



Billie Jean Sanders

April 16, 1945 - January 30, 2016

Billie Jean Sanders was born April 16, 1945 to the late Hudson Wigley and Jimmie Ree Kirk of Yazoo City, Mississippi. Her step father Sam Kirk was a key figure in her life and helped in raising her. Billie was the oldest daughter born to her mother.

She received her formal education in Yazoo City, Mississippi where she loved and excelled in basketball.

Billie Jean met the love of her life and childhood friend Leon Sanders while living across the river in their hometown. Overtime this friendship grew into a lasting love that was manifested to all through marriage on August 18, 1963 and to this union seven children were born and several grandchildren that she helped raise as her own. Together they worked hard to raise their children on the Southside of Chicago where they resided for twenty-four years, before moving to Matteson, Illinois.

Billie Jean came to know and have a personal relationship with her loving Creator Jehovah and dedicated her life to him by means of water baptism in 1974. To know Jehovah is to love him and she certainly expressed her love for Jehovah whenever she could.

Billie Jean had many wonderful abilities and qualities, for those who knew her

well she loved to sew, cook, spend time with her family and play cards. Billie had a gift for conversation and you would often find her sounding down the wonderful truths that she found in the Bible with whomever she came in contact with, she had a very persuasive delivery. She was humorous and loving toward anyone she encountered. Her home was always open to all of her family both fleshly and spiritual. She loved family gatherings and made sure everyone had enough to eat before leaving, and to go plates. Her home was always open because she enjoyed the loving association.

Billie Jean fell asleep in death on Saturday, January 30, 2016. She was preceded in death by her mother Jimmie Ree, her father Hudson Wigley, step father Sam Kirk, her oldest brother Walter Wigley, and sister Geneva Ingram.

She leaves to cherish her memories, her loving and devoted husband of 52 years: Leon Sanders; her seven children and her grandchildren that she considered as hers and were raised as such: Loretha Sanders, Leon Darnell (Rochelle) Sanders, Rolisha (Gerald) Smith, Catherine Sanders, Edeverett Sanders, Angela (J.S.) Sanders-Hester, Katie Sanders-Griffith and Franshean (Delores) Sanders; Her siblings: Frederick Wigley, Barbara (Jeff) Smith, Brenda Hagins, Lolita (John) Dent, Juanita (Isaac) Sanders and Debra (Daniel) Donkoh, Florence Wigley, Sherman (Bessie) Kirk, Lucile Kirk-Malcolm (Robert), Mary Kirk-Blevins, William Kirk, Leflora Wigley, Charles Kirk and Gwendolyn Kirk and Latonya Wigley; three granddaughters who served as her care takers: Tatiana (Demarco) Burgs, Alexis Sanders and Princess (Leroy) Sanders; sixteen grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren who fondly called her "GG" as she requested; sister & brother in-laws; a special friend and dear spiritual sister: Delores Kelly; and a host of friends and spiritual brothers and sisters too numerous to mention by name.

Tribute Wall



“ *Billie Jean Sanders*

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