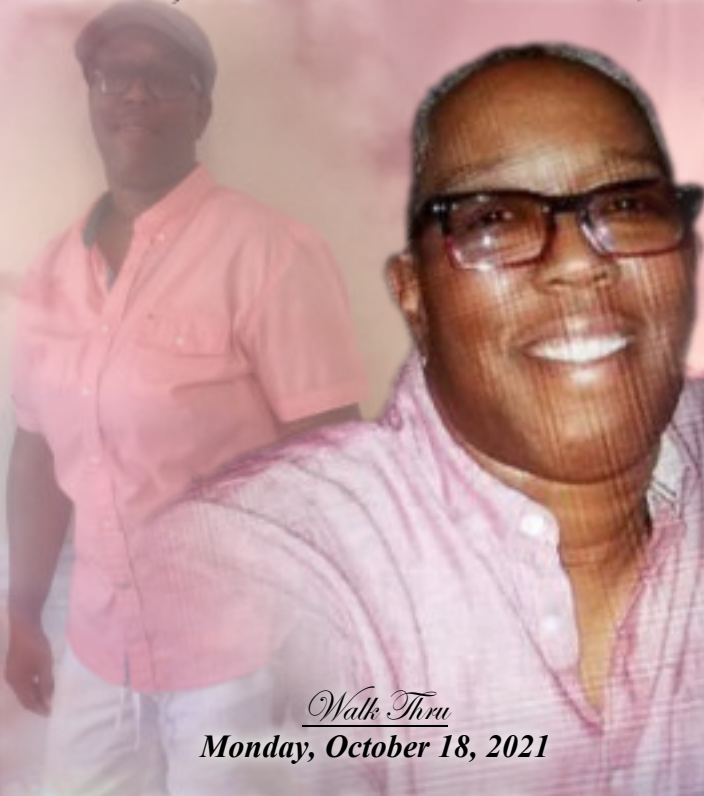


*Celebration of Life*  
**JOY LAVONNE HILL**

*Sunrise*  
**March 3, 1967**

*Sunset*  
**October 2, 2021**



*Walk Thru*  
**Monday, October 18, 2021**

**Whigham Funeral Home**

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. • Newark, New Jersey 07102

*Service*  
**Tuesday, October 19, 2021 • 10:00 a.m.**

**First Baptist Church of Teaneck**

1592 Teaneck Road • Teaneck, New Jersey 07666

***Reverend Dr. Marilyn Monroe Harris, Senior Pastor, Officiating***

## *Reflection of Life*

**Joy L. Hill**, of Snellville, GA, daughter of Sharon Hill and the late Burrell Jenkins, was born on March 3, 1967 in Newark, NJ. She peacefully transitioned on Saturday, October 2, 2021 surrounded by family, doctors, and nurses. She was 54 years young. She had a few nicknames; Vonnie or Joy Joy as she was affectionately called by her Mother and family and Jae, as she was affectionately called by April, and her friends.

Joy was raised in Newark, NJ and attended Cleveland Elementary School. She went to the same elementary school her mother and aunt attended when they were young. She was also accepted at the prestigious Science High School in Newark, NJ. When the family moved to Irvington, NJ. Joy attended and graduated from Irvington High School, June 1985. She also played basketball at Irvington High.

Joy enjoyed working in organizations where she could help solve problems. With that ambition, she worked as a security guard for Macys, and an investigative firm in Cedar Grove, NJ. Ultimately, she made her career as a Correction Officer at East Jersey State Prison from March 1988 until her retirement in February 2014. During her tenure at East Jersey, formerly Rahway State Prison, Joy worked in several units and worked in the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center from 2010 until her retirement. Joy was a skilled marksman and shooter. She enjoyed going to the practice range to hone her skills and received acknowledgement and commendation for these skills.

Joy and her Mother were very close. When she was younger, they would travel to New York City every Saturday to Ruth Sanchez's hair salon in Harlem, eat at eclectic restaurants, shop in the Village, and have great mother daughter bonding time. Her Mother always had her in some activity, whether it was tennis, soccer or arts and crafts camp. During the summer, she would spend time with family in Deerfield Beach FL, Ocean City or Camden, NJ. They were always on the go. Joy was a lover of "house" music, an ode to her Mother. She would attend the "House Music" festival every summer especially when she returned home to NJ. Everyone who knows Joy know that she lived and breathed football!!! We can certainly say she was a little obsessed. She was a loyal Pittsburgh Steelers fan and you didn't want to interrupt her when she was watching the game on Sunday afternoon or during Monday and Thursday night football!!! She also loved watching crime shows. She was interested in how the cases were solved.

Joy was a kind, affectionate and sensitive soul. She was also willing to help anyone in need. She would say that her grandmother, Bernice Hill, instilled that attribute in her. She volunteered because of her grandmother, Bernice who taught all her children and grandchildren that we should always do something for others. Sometimes, it did not always work out as she thought. One day, she tried to help two elderly women raise their car window because it was stuck. Unfortunately, she got the window up, but it also shattered in the process!!! She called her Mother and said, "all I was trying to do was to help someone," but she paid the ladies for the window. They both laughed!! She had a heart of gold and would help anyone in need. She was a social butterfly and had many life-long friends. Joy also had a great sense of humor.

She met the love of her life, April Manley, in 2010 through Malika, a mutual friend. Malika set up the blind date. They went out to dinner and the rest is history!!! April thought Joy was a homebody like herself but found out differently. Joy was not a homebody, but it made no difference to April!!! Joy and April entered a Civil Union Partnership in 2012. They remained married for 12 years until her untimely death.

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, on a warm Georgia evening, God called Joy home to rest and be comforted by Him. Her memory will be cherished by her Partner, April Manley; her Mother, Sharon Hill; Lawrence D. Stroud, who she affectionately called "Pops;" her Aunt, Jacqueline Hill-Howard; her Great Uncle, Cecil Hill; her Grandmother, Fannie Jenkins, Uncle, Dwight Jenkins; her adopted Uncles Andre W. McKenzie and Kevin Coles, her adopted Aunties, Bertha Miller (affectionally called Ma Miller), Andrea Seymore and Claudette Hope; her step-children, Shahid Griggs and Jakilyn Reed, her "good" sister- friends; Keyda, Moni, Andi, Shannon and Tina and a host of cousins and friends. Rest well my sweet Joy Joy.

*Nan and Pop Pop are waiting for you with open arms.*

# Order of Service

Processional .....Clergy

Congregational Hymn .....“Precious Lord”

Prayer of Comfort ..... Reverend Sheila Burns-Owens

The Old Testament Reading ..... Sister Claudette P. Hope

The New Testament Reading .....Sister Nakeyda Sumpter

Musical Selection

Reflections.....From the Family  
Brother Tarrod Hill From Eastern Jersey State Prison  
From Friend of the Family Andre W. McKenzie  
Moni

Solo ..... Sister Juwan Hubbard

Resolutions/Acknowledgment/Obituary .....Sister Edith P. Green

Musical Selection

Eulogy .....Reverend Dr. Marilyn Monroe Harris

The Closing Prayer ..... Reverend Dr. Marilyn Monroe Harris

Recessional .....“When We All Get to Heaven”  
(Please stand if you are able)

## ***Interment***

*Glendale Cemetery Association  
28 Hoover Avenue  
Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003*

## ***Repast***

***G & G Hall Rental***  
*486 Washington Avenue  
Belleville, New Jersey 07109*

## *Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep*

*Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glint on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened fruit. I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you wake in the morning hush, I am the swift, uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circling flight. I am the soft starlight at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there; I do not sleep.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry. I am not there; I did not die!*

**Author; Mary Frye**

## *From Your Mother*

*I carry your heart with me; I carry it in my heart  
I am never without it; Anywhere I go you go, my sweet daughter  
I carry your heart with me; I carry it in my heart ...*

**Author: E.E. Cummings**

## *Acknowledgements*

*The family of Joy LaVonne Hill wishes to thank you for all  
your expressions of kindness during our time of bereavement.  
May God continue to keep and bless you.*

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Professional Services by:  
**Whigham Funeral Home**

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
973-622-6872  
**Carolyn Whigham, Director**

