



# Jacquelyn L. Harris, "Mama J."

NOV 5, 1948 - JUL 8, 2019



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MEMORIAL PARK  
Funeral Home & Cemetery

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## **Jacquelyn L. Harris, "Mama J."**

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**J**acquelyn Laverne Carter Harris, daughter of the late James Paul Carter, Sr. and Mattie Beatrice Williams Johnson was born in Memphis, Tennessee on November 5, 1948. At a very early age, Jacquelyn "Jackie" went to live with her beloved Great Grandparents, the late Benjamin and Fontella Williams. Jackie was well known in her neighborhood due to her mischievous behavior. Customarily, a neighbor would ask, "Jackie, you got your daily spanking yet?" As always, she would respond, "Nope, but I am working on it." There was no tree too tall to climb, there was no marble game that she did not manage, and there was no craps game that left her with empty pockets. Jackie accepted the invitation of Christian discipleship at an early age at Cummings Street Baptist. She was also known to worship at Pleasant Grove Baptist, New Jerusalem Baptist, Metropolitan Baptist Church and her final church home was Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church. Jackie was a proud graduate of Manassas High School (Class of 1968). There she was a member of the beautiful Personettes organization and those infamous legs of hers landed her on the majorette and cheerleading squad. There, at her cherished Manassas, she met three girls that would serve as lifelong friends and godmothers to her children: Sarah Faris, Jennie Mitchell, Deloris Townsend. In 1969, South Memphis met North Memphis. Mr. James Edward Harris, III, let it be known that he was campaigning for the title of husband and he was elected. On September 20, 1969, the two were united as one at Emmanuel Baptist Church. This union produced two children, Angela Marie and Michael James. As a single mother, Jackie was determined to teach her children that a quality education and a strong work ethic would be the key to a "good life". With that mantra, Jackie returned to college earning her Associates Degree in Business Administration and she worked her way up to management in several organizations. For example, if you purchased a fur coat in the late '90s from Goldsmith's, you probably purchased it from Jackie, affectionally known as the "Fur Lady". After a stint



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as administrative assistant for various executives, her children decided to retire her because her wish had come true, God had granted her wish of a grandchild. It would be a sin and a shame not to mention her love of fashion. No matter where she was going, Jackie's style was unmatched. Her closet is filled with clothes and shoes from all over the world. She shared her love of fashion with her children, friends and anyone that slipped her a compliment. Jackie was preceded in death by her parents, her former husband; sister, Bennie "BJ" Johnson; longtime companion James Brown; her parent in-laws Mr. James (Freddie Pearl) Harris, Jr.; and one a Great Uncle, Elder Edward Denton; a niece and three nephews; and her beloved fur babies Carmel and Yoki. Fond memories of Jackie will be cherished by her daughter, Angela Marie (Alfred), her son, Michael James (Rainey), her brothers, James Gordon (Jean), Jerome Parker (Bernadine) James Carter (Sara), Eddie Carter (Carol), Johnny Carter (Alice) and Willie Carter; her sisters Derie Johnson and Deborah Parker; sister-in-law Pearline Harris Washburn; brother-in-law Ralph Edward Harris; a Great Aunt, Juanita Denton, the grandbabies, Mr. Alston Duvall Haynes, Miss Michaela Marie Harris and Miss London Ariel Hamilton; her bonus children Dwight (Penny) Jackson. Jackie's faith was strong. She shared with her children and others that God had prepared a place for her and she was ready to "let go". The night of her transition, she mouthed to her children "I love you" and she peacefully took God's hand. The family will receive relatives and friends on Sunday, July 14th from five o'clock in the afternoon until eight o'clock in the evening at Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5668 Poplar Avenue in Memphis. The funeral will be on Monday, July 15th at ten o'clock in the morning, also at the funeral home. The committal service will immediately follow. In lieu of customary remembrances, the family requests donations to be made in Mama J's honor to the West Cancer Clinic. To view the Tribute Slideshow please click

here: <https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/CQ4HSGQZ5NJ8R7ZQ>



## Tribute Wall

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GN

**Gwendolyn Neal** posted:

Gonna miss you Jacquelyn Harris... lost of fun times going down memory lane?? the dinner parties ,I know you're showing that same hospitality Rest well my love???????

July 14 at 10:59 AM

AH

**Alvin E. Harris Jr.** posted:

Mama JackieMama Jackie, I am so glad that the last time I was home I got to see you and tell you that I Love You and hug you. 1987 was the beginning of one of the greatest relationships that I will cherish for the rest of my days. That was the year that a young man from the bottoms of Memphis got to meet a most wonderful mother in South Memphis and the rest as they say would be history. With no hesitation you invited me into your house, you fed me, you let me lay my head down when I was tired, you taught me lessons of life, you inspired me, you comforted me at my lowest moments of the loss of my daddy, you lifted me up with laughter and joy, you celebrated the milestones in my life of marriage and children, you supported me for 24 years to the day of military service to this country, you encouraged me through my own battle with this cancer, you helped a loud, sometime ill-tempered but otherwise gregarious social butterfly become a man, husband, father and grandfather . But above all the preceding that you helped me become, I believe in my soul you entrusted me with your two most precious gifts to this world and told me to protect your daughter and your son. I still hear you telling me, "Alvin, don't you let anything happen to my babies!" I hope I made you proud of the job you charged me with. You are a joy Mama Jackie, and there is something about you that I just can't get enough of. I along with many others got to travel the highways with you for many years and you spent uncountable hours raising a tribe that surpassed your two and poured into each one of us in your own unique way that was specific to each of us just as if you bore us yourself. And on one of the greatest celebrations in our lives, I GOT TO DANCE WITH MY MAMA!!! Mama Jackie, you were our heartbeat and I must believe that we were yours as well. You gave me some skills that were necessary to not only be a survivor but a conqueror in this world and I will hold those skillsets close to my heart always. No matter where I went in this world, I knew when I was in Memphis, I was welcomed in Mama Jackie's house and without missing a beat I would be fed. It is those things that I have learn to appreciate and will cherish. There are so many memories that I could speak of, but my heart is heavy because my Mama Jackie is at rest now. I take comfort in knowing that you said and did what would have been perceived as non-confirmative for the benefit of your children and all of you extended children. I take comfort in the fact that you gave when others took, that you loved when others hated, that you helped Mama when other hurt. In giving of yourself to serve all of us, you now get to receive all of what God has for you. As I put these word down I cry Mama, but I know that by God's hands I have been blessed to have you in my life Mama Jackie and I can and will hold on to all of the Love, Lessons, Laughter and Life you gave me.1987 a young man from the bottoms of Memphis walked in the most loving house in South Memphis and met Mama Jackie for the first time and we became a FAMILY.I Love You Mama Jackie and May God hold you tight in his arms.Your Son Alvin

July 10 at 12:59 PM



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NL

**Nicole L. Lowe** posted:

My sincere condolences to my extended family. The memories of your mom will give you all strength to carry on. God bless you all. With love

July 12 at 5:32 PM

PJ

**Phyllis Jackson** posted:

My thoughts and prayers and love are with you and your family now and always.....Love Phyllis Holloway Jackson

July 12 at 2:50 PM

TG

**Tanya Glover** posted:

My heartfelt condolences. I know your new reality, so well and this journey will be like no other. You were raised well and are blessed to have a lifetime of love and memories to stabilize you! HUGS, to you and your brother. Love ya!

July 12 at 12:32 PM

TM

**Thomas And Delois Graham And Family L0ve You So Much** posted:

Thomas and Delois Graham and Family. We love you so much, praying for you.

July 12 at 6:49 AM

DM

**Darriah "Nikki" Miller** posted:

May God grant you and your family strength and peace during the loss of your dear mother. Remember, God is the "I Am". God can become our Refuge, our Provider, and our Comforter. God is the God of "everything you need Him to be". God's embrace is as comforting as a mother's touch. As you comprehend this profound loss, let yourself cry knowing each tear is a note of love rising to the heavens. With my deepest condolences, Nikki

July 11 at 7:02 PM



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KF

**Kirnes Family** posted:

May God bless your family during this time of Bereavement. God and a mother's Love is strong and enduring. I have no doubt your mothers love will sustain you this and every day. God bless

July 11 at 4:17 PM

JH

**Jennifer Herring** posted:

Ms. Jackie, You became part of the FCB family the day you started working with us. You graced us with your beautiful sense of style, your humor, and your love. We have a hole in our heart where you touch each of us. I am so glad I got the opportunity to know you and your wonderful children & granddaughter, and Yoki. Fly high, your health has been restored & you've join the voice of the heavenly choir of Angels. Until we meet again. I love you!!!

July 11 at 3:05 PM

MB

**Monica Watson-Bolden** posted:

Mama J....what a lady!! Angela you guys have my deepest and most sincere condolences. Your mom was a terrific woman and I am truly honored to have known her. My prayers and love is with you!!

July 11 at 2:20 PM

GM

**Georgia Moss, Muskegon, Mi.** posted:

2 Corinthians 5:8 "Absent from the body and present with the Lord "

July 11 at 2:14 PM

AB

**Angela Burton** posted:

Thinking of you and Michael... sending my heartfelt prayers and hugs during this difficult time. Love you ?

July 11 at 1:39 PM

SC

**Stephanie Calvin** posted:

I was only able to meet Momma J once. In the short time we talked as if we had know each other for a long time. She had a very sweet welcoming spirit. I can see where Angela got it from. Rest well.

July 11 at 12:58 PM



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CW

**Carolyn Williams** posted:

So sorry to see this on fb. You have my condolences. I will miss our communicating on fb about how good God is to us. I pray for you Angla and family to be comforted with the love of God during this time of loss. Class mate and childhood neighbors., Carolyn Lacy Williams

July 11 at 12:43 PM

SP

**Sandra Polk** posted:

Moma J, Energetic, fun-loving, full of life, and smiling to no end are just a few adjectives and characteristics that could be said about her. You took care of us while marching those long streets of NOLA and any parade or function. You were a motivator with so much sass and pizazz. You will be missed and forever loved. You loved everyone, and everyone loved you too. Rest love and fly high!!!

July 11 at 10:58 AM

KS

**Karla Woods Stephens** posted:

A mother's love is unparalleled. This is definitely true of Mama J. I never physically met her but her sweet daughter Angela has been a friend for 30-plus years. We just reconnected and it has to be said that Mama J did a magnificent job with her! Her family will miss her but as this snapshot of her life revealed, she lived her BEST life. May her family be comforted, filled with joy and reminisce of the sweet memories Mama J left us all! Rest in God's loving Arms, Mama J. You made it!

July 11 at 10:06 AM

RB

**Rev. Willie T. Burton (Aka Brother)** posted:

The Lord givest and the Lord taketh away. Hope that you find peace and comfort in the word of God knowing that He will never leave you nor forsake you. Be blessed

July 11 at 9:37 AM

TM

**Tasha Mackey** posted:

Moma J you will forever be in my heart! I love you forever and always! Prayers for peace to the family.

July 11 at 9:23 AM



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LB

**Lesley And Tangela Beasley** posted:

Our sincere condolences and prayers for the family.

July 11 at 8:50 AM

KA

**Kim Lawson-Alexander** posted:

May care and love of those around you provide comfort and peace to get you through the days ahead. My most sincere condolences. Take comfort in the memories that will forever be in your hearts.

July 11 at 8:30 AM

SS

**Sharon Savage** posted:

My heart goes out to Angela and Mike... Words cannot express how in the short time of being around Ms Jackie brought me so much joy. Sending prayers of comfort to your entire family and she will be missed dearly??....

July 11 at 5:06 AM

KA

**Kay** posted:

My sincerest condolences for your loss. During such difficult times God is close to us as a source of comfort (Psalm 34:18). May you find strength and peace through prayer and his word the Bible.

July 10 at 12:59 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Jacquelyn by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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