

# CELEBRATION

## Service

Monday March 8, 2021 - 10:00 AM  
Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church  
1500 S. Dayton Street | Aurora, Colorado 80247  
Pastor Jules E. Smith, Officiating and Eulogist

Processional.....Tara Washington Everette/Nathaniel Black  
"Jesus Promised Me A Home Over There"  
Parting Memories.....Pipkin Braswell Funeral Directors  
Comfort from the Scripture.....Designees  
Old Testament ... Pastor Felix Gilbert  
New Testament ... Reverend John Quick  
Prayer of Solace.....Reverend Reginald Taylor  
Selection.....Marilyn Shelton  
"His Eye Is On The Sparrow"  
Acknowledgment, Condolences and Obituary.....Lillie Fox

### Video Tribute

#### Family Tributes

Livingston Cousins: Joya Burrell  
Estes Cousins: Kiondra Mills  
Santifer Cousin: Tanicka Scott  
Brother: Donovan Knight

### Honoring Aleshia

Two Minutes Please

Devoted Friend and Mentor: Brooke Gregory  
Cherry Creek School District: Michael Giles  
Overland High School: Sybil Mathis -Booker  
Smoky Hill High School: Chuck Puga  
Prairie Middle School: Tami Watkins, Kandy Steele, Angela Zehner

Ecclesiastical Expressions.....Reverend Reginald Taylor  
Selection.....Whitney Houston Recording  
"I Will Always Love You"

Eulogy.....Pastor Jules E. Smith  
Selection.....John P. Kee  
"My Worship"  
Pipkin Braswell Funeral Directors  
"Unforgettable"

Recessional.....Tara Washington Everette/Nathaniel Black  
"Going Up Yonder"

### Interment

Fairmount Cemetery | 430 So. Quebec Street | Denver, Colorado 80247

### Acknowledgment

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, Or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a funeral spray, If so we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, That anyone could say. Perhaps you were not there at all, Just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, We thank you so much

whatever the part... The Family of Aleshia M. Armour  
The Family Received Personal Care from the Staff of

**Pipkin Braswell**  
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"When Someone You Love Becomes A Memory; The Memory Becomes A Treasure."

# ARMOUR

## Aleshia Mishian

OCTOBER 25, 1978

FEBRUARY 28, 2021



"SHE EMBODIED EXCELLENCE."



# Aleshia Mishian ARMOUR

Aleshia Mishian Armour entered this world October 25, 1978 to Nathaniel "Eddie" Estes Jr. and Carla Cook. She was a beautiful baby and a light to the world. Aleshia cried about everything! You could look at her and she would cry. Aleshia started her education with Union Baptist Academy, Hill Junior High School and graduated from George Washington High School. During her pre-teen years, Aleshia was baptized at Union Baptist Church in Denver, CO. She remained a devoted Christian throughout her life and was a faithful member of Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church of Denver, CO.

Aleshia, had a passion for education and mentoring young people. Aleshia always told her mother and Mamaw, her great grandmother, in her younger years that she would be the youngest Secretary of Education. Dora Cook, Mamaw, was very instrumental in her upbringing, as the matriarch of the Livingston family, she instilled the value of education. Aleshia was very active in the community. She traveled to Israel during secondary school with a program called Building Bridges. Ms. June Easterling played a key role in mentoring Aleshia and helped her to become an educator. She was involved in the Arts in which she performed in the "Wiz" and as Eveliene, performed in the play "House of Flowers" at the Denver Center for Performing Arts, and was the young Mahalia Jackson in the play "Mahalia's Song" on Five Points when she was 15 years old. Aleshia was gifted with a voice from Heaven. She used her talents in various ways including singing with the group the Magalirs, singing in church choirs, on praise teams, at funerals and at weddings. She always had a song in her heart that went with her infectious smile.

Aleshia attended Clark Atlanta University and then transferred to Indiana State. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in English from Indiana State in 2001. From there she received her Master of Arts in Teaching Secondary English from Winthrop University in South Carolina in 2003. In 2008, she received her Principal/Administrative License from the University of Colorado at Denver. Aleshia's career in the Cherry Creek School District began in 2003 at Liberty Middle as a Language Arts Teacher. She then moved to Prairie Middle School where she maintained the same position until she transitioned into a leadership role as a Dean of Students. From there, she continued to advance within the O-Zone and became a Dean of Students at Overland High School. Within a year, she was promoted to an Assistant Principal at Laredo Middle School and later Smoky Hill High School. Following her time at Smoky, she was chosen as the principal of Overland High School, which was her greatest accomplishment. She was elated to take on this role and gave her all to the school, her students, and the surrounding community.

In addition to her many accolades in the Cherry Creek School District, some of her life accomplishments include: Spring Conference Presenter - CAMLE (2008), Equity Colloquium Presenter - College Board (2008), Circle of Change Award Recipient - Seeking Common Ground (2011), Distinguished Women of Honor Award - Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church (2014), Parent and Educator Workshop Presenter - Especially Me Conference (2015). Aleshia was the first Black female Principal at Overland High School. Prior to becoming the principal, Overland was the only High School in the district that was not on the "Best High Schools in the U.S." list. Within in one year of becoming principal, Aleshia was able to bring the school into excellence and it is now on the distinguished list. Earlier this year, Michael and Aleshia were featured in an edition of My Black Colorado as leaders in the community. Aleshia worked hard at encouraging courageous conversations about race and equity within the district and school system. She led her staff through difficult conversations and was open with her students around the topics. She was unapologetic and completely authentic as she shared her truths and stood firmly behind what she believed in and worked for. These accolades are astounding, but every day was an accomplishment for Aleshia Armour. She embodied excellence.

Aleshia became a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority Incorporated in the spring of 2005. She was initiated into the Denver Alumni Chapter in Denver, CO. Her line name was Quench because in her words "I was THIRSTY to be a Delta." She was number 8 on the line known as 19 Visions 1 Destiny. She served on various committees including the step show committee, the Delta Authors on Tour committee, and the Strategic Planning committee. Aleshia was incredibly proud of being a Delta and remained committed throughout her lifetime.

# God Sisters TRIBUTES OF LOVE

Dear Aleshia, My Godsister. My friend. I woke up in a weird place Sunday. I didn't even want to get out of bed, I never in a million years thought this would be the reason why. Today doesn't feel any better, worse honestly. I kept telling myself to come to your side of the campus on Friday to see you but forgot and went home, and now I'll literally never forgive myself. My brain and heart can't even begin to process this. I literally can't wrap my mind around it. I'm hurt, my heart is literally broken.

You are the reason I became a teacher. You are the reason I've always wanted to be a dean and a principal. You are the reason I work with so much passion and work so hard to make sure our kids get everything they deserve. We were so excited to be at the O-Zone together. You had me make you those custom Vans with the school colors as soon as we found out you were coming back to Overland. Now I'll be there alone. I honestly don't want to go back. I felt so safe, secure, and confident knowing you were literally a short walk away. I don't know how I'll be able to pull up to the school every day without seeing your car and knowing I can't cross the parking lot for anything I need you for anymore. You were always a phone call or text away whether I wanted to share something good, complain, cry, laugh, ask for advice, gossip, or just chat and catch up. I was right by your side at every sporting event, whatever the schools or district was holding, in your office and outside for parking lot meet ups, even in NOLA for Summit. We sent pictures back and forth for every spirit day or every time you got a good principal shirt. Now what will I do? I was always so proud to tell everybody I came across in the district that you are my Godsister and everybody was just as proud to say they knew you. You and that bright smile touched everyone you came across in such a positive way.

You didn't get to see me become a dean or a principal, or hand me the torch to run the O-Zone or maybe even CCSD, who knows. Lol. You didn't even get to see me hit 30 or become a wife and a mother. So many things we never got to do, see, or say. Sister, I'm sad, I'm really not okay. But I know you'll forever be watching and smiling down on me as I continue all my journeys in life.

Thank you for EVERYTHING you have done for me, personally and professionally. Thank you for always being my side and having my back. Thank you for always keeping it real whether I wanted to hear it or not. Thank you for inspiring and motivating me to be the best educator I can be. Thank you for pushing me to be my best and reach my fullest potential. Thank you for believing in me even when I couldn't believe in myself. Thank you for never letting me quit. Thank you for always being one of my biggest fans. Thank you for helping me get my foot in the door. Thank you for showing me how real Black Girl Magic is. Thank you for being beautiful inside and out. Thank you for always being ready to take a selfie with me, even if they literally all look the same. Lol.

You were always so proud of me and I promise you I'm going to keep pushing my way the top with you in mind. The last thing we talked about last week was me finishing my principal program and you were so happy and told me the next steps I needed to take. I don't know how I'll do it without you, but I'll do it. I'm glad I got to share that accomplishment with you. I will continue to follow in your footsteps and I know you will continue to guide me.

I am so glad God gave this family you. The world needed you. I'm so thankful God shared you with us. I'll forever hear you say "hi sister!" and see that bright smile on your face. I'll find peace in knowing that I told you all of this while you were here and that you know I loved you so much. God got you now and I know that you're safe in his arms.

The school gone be good, I'll make sure the kids know you truly loved them. I got any of them if they need anything. We got the kids and your mom. And you know I got my dawg Michael Armour for sure. I will forever cherish you and all of our memories. I promise you I'll hold the O-Zone down. Your legacy will live on forever. I got it from here sister, I'll see you on the other side. I love you with my whole heart forever.

*Bri'Ana*

Aleshia Armour...My Godsister! It feels like I can't breathe, my stomach is in shambles, my head is pounding, my mind is racing and the tears keep falling. These last few days have honestly been some of the hardest days of my life. Although death is inevitable, I never imagined that it would be now for you!!! What about our lunch date?! What about you coming to see my house when it's done?! What about Ari and Amiyah's play date?! What about our duet with you singing and me dancing?! I thought we had so much more time Aleshia!!! The problem with thinking that is you end up wasting a lot of time. I'm grateful for every moment we shared. I'm grateful that you loved me and that I loved you! I'm grateful that we always let each other know that we loved each other. People have asked me countless times since Sunday if I'm okay. I've given different answers to different people however I'm NOT okay. I don't want this to be real. I don't want to be out of time!!! I don't want Mike, Keaton, Pryce and Ari to be out of time. I don't want your mom and dad to be out of time. I don't want Donavon to be out of time. I don't want your cousins to be out of time. I don't want Melissa to be out of time. I don't want Bri'Ana and my mom to be out of time. I don't want the students and staff at Overland to be out of time. The list can go on and on...I don't want the world to be out of time!!! I love you deeply Aleshia!!! My heart is broken!!! I know I will see you again...until then rest well beautiful queen

*Da'Jani*



# TRIBUTES TO *Aleshia*

**To my beautiful daughter Aleshia,**  
I have always felt you were a gift given to me by God. In your first baby photo you winked, as if to say "Look out world!" How could I have known that the little baby I gave birth to at such a young age would become the most amazing, exceptional woman that you were. You were always a shining light! There were many days that I would just wonder "how does she do it?" Your caring spirit seemed to touch everyone you met. The pain I am feeling now is unbearable, my heart is breaking! However, I do know that I will rely on strength from God. I try not to question Him, but I still find myself asking "why"? The world is a little dimmer without your radiant smile, but I know your presence will always be felt. I will always be there for Mike and the kids, and I hug the kids and hold them close and very tight every chance I get! Aleshia you and I were more than mother and daughter, we were friends.  
REST IN HEAVEN BABY GIRL, I LOVE YOU,

*Mom*

### **Tribute to my GodDaughter,**

Aleshia, I was the third person in your new little life to hold you. I was honored and blessed to give you your name, which means Noble and Exalted. Girl, you wore the name so proudly and how it fit you. I loved you from the day you were born and will always love you as one of my daughters. You made your mark on this world in so many ways as a daughter, goddaughter, sister, god sister, wife, mother, friend, mentor and the list can go on and on. You have always told me that my approval has meant so much to you, and you have always had my approval for everything you have done. I am so proud of you and all your accomplishments. Thank you for all of your love for me, and for sharing your life. Thank you GOD for allowing me to be her Godmother. Aleshia, what continues to cross my mind is the last time we were together a few weeks ago and you hugged me and buried your face in my neck. You said how much you missed me and missed my smell, we laughed about it and I never would have thought you were taking in my smell because it would be the last time. My heart is broken! I will never hear you say, "Hi Godmom", and see your contagious smile and feel your embracing hugs. I love you Aleshia, Rest well GodDaughter and I will see you on the other side.

*God Mom!*



## *Petals of Her Life*

As beautiful as a rose to see,  
Was her life she lived so gracefully.  
She made things precious by her touch,  
Her selfless love lives on in each of us.  
The petals of her life fell one by one,  
Each a gift of her heart  
till there were none.  
Yet her radiance blooms once again  
In fields of glory with no end.

While in college, Aleshia met and married Kevin Cantrell. God blessed their union with two handsome sons, Keaton Eugene and Pryce Anthony. As time went on, they decided they were better as friends and began co-parenting.

Aleshia then met the love of her life, Michael Armour; She was beyond ecstatic! They met at Pappadeaux only 3 days after Mike arrived in Denver for a recruiting trip. The two met in passing. Mike and James Jones III were enjoying dinner as Aleshia and Tami Watkins were entering the restaurant. During dinner, Tami told Aleshia she thought Mike was a really good guy and they should exchange information. After dinner, Aleshia approached Mike with a knock on his car window. The two started dating in 2011 and they married 3 years later at Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church. God blessed their union with Miss Ari Noire. Aleshia was so happy to have a baby girl, her mini-me. She devoted her life to her children and set them up for their future education and success, through a path that will surely be followed.

Aleshia was very confident and she lit up any room when she walked in. If anyone knew how to work a room for any occasion, it was Aleshia. She was always full of joy!

Aleshia was called home to glory on February 28, 2021. She leaves to cherish her beautiful memory, her husband Michael Armour; parents, Nathaniel Estes and Carla Knight Gilliam; stepfather, Gary Gilliam; her sons, Keaton and Pryce, and daughter Ar; brother, Donovan (Kia) Knight all of Aurora, CO, sister, Danielle Estes of Aurora, CO; her Bonus Children, Stephen (Tabitha) Fields Dallas, TX, Emmanuel Mclendon Reno, NV, Alicia Tate Dallas, TX, Micah Armour Alanta, GA; grandparents, Nathaniel and Rainey Estes Sr. Denver, CO, and Marcia and Leon Burnette Huntsville, AL; mother in law, Beverly Armour; father in law, Michael Doss; brothers in law, Rossi Walter Jr., Dallas, TX and Aaron Walter Little Rock, AR; aunts Terri (Kenny) Whitlow Huntsville, AL, Tricia McDonald Toney, AL, Cathy (Jeffrey) Lane, Denver, CO; uncles, Monualdai Burnette, Miles Burnette, Marquez Burnette, all of Huntsville, AL; her Godmother, Ardith (Vincent) Gilmore, God sisters, Da'Janai (Tyrell) Smith and Bri'Ana Woods; cousins who she had a special connection with: Deon Estes, Kiandra Mills, Myesha Ray, Tanika (Nik) Scott, LaToya Virdure, Michela Brooks, Joya Burrell, and Sh'Rena Gay; as well as a host of her cousins, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, sorors, and other family and friends.





# The Final Kiss

I have fought the feelings  
And my emotions inside  
That fills and empties me  
Like a fast rolling tide.

There are moments of  
extreme pain,  
Of sorrow and anger,  
Leaving me to ponder  
Many hours of late.

I love you, BABE.  
It's your presence I miss.  
And I terribly long  
For that one last, final kiss.

But the greatest pain of all  
That hurts me so deep,  
Is after giving you  
my love and heart  
I can't have yours to keep.

To have you by my side  
Always longing for more.  
And have you feel the same.  
To mutually love and adore.

You see, Babe,  
I have given you my heart  
And revealed the depths of my soul,  
And now I am left feeling  
hopelessly empty,  
Paying this immeasurable toll.  
It's selfish, I know to feel this way,  
But it's how I feel each  
and every day  
Always hoping and praying  
For the next time we meet again  
For you to allow me, once again to  
feel complete.

And REST ASSURED,  
I WILL see you again.  
For it's not a question of if,  
But a question of WHEN.  
And when that time comes  
I'll be in total bliss,  
For no longer will I wait  
For that FINAL KISS.

From your Loving husband,

*Mike*



I miss you!  
♡



Our hearts are heavy, due to the loss of our  
niece, Aleshia Armour, the loving wife of our  
nephew, Michael Armour.

Aleshia won us over with her  
beautiful smile and  
the smile that she put on our  
nephew's face.

She was the love of his life.

We are so proud of Aleshia's  
accomplishments.

Her passion for education, awesome leadership  
and love for students impacted the lives of so  
many.

The loving memories that we have of Aleshia  
will live in our hearts forever.

We will miss her,

Auntie Gail, Uncle Robert, Brionna and Kiara



Dear Auntie Alishia, I miss you so  
much. I'm trying to convince myself  
that this is all a dream or a prank  
you were everything to me and you still  
are. it's still hard to believe that you've  
left my life and many others. ~~you're~~ ~~really~~  
you're the closest person I've lost in my  
life. I will keep praying for you and  
hoping we will meet again. I Love you  
Auntie, good bye.