

*A Celebration*

*Blessed Life*



*Deaconess*

*Deborah Lynn Gaffney-Davis*

*Sunrise*

February 5, 1958

*Sunset*

May 10, 2019

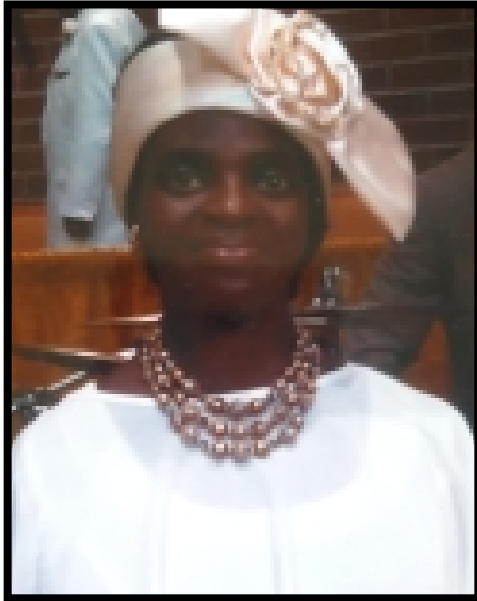
*Service*

Saturday, May 18, 2019 - 11:30 a.m.

**House of God Church**

98 William Street • Orange, New Jersey 07050

**Elder Katherine Smith, Officiating**



### *The Last Words of Deborah*

Don't weep for me when I'm gone,  
for I have finally made it home!  
No more sorrow, no more pain,  
Eternal Life I have gained.

For nineteen years the disease  
of Lupus plagued my mortal body  
But it couldn't touch my soul nor my spirit,  
daily longing for eternal peace...

I called mommy and said  
"mommy tell the nurse I don't want no more visits,  
I just want to rest."

Rest indeed I desired,  
Rest indeed I received- no more sickness  
-no more pain,  
Eternal rest I have gained.

Sorrowfully Submitted, Mommy

THE WORSHIP CELEBRATION  
Elder Katherine Smith, Officiating  
Reverend Angela Greene, Presiding

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Prelude

Processional

Invocation.....Elder Gregory Shockley

Hymn.....“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”  
Elder Laurreta Davis

Prayer of Comfort.....Dr. Andre Wheatley

Scriptures

Old Testament.....General Elder George Whitehurst

New Testament.....General Elder Bernard Davis

Solo.....Deaconess Carol Ann Howard

Reflections

As a Friend.....Reverend Debra Turner

As a Deacon New Jersey .....Deacon Everette Randolph

As a Deacon Downstate New York.....Deacon Alonzo Horn

As a Courtesy Worker.....Elder Brenda Wheatley

Solo.....Sister Elayna Manson

Remarks

2 Minutes each please

Musical Expression.....Robert Randolph

Acknowledgements, Obituary.....Dr. Cynthia Brown

Congregational Song.....Elder Sylvia Randolph

Eulogy.....Elder Katherine Smith

Recessional

Interment ..... Monday, May 20, 2019 - 11:00 am  
Rosedale Cemetery, 350 East Linden Avenue, Linden, NJ

## **Deaconess Deborah Lynn Gaffney-Davis**

### **Her Journey in Life**

Deborah's life began February 5, 1958 in the old Martland Medical Center on Bergen Street, Newark, New Jersey (today UMDNJ). She was the 3rd of seven children born to her parents Minnie Mae and Major Gaffney Jr. (M.J.).

### **Her Education**

Deborah attended Newark and Plainfield public schools, plus entered Essex County College in Newark seeking her Associate Degree in Health Care.

### **Her Career**

Deborah's work in the health care profession began at Lyons V.A. Hospital, Lyons, NJ; taking care of our Veterans for eight years. After leaving the V.A. Hospital, she became certified as a Home Health Attendant taking care of the sick and disabled. She loved helping anyone in need. She remained in this profession for 15 years until she became unable in 2001 to continue the work she so deeply loved.

### **Her Union**

Deborah was joined in union to Frank Davis by Elder Bernard Davis (General Elder) officiating minister.

### **Her Walk as God's Servant**

Deborah was christened in The House of God Church at the young age of seven by the Late Chief Helper Henry Dillard, who was appointed General Elder of the North Jersey Diocese; the Late Bishop W. H. Davis Presiding Prelate. A few years later the Gaffney family relocated to the Plainfield area and became members of The House of God, New Brunswick, New Jersey; The Late Rebecca E. Griffin, Pastor. Elder Griffin united the Gaffney Family (7 siblings), Johnson Family (9 siblings) and the Alice Darby Family (10 siblings) as one Family in the church...in the faith and doctrine...and the community. She taught all to love and support each other no matter what happens. Deborah was saved as a child and grew up in the church singing with her brothers and sisters as "The Gaffney Children." When she strayed away she returned singing "The Devil Thought He Had Me: But I Got Away!" Now under the pastorship of her mother in Plainfield she was appointed to the staff of deacons. Deacon Sidney Byrd, Deacon James Johnson, and Deaconess Mildred Johnson told

her “if you’re going to be a deacon, be a good deacon, one that your pastor can depend on.” Deborah not only became, she remained this dependable deacon even when she transferred into the Downstate New York Diocese in 2008 under the pastorship of her mother in Freeport, NY. She served her church faithfully as an ordained deacon on the local, state, and general levels. She was always willing to do whatever she could to make all look good! She worked untiringly as the State Youth Coordinator for many years in the Downstate New York Diocese.

She believed in serving her church, community, and family. She served her community as a ”Die Hard” Courtesy Worker, feeding the migrant worker on the corner as well as issuing clothing to the homeless. She loved to lend a helping hand at the Senior Community Center, in South Plainfield. She lived the mantra “I Must Work...”

Deborah loved to cook and serve her family southern dishes. After she introduced Robert (her Nephew) to yellow turnips Robert expected yellow turnips be served by at all family gatherings.

### **Her Bucket List**

Deborah always wanted to live in Georgia to be near her almost twin brother Sam “Peewee” after he left New Jersey. God granted her heart’s desire a few years ago, and she moved into a newly renovated home owned by the family. Her second bucket list was to have a combined 60th birthday celebration with her “Peewee.” She loved the fact that there was only a 10 month difference in their ages. This one Deborah was not physically able to carry out.

### **Her Journey in Life Ends**

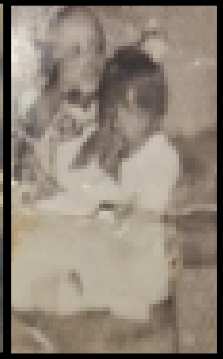
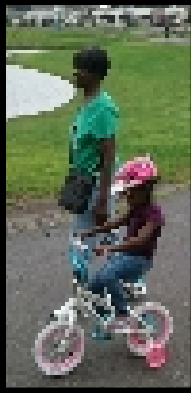
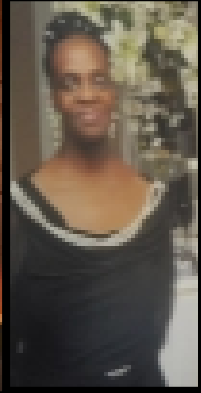
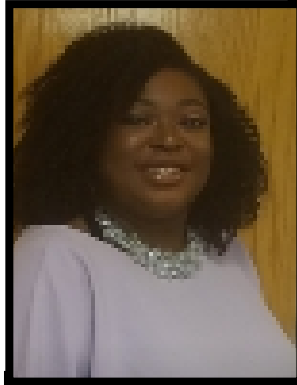
Deborah fell asleep May 10th, 2019 in Doctor’s Hospital, Augusta, Georgia.

She is preceded in death by her father Major Gaffney Jr. and her elder brother Major Gaffney Jr. III (Buddy).

She leaves to cherish her life: her mother and caretaker Bishop Minnie M. Crawford, South Plainfield, NJ, one son Amir Gaffney of Newark, NJ; Siblings: Dr. Geraldine Gaffney, South Plainfield, NJ, Sam Gaffney (Vanessa) and Anthony Gaffney, Vidalia, Georgia, Gregory Gaffney, Avenel, NJ and Elizabeth Gaffney, Fayetteville, NC.; One precious granddaughter Amira Gaffney, Newark, NJ; one Goddaughter-Chanel Haygood, Rochester, NY; special first cousins who took care of her during her last feeble days-Evelyn, Cathy and Gallie, Georgia, and a special God-fearing watchman Elder Maggie Manson who called her often in Georgia to see how she was feeling. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and church family.

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### ***Pallbearers***

*Deacon Alonzo Horn*

*Deacon Lloyd Greene*

*Deacon Lonnie Fonville*

*Dwayne Randolph*

*Tommy Farris*

*Tommy Parrish*

### ***Honorary Pallbearers***

*Nephews and Nieces*

### ***Floral Bearers***

*Courtesy Welfare Members*

*&*

*Deacons Union Members*

### ***Repast***

*The family will receive family and friends in the church dining hall after the Celebration of Life.*

### ***Acknowledgements***

*The family of **Deborah Lynn Gaffney-Davis** wishes to express our sincere love and appreciation to all of you for the many acts of kindness you have bestowed on us. Your outpouring of love and kindness has helped make this time of bereavement easier to bare. We thank you immensely, we ask God's Blessings for every sacrifice you made, every card, meal, flowers, texts, emails, phone calls sent to help us through. Downstate New York you held us up in deed and in prayer...you have left an indelible mark on our hearts.*

*New Jersey we thank you for every act of kindness shown.*

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## **CHAPELS OF EDEN FUNERAL HOME**

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