-long friendships with neighbors and classmates. She reveled in her emergence as a social butterfly when she and friends started their first social club, The Twilight Debs. She especially enjoyed sharing stories of the good times she and her brother, Clarence W. Hill, who preceded her in death, had on their frequent visits with family in Hartford Connecticut.

Jackie was a member of St. James AME Church in Newark, NJ where she was baptized and later married. She maintained active membership there until she joined St. Philip AME Church in Savannah, GA.

After her high school graduation, Jackie attended Spelman College where she earned an undergraduate degree (1949) in Foreign Language Studies -Spanish and Elementary Education, sang in the Spelman Glee Club, and met her college sweetheart, Raleigh Alexander Bryant, Jr., a student at Morehouse College. They married in 1951. Jackie then made her new home Savannah, GA., Raleigh's, home and her mother's childhood home. They enjoyed 69 years of marriage. To their joy, they had two children, Raleigh A., III and Jocelyn Lorraine, and two wonderful granddaughters, Leslie Chayce and Alexis Lorraine. Additionally, they gained a loving son-in-law, Charles (Chuck) H. Harden, Jr. Early in their family life, Jackie, Raleigh and their young children joined St. Matthews Episcopal Church where Jackie served as an Episcopal Youth Church leader, joined the women's guild, and served on the Diocese of Georgia Discernment Committee.

Throughout the 1950's - 80's, Jackie was devoted to her family, her profession, and her community. She received a master's degree in education from Savannah Armstrong State University. She was among the first African- American teachers to integrate the Savannah Public Elementary Schools and was among the first teachers to experiment with the Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (FLES) program. Jackie was also a Chatham County Public Schools Teacher of the Year semi - finalist. Additionally, she served as an Item Writer for the State of Georgia Assessment Project for Second and Third Grade Criterion Reference Tests and was certified to supervise student teachers. Notably, she was one of two teachers of a nationwide selection to serve on the National Advisory Council Board for the Proctor and Gamble Crest Dental Health Education Program where she served for several terms. Jackie retired in 1984 after 31 years of teaching in the public school system.

Prior to and after her retirement she served on numerous community boards inclusive of The Chatham County Equalization (Property Tax) Board, Board of Directors, National Public Radio Station FM-91, The Savannah Symphony Society, The Women's Guild of the Symphony Society, and The Arthritis Foundation Board. She worked closely with the early establishment of the King Tisdale Cottage

Museum and emerged herself in the establishment and growth of Dollars for Scholars renamed SONATA, a program which awards need-based scholarships to talented African American students for private music lessons with Savannah Symphony musicians.

In 1998, Jackie was recognized as a "Hometown Hero," on a local television program (of the same name) designed to recognize local citizens for their community contributions. The honor was presented for her work with Dollars for Scholars.

Early in her move to Savannah, Jackie became the Society Columnist for the local edition of the Pittsburgh Courier Newspaper. Jackie's life quickly began to imitate her writing. She was among the first to charter local chapters of national social organizations in the city such as the Savannah Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and The Savannah Chapter of The National Smart Set where she held local and regional offices and served on the National Executive Committees of both. Jackie was also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.- The Savannah Alumnae Chapter Inc., and The Spelman Alumnae Association wherein she held several offices.

Jackie was a perfect pairing for her husband Raleigh's gregarious personality. Together, they traveled extensively throughout the US and Internationally with family, friends, club members and social groups. Wherever they traveled, Jackie and Raleigh never failed to keep up with childhood friends and reconnect with Spelman sisters and Morehouse buddies. As well, her home was a place of warmth and laughter. Jackie delighted in hosting social gatherings, enjoying every detail of the planning and execution. She also kept an open door to out-of-town friends and loved to entertain and welcome new families to Savannah. She was quick to express her love of Savannah. Additionally, she loved her Thunderbolt community where she, Raleigh and their children made enduring friendships. No one embodied the Christmas spirit more than Jackie. She loved making it a wonderful season for her children and later her grands with beautiful decorations, holiday dinners and hosting her favorite annual Christmas Night Family party.

As well, Jackie was the consummate grandmother. She, Leslie and Alexis, were the apples of each other's eyes. She was their role model leaving no stone unturned to lovingly support them spiritually, socially, and academically. She (and Raleigh, Jr.) traveled frequently to be with their grands to commemorate every special occasion and achievement in their lives.

Jackie met the challenges of aging with dignity and grace. She found something to laugh and smile about every day. Until the last minutes of her life, she graciously accepted God's blessings and will. She departed this life on January 24, 2024.

Jackie was preceded in death by her son, Raleigh A. Bryant, III and her husband, Raleigh A. Bryant, Jr. She leaves to mourn, her daughter, Jocelyn Bryant Harden and son in law, Charles H. Harden, Jr., two granddaughters, Leslie C. Harden (Thomas Mellaci), Alexis Lorraine Harden, a sister-in-law, Revonia Radden Bryant, a niece, Daphne Bryant Vincent.

Order of Service

Mrs. Jacqueline Lorraine Hill Bryant (1927-2024) Burial Eucharist Order of Service

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Saturday, March 2, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

Live Streamed to www.Facebook.com/StMattSav

Full Worship Program at www.StMattSav.org/Blog (Scan QR Code)

Processional Anthem: <i>I Am Resurrection</i>	BCP, p. 491
Collect of the Day	BCP, 493
<i>Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-5, 9</i>	Charles H. Harden, Jr.
<i>Psalm 139:1-11, BCP, 794</i>	Daphne Bryant Vincent
<i>2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9</i>	Tina Capers-Hall
"In the Garden"	Laiken Williams, accompanied by Lavon Stevens
<i>Matthew 11:25-30 (Please stand, as you are able)</i>	
The Sermon	The Rector
The Apostles' Creed	BCP, 496
The Prayers for the Departed	BCP, 497
The Peace, Announcements, and Offertory	
"His Eye is on the Sparrow"	Laiken Williams, accompanied by Lavon Stevens
Eucharistic Prayer A	BCP, 361
The Lord's Prayer	BCP, 364
Communion of the People	
<i>"There is a Balm in Gilead"</i>	LEV #203
<i>"Let Us Break Bread Together"</i>	LEV #152
Post-communion Prayer	BCP, 498
Silent Reading of the Obituary	"If I Could"
Prepared Remarks / Eulogies	Atty. Denise Cooper, Savannah Alumnae Association, Spelman College Mrs. Emma Conyers, President, SONATA, Inc. Dr. Annette K. Brock, Friend Dr. Leslie C. Harden, Granddaughter Ms. Alexis L. Harden, Granddaughter
Family Acknowledgements	BCP, 499
Commendation	
Blessing of the People	
Dismissal	BCP, 500
Recessional "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"	Laiken Williams, accompanied by Lavon Stevens

Acknowledgements & Abbreviations

Today's Ministers:

The Rev. Guillermo A. Arboleda, Rector; The Rev. Ella Roundtree-Davis, Deacon;
Ms. Beryl C. Dandy, Music Director; Mr. Lavon Stevens, Guest Musician; Ms. Laiken Williams, Guest Vocalist;
Ms. C. Toni Blue, Verger

BCP: The Book of Common Prayer (red book)

LEV: Lift Every Voice and Sing II (black and red book)



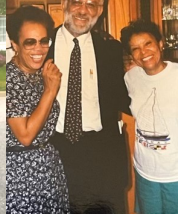


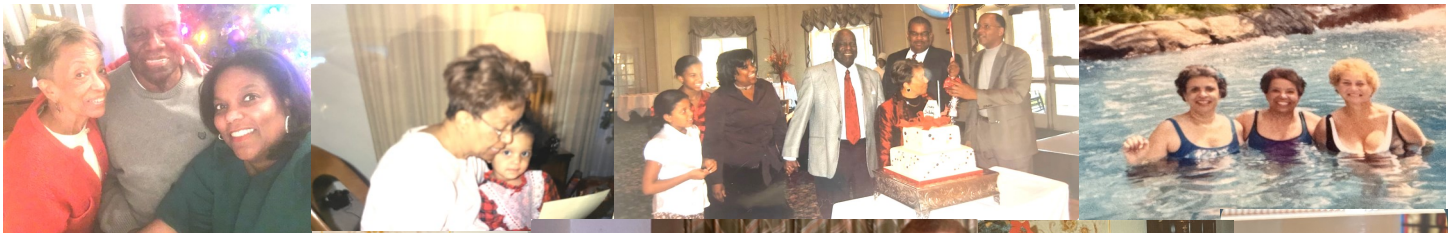
***“And when life’s
race is won,
Thy noble
work is done.”***





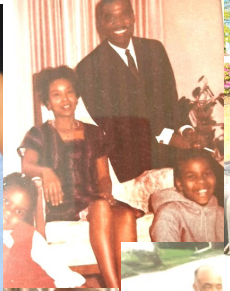
*Children are born
Traditions are passed
The love continues on...*





Don't Stand At My Grave and Weep

*Do not stand at my grave and weep;
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there.
I did not die.*



Honorary Pallbearers

Mr. Charles H. Harden, Jr. Mr. Fredrick L. Tucker
Mr. Todd Tillman Dr. Hugh Gregory
Dr. Ralph C. Lyons Atty. Lester B. Johnson, III
Mr. John S. Hall



Rest in peace Moma and Daddy



SAVANNAH
SYMPHONY
SOCIETY



Acknowledgements

The Bryant Harden family wishes to acknowledge with sincere gratitude and appreciation the many comforting and thoughtful messages, prayers, and other acts of kindness shown to us in our time of bereavement. We especially acknowledge the memberships of Jackie's beloved organizations who honor her today and always. A deeply felt thank you is extended to the family and friends who have traveled here to celebrate Jackie's Life.

The Family is also grateful to the caregivers who helped our parents to maintain a comfortable and joyful lifestyle in their later years and to the membership of St. Matthews Episcopal Church and Adams Funeral Services for their guidance, preparation and support.

We pray for your continued blessings and grace upon each of you

*Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing
It ought to make you proud.*

*I say,
It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hand,
The need of my care,
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.*

From: Phenomenal Woman



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