

*Celebrating the Life
of*



Melissa Irene Batchelor

Sunrise
August 20, 1965

Sunset
January 20, 2021

Friday, January 29, 2021 - 6:00 p.m.

CARNIE P. BRAGG FUNERAL HOME

256 Rosa Parks Blvd., Paterson, New Jersey

Rev. Barry L. Graham, Officiating

Rev. Fred Bowers, Organist

Obituary

Melissa (NaNa, Lissa, Cuzbunnie) Batchelor departed this life on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at home. She was born August 20, 1965 to Virginia (Simmons) Batchelor and Cleamon (Clem, Clint) Batchelor in Paterson, New Jersey.

Melissa was educated in the Paterson School system and graduated from Eastside High School. She began her career in the Passaic County Surrogate Office as a Probate Clerk where she worked for 35 years until her early retirement due to health reasons. Even after retirement, Melissa was still more than willing to provide her extensive knowledge of the legal system at a moment's notice – from how to file a simple legal document to finding a citywide program, she was always there to assist.

Melissa loved going on cruises with family and friends and taking trips to North Carolina. Melissa was a faithful member of Canaan Baptist Church, Paterson where she dutifully served in multiple leadership positions as part of the Canaan Youth Council, Primary Sunday School Teacher, Adviser of the Canaan Praise Dancers along with her late “sista” Denise Hinson and Youth Choir Adviser. Melissa was also in charge of the annual Christmas Program and Christmas Party, the Sunday School Easter Program as well as the Hallelujah Party each October. If you happened to have any type of conversation with Melissa, you are likely to have heard one of her patented catchphrases “Oh Really” or “Lordy a mess” at least once.

When Melissa turned 40 years old she decided to celebrate the occasion by throwing herself a birthday party at the Brownstone House. Of course, Melissa invited her friends and peers to the extravaganza but in a surprise twist, she also invited the children of her peers, a host of Millennials, children born after 1981 to the event. The mixture of young and old had the best time of their lives with the open bar that Melissa provided. Melissa's 40th birthday party covered three rooms and the Millennials spent the evening introducing their parents to drinks they never heard of ... allegedly ... Let's just say a good time was had by all.

Melissa was predeceased by her father, Cleamon Batchelor and her sister, Linda.

Remaining to continue her legacy and rejoice and share wonderful memories are her mother, Virginia Batchelor; brother, Cleamon Batchelor (BOO) and his wife Sharon; daughter, Natasha Lloyd (Linval Lindo) and three granddaughters, Nah'rese, Nevaeh and Nariah; godson, Derrick Vane, her second mother, Jaye Collick and her daughters Vicky, Valerie and baby sister, Gina; special cousin and head of the family, John Manley Jr. (Evelyn) Rocky Mount, NC; her favorite cousin, Sarah 'Weesie' Mc Millan; lifelong best friend, Valerie Carter; special friends, Almetta and Ron Smith and sistas-in-love, Alvida Beany Rivers and Sheila Eaton.

Melissa also leaves a host of relatives, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, sistas-in-love, brothers-in-love and strong Christian brothers-in-love too plentiful to mention with an abundance of memories to cherish, laughter to share and loving fights to finish ... Forever in our life.

Order of Service

Call to Worship

Selection Minister Daniel Marks

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Reverend Thomas Hinson

New Testament Minister Eulie Jones

Prayer of Comfort Trustee Calvin Merritt
Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Passaic, NJ

Selection

Reading/Acknowledgements/Reflections of Life... Sarah McMillan

Family Remarks John H. Manley Jr.
Chief of Police Elizabeth City State University
Elizabeth City, NC

Remarks Minister Daniel Marks
On behalf of Canaan Baptist Youth

Poem Stacey Greene

Selection..... Reverend Frederick Bowers IV
Greater Ebenezer Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA

Words of Comfort Reverend Barry L. Graham, Pastor
Canaan Baptist Church, Paterson, NJ

Recessional

Interment

George Washington Memorial Park
Paramus, New Jersey

My Last Request

Please don't say that I gave up, just say that I gave in. Don't say I lost the battle, for it was God's war to lose or win. Please don't say how good I was, but I did my best. Just say that I tried to do what's right - to give the most I could, not do less.

Please don't give me wings or halos, that's for God to do. I want no more than I deserve, no extras, just my due. Please don't argue with one another, or talk in harsh tones. Don't be concerned about me now, I'm well with God; I've made my home.

Don't talk about what could have been, it's over and it's done. Just see to all my family's needs, the battle has been won. When you draw a picture of me, don't draw me as a Saint. I've done some good, I've done some wrong, so use all your paint - not just the bright and light tones, use some gray and dark. In fact, don't put me down on canvass, paint me in your heart.

Don't just remember good times, but remember all the bad. For life is full of many things, some happy and some sad. But if you must do something, then I have "one last request." - Forgive me for the wrongs I've done; and with the love that's left, thank God for my soul's resting, thank God for I've been blessed. Thank God for all who loved me, praise God who loved me best

Author: Unknown

Acknowledgment

The family of the late **Melissa Irene Batchelor** wishes to thank all of you for your prayers, messages of comfort and the many other acts of kindness shown during our hour of bereavement.

May God continue to bless you in a very special way.

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