

Celebration

Of Life

For

Lesley Dana Clark

Labor

October 1, 1982

Reward

May 15, 2014

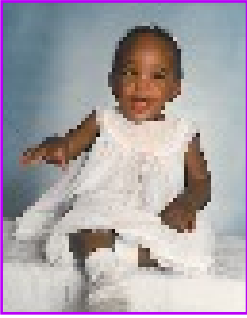
Friday, May 23, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

144 Norman Street
East Orange, New Jersey 07017

Rev. Dwight Gill, Pastor
Rev. Milton B. Hobbs, Officiating

Obituary



Lesley, Les, Lez, Big Les, Aunt Shug, Miss Clark, Coach, Clark, Juicy, Daughter, Sister, Niece, Cousin, Neighbor and Friend...Lesley Dana Clark departed this life peacefully at her home on Thursday, May 15, 2014, surrounded by her Mom, Dad and faithful dog and companion, Shelby.

Lesley was born on Friday, October 1, 1982 in Orange, New Jersey, the oldest of two children born to David and Jacqueline Clark of East Orange, NJ. Her sparkling eyes and her infectious smile were evident at birth and continued to be her 'signature' throughout her life. Educated in East Orange and South Orange, Lesley was an involved student who participated in various academic and athletic activities in elementary school, paving the way for her memorable involvement at Clifford J. Scott High School. As a member of the Class of 2000, she played basketball and softball, made life-long friends and learned valuable skills that would later ensure her success at the college of her choice...Lincoln University, PA.

Lesley majored in Elementary Education and, under the guidance of inspiring professors, learned the meaning of giving back to the community and the responsibility that we all have to make others better along the way. Equipped with techniques, strategies and literacy skills, she earned a B.S. from Lincoln University in 2004, along with a sense of purpose and a determination to make a difference. This marked the beginning of an amazing life.

Immediately after graduation, Lesley encountered a life-changing diagnosis. For some this would mark the beginning of the end, but for Lesley, this fortified her determination and propelled her into gear to 'live life to the fullest'. Family, friends, career, travel, culinary arts, party planning, television, sports, music, fashion, and independence were priorities to her...all done with a special flare and focus.

Lesley's career as an Elementary School Teacher began in 2006, when she was hired by the Newark Board of Education and placed at Alexander Street School in Newark, NJ. She taught 5th Grade for five years. Lesley's energy, commitment, love, excitement and overall personality touched the lives of her students in ways that transcended the traditional educational experience. She made believers out of those under her tutelage and showed the school and community that the possibilities are endless. The winning Girls' Basketball Program, prosperous Student Government, entertaining Talent Shows, amazing Father & Daughter Dance, scary Haunted House Fundraiser, hilarious Fun Day, and simply walking down the hallway.... were school activities that took on a new meaning because, Miss Clark was in charge. Lesley was the epitome of a teacher and she demonstrated that anything can be a teachable moment. The students in her class and throughout the school were her 'special medicine' and their growth and success helped sustain her drive to 'live life to the fullest'.

Lesley loved to travel, eat at exotic restaurants, relax in luxurious hotels and attend exciting music venues. There was not a movie that she could not re-enact in perfect detail or a television series that escaped her scrutiny. When it came to food, the requests never ended for her deviled eggs, macaroni and cheese, lasagna, pasta salad, fried chicken, and banana pudding. Though her Party Planning venture never had time to fully launch, many enjoyed the festivities of her trial runs...especially the 5th year Birthday Party for her dog Shelby, Savannah and Seth's Birthday Bashes and her Mom's 60th. 'The Goody Bag', as it was to be called, would have featured an extensive 'candy bar'.



Lesley's legacy is one of grace, bravery and beauty. She had a style and personality that made her unforgettable. Her conversations were comical, mesmerizing, animated, thought provoking, sincere, honest and full of life because that was Lesley's primary goal: 'Live life to the fullest!' She didn't let a medical diagnosis define her. She persevered in spite of her reality and showed us all, by example, that you CAN be the master of your fate!

Priceless memories will forever be cherished by: her proud mother and father, Jackie and David; loving brother, David W.; 'big sis,' Victoria Jr.; niece, Savannah; god-son, Seth; faithful dog, Shelby; devoted friends, Tysheria, Chesney, Tanika, Tamara, LaToya and Tasha; and a host of family members and friends. Lesley has joined the angels in heaven!

Order of Service

Greeting and Invocation Reverend Dwight Gill

Musical Selection..... The Lord's Prayer..... Beverley McKenzie

Scripture Readings
A Reading from the Old Testament
A Reading from the New Testament

Acknowledgments and Resolutions Naiima Fauntleroy

Musical Selection..... Gene Knox

Obituary..... Dr. Yvette Bridges, OB/GYN

From Daddy to Lesley with love..... The Makings of You..... Curtis Mayfield

Reflections of Love Remembering Lesley
Clifford J. Scott/Housemate

Chesney Blue
Tysheria Glenn

Lincoln University Tanika Royster-Robinson, Class of 2004
Tasha Sapp, Class of 2004

Newark Public Schools..... Denise L. Taylor, VP Oliver Street School
Amirah Pierre –Louis, Instructional Specialist

The Family..... Victoria S. Carlisle, Jr.
David W. Clark

The Family's Expression of Thanks..... Darryl Jeffries

Remarks Limit (3 minutes)

Musical Selection

Eulogy & Benediction..... Reverend Milton B. Hobbs



Come To Me

*God saw you getting tired
And a cure was not to be
So He put His arms around you
And whispered, 'Come to me'
With tearful eyes we watched you
And saw you pass away
Although we loved you dearly
We could not make you stay
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands at rest
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.*



Acknowledgements

The family would like to extend heartfelt appreciation for all expressions of kindness, prayers, and support during **Lesley's** eight year battle and now her passing.

We give special thanks and gratitude to her New Jersey Miracle Team- Dr. Robert Sipzner, Dr. Orringer and Dr. Stuart Leitner; and her Miracle Team at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, NY, NY- Dr. Nancy Kemeny, Dr. Michael D'Angelica, Dr. Yamata, Dr. Cori Salvit, Dr. Tabitha Goring, Dr. Yvona Griffo, Nurse Sandy, Nurse Trish, Chemo Nurse Stinzi, Nurse Janese, Nurse Kim, Nurse Margret, Nurse Stephanie, Nurse Yolanda, Carolyn Fulton, LCSW and the entire support staff of the 15th and 16th Floor; and the Visiting Nurse Association Health and Hospice Program- Nurse Susan, Eileen-LCSW and Marie-Home Health Aide. Your dedication to Lesley was unparalleled.

Lesley has bequeathed her body to the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Anatomical Association for anatomical study and medical research in hopes to further scientific medicine. Because of her enlightened philosophy, current needs will be met to facilitate efforts in the areas of education and research.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made 'In Memory of: Lesley D. Clark' to: Memorial Sloan- Kettering Cancer Center, PO Box 27106, NY, NY 10087. Please request that the Clark Family be notified of your gift.

Professional Services Provided By

Woody "Home For Services"

163 Oakwood Ave. • Orange, NJ 07050
ph (973) 674-0814 • fax (973) 674-2055

www.honoryou.com