

*In Loving
Memory
of*

Diane (Pierce) Patterson

May 13, 1962 - January 4, 2012



DIANE PIERCE PATTERSON

Obituary

***“She fought the good fight, she finished the race,
she kept the faith.” ~2 Timothy 4:7***

Diane Pierce Patterson went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, January 4, 2012 after a heroic battle against cancer. She was born in Paterson, NJ on May 13, 1962 to the late Magaline Pierce. After the death of her mother in 1966, she was raised by her dear uncle and aunt, George and Clarethia Pierce.

Diane grew up in the city of Paterson, where she attended St. Agnes Catholic School, Public School #24 and Eastside High School. During her childhood she ran track and traveled to the Youth Games. She was a member of St. John Divine Missionary Baptist Church, where she served as a co-director of the youth choir; her favorite song was “Joy, Like a River”. After her graduation from high school, she enlisted in the United States Armed Forces and served from 1980 to 1983. Upon her return to Paterson, she worked for a variety of companies. Her most recent employer was Eastern Christian Children’s Retreat in Wyckoff, NJ.

Diane recently re-committed her life to Jesus Christ and was a proud member of Christian Fellowship Center in Paterson. She would often be heard saying, “I’m getting my soul right and I don’t have time for foolishness.” Diane was a woman of great courage and faith and was committed to developing her walk in Christ. “Every time the church opens I will be there,” she said and would make every effort to keep her word. Despite her illness Diane never complained and constantly expressed concern for others, when asked how she was doing, she would frequently respond, “Don’t worry about me, I’ll be alright.” She was very generous, rarely wanting to accept gifts, but always willing to give of her time; whether it was to offer free babysitting, hair care or to help you clean your house.

Diane had a special gift for calming and nurturing children. She coddled, cradled, hugged and loved all her nieces and nephews. She was especially fond of her nieces Ashley Pierce and Sanaa Shields and her nephew Elijah Pierce.

Diane is survived by: a committed companion of twenty-three years, Elfero “Ice” Weddington (whom Diane affectionately referred to as “Flappo”); her parents, George and Clarethia Pierce; six sisters, Shirley Pierce of Woodland Park, NJ, Vanessa Pierce Gibbons, Gwendolyn Pierce Shields and Catina Harris all of Paterson, NJ, Michele Griffin of Hillsborough, NJ and Pamela Pierce Bailey of Fayetteville, NC; five brothers, Larry Pierce of Chesterfield, VA, Jerry and Malcolm Pierce of Paterson, NJ, George Pierce of West Orange, NJ and Keith Pierce of Maplewood, NJ; four sisters-in-law, Stephanie, Keisha, Kateecha and Gretchen Pierce; three brothers-in-law, James Griffin, Harvey Shields and Todd Harris; nieces and nephews that she helped to care for Quasheema Demarest, Tahesha Weaver, Ashley Pierce, Che’Vonne Bailey, Shamika Lassiter, Elijah and Trinity Pierce, Braunya Dungee, Elias and Emma Harris, Pierce Griffin, Jaiden, Samantha and Joseph Pierce, Malachi Weaver, David Hammons and Aaliyah Phillips; in addition to a host of aunts, uncles and cousins.

She will be deeply missed by her family and friends, but never forgotten

A Celebration of Life

Service

Monday, January 9, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CENTER

359 Van Houton Street

Paterson, New Jersey

Pastor Joel D. Rudolph, Sr., Officiating

Praise Prelude

Presiding

Prayer of Comfort Pastor Renee Troublefield

Selection.....Sanctuary Choir

Scripture

Old Testament - Psalm 90:1-12 Minister Thelma Oliver

New Testament - II Cor. 5:1-10 Pastor Patricia Clark

Clergy (*2 minutes each please*)

Family Tribute

Selection Sanctuary Choir

Acknowledgements/Condolences Dr. Robyn Porter

Reading of the Obituary Che`Vonne Bailey

Selection.....Bro. Joshua Williams

The Spoken Word Rev. Dr. Joel D. Rudolph Sr.
Senior Pastor

Benediction

Recessional

Interment

William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery
Arneytown, New Jersey

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

In Memory of Diane Pierce Patterson

When tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not there to see; If the sun should rise and find your eyes, all filled with tears for me. I know you may cry, like the way you did today; While thinking of the many things we didn't get to say. I know how much you loved me, as much as I love you; And each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too. But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand, That an angel came and called my name, and took me by the hand. He said my place was ready, in heaven far above; But as I turned to walk away, A tear fell from my eye; It seemed almost impossible, that I was leaving you. I thought of all the yesterdays, The good ones and the bad; I thought of all the love we shared, and all the fun we had.

If I could relive yesterday, just even for awhile I'd say goodbye and kiss you, and maybe see you smile. And when I thought of things, I might miss come tomorrow; I thought of you, and when I did, my heart was filled with sorrow. But when I walked through heaven's gates, I felt so much at home; When God looked down and smiled at me from His great throne. He said, "This is eternity and all I've promised you; today your life on earth is past, But here it all starts anew. I promise no tomorrow, but today will always last; And since each day's the same day, there's no longing for the past." But you have been so faithful, so trusting and so true; Though at times you did do things you knew you shouldn't do. But you have been forgiven and now at last you're free; So won't you take my hand and share eternal life with me?" So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart For every time you think of me, I'm right here in your heart.

Acknowledgement

We sincerely appreciate the flowers, calls, cards, visits, love and support given to us during our profound time of grief. You are a source of strength during our loss. Continue to keep us in your prayers. Thank you.

~ The Pierce and McKenzie Families

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