



God is Calling you Home

God is calling you home
 That's why He took you away from us
 We didn't put up a fight or fuss
 He didn't want to keep seeing you struggle
 So He and His angels got in a huddle
 He came to the side of your bed and grabbed your hand
 Told you that you completed your life as planned
 Reached inside your body and lifted up your soul
 Called you home and thanked you for letting Him be in control
 You didn't get a chance to say your last goodbyes
 But we know you're looking down watching the tears fall from our eyes
 Wondering why we're crying because now you're in a better place
 Even though we will no longer be able to see your face
 This was God's will, His plan, His way
 We take comfort in knowing we will meet again someday

By: Victoria Van Devere

I AM FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
 I'm following the path God laid for me.
 I took His hand when I heard Him call,
 I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
 To laugh, to love, to work, or the play.
 Tasks left undone must stay that way;
 I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
 Then fill it with remembered joy.
 A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;
 Ah yes, these things, I too, will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow;
 I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow.
 My life's been full, I've savored much;
 Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
 Don't lengthen it with undo grief.
 Lift up your hearts and share with me;
 God wanted me now, He has set me free.



Pallbearers

Family and Friends of **Bessie Jean Van Devere**

Acknowledgement

The family of **Bessie Jean Van Devere** acknowledges with sincere appreciation every thought and act of kindness expressed to us during this our hour of bereavement. We will always keep you in our prayers. May God continue to richly bless you.



Celebration of Life for Bessie Jean Van Devere

January 15, 1926 - January 1, 2011

Service

Friday, January 7, 2011 - 11:00 a.m.

New Life Worship Ministries

210 East 4th Avenue • Roselle, New Jersey

Rev. Nathaniel Bullock, Pastor

Bishop Wayne L. Johnson, Eulogist

Order of Service

Rev. Nathaniel Bullock, Officiating

Organ Prelude

Processional

A Parting View

Opening Hymn

Scriptures
Old Testament
New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Hymn

Family Tribute Robert S. Van Devere – son

Words of Comfort

Acknowledgement of Condolences

Obituary

Musical Selection

Eulogy Bishop Wayne L. Johnson
Pastor – Bibleway Deliverance Center – Roselle, New Jersey

Recessional

Interment
Monday, January 10, 2011
Long Island National Cemetery
Farmingdale, New York

Services Entrusted To:
G.G. Woody Funeral Home, LLC
206 East Eighth Avenue • Roselle, NJ 07203
www.ggwoodyfuneralhome.com

“Where Our Sympathy Expresses Itself Through Sincere Service”

Life Reflections

Bessie Jean Van Devere was born January 15th 1926 to Ford Douglas and Sara Palfrey in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was raised primarily by her father and paternal grandmother; her mother contracted tuberculosis and was quarantined for most of her life. But despite the minimal contact with her own mother, Bessie was a great mother and grandmother figure to many.

In 1943, at the age of 17, Bessie met and married her first husband, Stanley Davis, and through their union the couple was blessed with a daughter, Millie. Unfortunately, Stanley, a US soldier died in the combat of WWII and Jean was left to raise Millie on her own. She packed her bags and moved to New Jersey to be closer to her in-laws. She found herself in Newark, NJ, a place where she spoke of with great admiration. Bessie assimilated into life in the North quite easily. She landed a job at a light bulb factory; Bessie frequented the Newark party scene, making good life long friends – whom she introduced herself to as Jean. It was at one of these social events that she met her second husband, Arthur Van Devere, owner and operator of H.P. Van Devere and Son Moving Company.

In 1956, Jean and Arthur married and she joined her husband in Roselle. Shortly after, the newlyweds gave birth to a son, Robert S. Van Devere. During the next several decades, Jean doubled as a mother and the manager for the moving business – taking phone calls, scheduling moving dates, and maintaining a good rapport with the customers. She even found the time to make the 1964 March on Washington where she got to hear Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s famous “I Have a Dream Speech” in person.

With her daughter married and her son in college, Jean along with her good friend, Mrs. Thompson got involved in estate sales. She became an antique expert and was a great saleswoman because of her genuine interest in people and her Southern politeness.

She was a people person and a true sweetheart. Jean took pride in her family and provided a strong foundation for her grandchildren. Jean was always looking to help others, and even enlisted her family in delivering what she called “packages” to friends in need and donating money to numerous churches and charities. Jean had an impeccable memory; she lived in Roselle for more than fifty years and could tell you who your relatives were if you gave her your last name and what street you lived on.

Jean loved denim and often wore a bandana around her hair. She enjoyed catching up with her friends and family over the phone, and even in her later years she liked to attend a good party. And while it was physically difficult for her to attend church, each morning she sat in the kitchen drinking her coffee and watching the mass on television.

Jean was a strong presence in the lives of her many family members, friends, and her community and she will be greatly missed. She leaves behind: a daughter, Mildred Blue (Harold Healis); a son, Robert S. Van Devere; daughter-in-law, Valerie Van Devere; seven grandchildren, Roy Canty, Alan Blue, Jenelle Fraser, Chancie Armstrong, Mariann J. Van Devere, Victoria Van Devere and Jerell Van Devere; three great grandchildren, Janae Fraser, Jaden Fraser and Kyla Armstrong-Edwards. The family would like to extend special thanks to family friends and caretakers Barbara and Gayle for the loving-kindness and attentiveness to Jean during her final days.

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