

ESSENCE

A portrait of Mary Jean Maria Kyler, a woman with voluminous curly hair, wearing a black dress with white polka dots and a large necklace. She is smiling broadly and has her arms outstretched. The background is a red, draped fabric.

SUNRISE: MARCH 17, 1939
SUNSET: DECEMBER 15, 2021

A PHENOMENAL WOMAN
MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER
AND FRIEND

FABULOUS
POWERFUL
WORTHY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022

VIEWING – 10:00 A.M.
SERVICE – 11:00 A.M.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GLENARDEN
3600 BRIGHTSEAT ROAD
LANDOVER, MD 20785

PASTOR JOHN K. JENKINS SR.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE & LEGACY OF
MARYJEAN MARIA KYLER

Remembering **MARYJEAN**



Maryjean Maria Berry was born in Washington DC on March 17, 1939, to the late Elsie Berry and Tindley Givens. She is the only child of Elsie Berry and one of four siblings from Tindley Givens. As a child, Maryjean spent a lot of time in Coleman, Maryland on the Eastern Shore, where her mother grew up. Her Eastern Shore country life experiences with family were a major part of her childhood. Affectionately known as Jean, she graduated from Spingarn High School in 1957, and upon graduation, she briefly lived in New York to adventure away from home. In 1959, Jean married Lawrence Kyler, and their union was blessed with two daughters, Tracy and Joyce. They were married for 19 years and re-established a lifelong friendship.

Jean worked as a private-duty Licensed Practical Nurse before graduating from Prince George's Community College in 1974, receiving her Associate Degree in Nursing and becoming a Registered Nurse. She later graduated from Marymount University in Virginia, earning her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. She landed her first job as a psychiatric nurse at St Elizabeth's Hospital in 1974, and she later became

the supervisor of her unit. Jean was truly dedicated to her nursing profession. She loved her patients and would bring a patient home for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner. She also became an avid vegetarian in the 1970's, teaching good eating habits to her family and friends, and encouraging the use of naturopathic remedies. In 2000, Jean retired from the Federal Government to take care of her ailing mother for whom she provided 10 years of exceptional care. She also nursed in other settings within the metro area such as Hadley Hospital, Southern Maryland Hospital, Greater Southeast Hospital, and the D.C. Correctional Facility.



Jean was a super strong and determined Christian woman and called herself a "Queen" before the term became mainstream. She was an active member of First Baptist Church of Glenarden in the Senior Wednesday Ministry and cheerfully served as an Usher. She was also an active member of the Virtuous Women Love Ministry and served the last 7 years as Membership Chair for AARP Chapter 939. Jean loved giving back to the community. She was always active and putting her nursing skills to use. Recently, she administered COVID vaccines to seniors at her church and

prepared food boxes for those in need.



Jean maintained an energetic lifestyle spending time with family and friends, attending the performing arts with her Kennedy Center membership, and traveling the world. She enjoyed places like the Bahamas, Aruba, Europe, Jamaica, Africa, Paris, the Holy Land, and recently Cuba. Her love for travel and cruising opened her world to many people and diverse foods, and she spared no expense enjoying and maximizing life to the fullest.

She leaves to cherish her memory, two daughters, Tracy Blackwell and Joyce Kyler; four grandchildren, Monet Blackwell, Brittany (Andrew) Engel, Elmer (EJ) Blackwell, Jr., and Nathanael Milam II; four great grandchildren, Donae Moore, Mariah Miller, Shi Smith and Drew Engel; special cousins Godfrey Clayton (Evelyn) and Betty Simmons; godson Randolph Brooks, Jr. (Hazel) and spiritual daughter Andrea Hayward (Cornell); exceptional friends Patricia Minor, Nancy Hayes, Eva King, Makeda Hudson, Lawrence "Tonk" Kyler and a host of relatives and friends. The Queen, Maryjean will truly be missed and remain forever in our hearts.



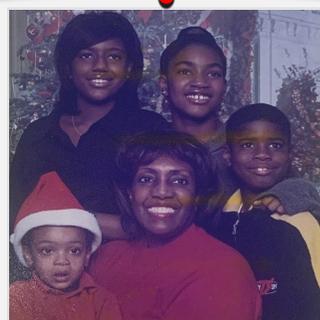
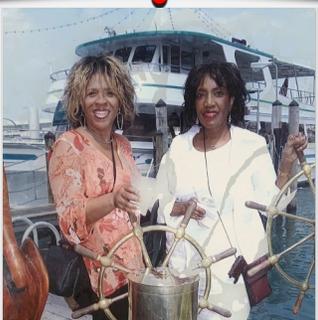
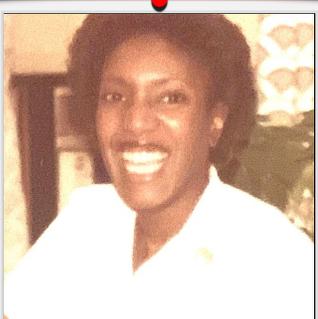
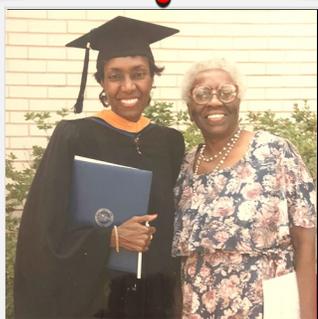
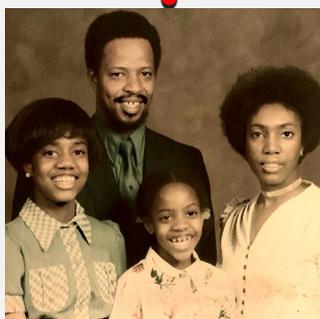
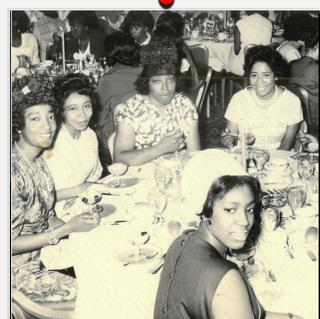
Order of Service

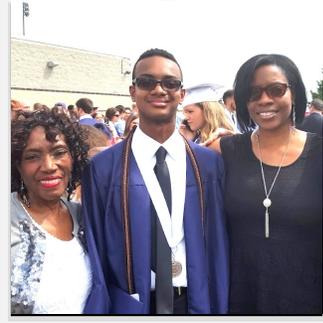
Reverend Cynthia Terry, Presiding

Processional	Ministers
Scriptures	Rev. Cornell Hayward & Rev. Dr. Andrea Hayward New Horizon Christian Faith Church
	Old Testament: Psalm 23 New Testament: I Corinthians 15:52-57
Prayer	Reverend Keshia Dixon
Ministry of Music	“Order My Steps” FBCG Music and Arts Department
Acknowledgements	Cheryl Reid FBCG Funeral Coordinator
Obituary (Read Silently)	
Tribute	Angelic Hayward
Reflections	Virtuous Women Love Ministry Patricia Minor Bryan Simmons
Ministry of Music	“Be Grateful” FBCG Music and Arts Department
Message	Reverend William Berkeley Jr.
Recessional	



Early Years - Nursing - Travel - Family & Friends...





Reflections

A Powerful Woman

She rises from her adversity, but never forgets her origin.
She learns from her past, and chooses to keep going forward,
Even when her steps get heavy.
She transforms her pain and suffering into strength and wisdom.
Yes, she may stumble.
Yes, sometimes she falls.
But just as the sun always rises,
So, too, does a powerful woman.
She is equipped with an intuition that guides her course like a compass.

She strives to love herself, and all that she stands for, with a fierce
Loyalty, even when it's difficult.
She's not afraid to seek truth, even when it hurts.
She is passionate, and uses her gifts to inspire and spread light and love
With a mind of wonder and a heart of goodness and grit, she is resilient.
She refuses to be navigated by fear and doubt.
She knows where she's been, where she is, and where she's headed.
She uplifts other women, and embodies authenticity and humility,
She loves deeply, lives with compassion, and is relentlessly unapologetic.
She is designed to be admired, not always liked,
She is fierce, determined, and unstoppable.

She is a powerful woman.

--A. Hartgers

Ma.

Things I feel most deeply, are the hardest things to say,
Dearest Mom I loved you in a very special way.
If I could have one lifetime wish, one dream that could come true,
I'd pray to God with all my heart, for yesterday with you.

Missing You Always,
Tracy and Joyce



Grandma.

Your life was full of loving deeds, forever thoughtful of our special needs.
Today and tomorrow, my whole life through,
I will always love and cherish you.
There was magic in grandmother's touch, and sunshine in her smile.
There was love in everything she did to make our lives worthwhile.
We found both hope and courage just by looking in her eyes.
Her laughter was a source of joy, her words warm and wise.
There was a kindness and compassion found in her embrace,
And shining down from Heaven above we see the glow of Grandma's face.

Your Loving Grandchildren



Family Tributes



Ma,

I will never get another call from you asking “where are we going”, “what are we doing next”, as you have completed your assignment on this Earth, and I say well done! There is no one that can take your place, and nothing will ever be the same. First of all, thank you for loving me so much. Thanks for the love of books and reading. Thanks for taking me to the library as a child and enrolling me in so many fun activities. Thanks for all the vacations, plays, concerts, instilling culture and diverse experiences in me. Thanks for being there during every childbirth, staying with me and not leaving until I could manage on my own. Thanks for being a wonderful and dedicated grandmother and great grandmother. Thanks for shopping for my work clothes and keeping me stylish at work. One of the moments I will cherish the most was not too long ago, when you grabbed my hand and held it tight, and we walked into church together. The feeling was so powerful, I felt like a little girl again. Oh how I wish I could feel your touch. Thank you Ma for being you.

- Love Always, Tracy



Dear Ma,

I thank God that what I’m about to say is not news to you. I have shared this with you privately and shared some of this publicly during your 79th grand birthday bash! I will never forget your birthday party

and I am so glad we were able to celebrate you in such a wonderful way. You entered your party dancing so confidently and looking half your age, just so energetic and fun! It was awesome!

Since I was a little girl, I saw you as strong and extremely smart. You were always so organized and always had a plan. You took me to church, enabling me to establish a relationship with God at an early age. You invested in me in so many ways, instilling values and keeping me productive (piano lessons, tennis camp, horseback riding, archery, and swimming lessons to name a few). You emphasized the importance of education and pursuing excellence, planting the seeds for the solid foundation I stand on today. You never lived in fear or defeat, and your adventurous ways trickled down to me (like parasailing and riding rollercoasters)! Your words and actions built my self-esteem and self-confidence, and you told me I was not average and to always expect more than average. Well Ma, YOU were not average. You are my super shero. I thank you for fulfilling your purpose in life, which includes being my mother, mentor, and super supporter. Your legacy will continuously live in me, your grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and generations to come. You successfully completed your work here and I am forever grateful.

- Love Always, Joyce



Grandma, You may have passed on, but your memories will always live on within us. You lived life to the fullest and I strive to walk in your shoes. Thank you for your sacrifices, your care and concern, your continued words of encouragement, your love and everything that you have done for me. Honestly, I could never detail all the ways you have contributed to the person I am today. As I revisit our text messages, I am at peace knowing that you felt I was a

beautiful person and I quote, “I raised you right!!!!” A part of you will live on in me and Mariah forever!

- Your loving granddaughter Monet



To my Grandmother, Jean

I still can’t believe you’re not with me. I never thought this day would come so soon. The day I had to say good bye. In my eyes, you were unstoppable. You were radiant and loved life. Always practiced positive thinking and made sure I knew I could do anything! You instilled confidence within me, as a young black woman. And made sure I knew my culture and who I was in this world. Every moment with you was a lesson. A lesson on how to be amazing, how to persevere, and how to be well respected. But now all I have are our memories. Memories of you and I, that I wish I could freeze in time. Memories that I will share with my daughter and her children. It is without a doubt, I would not be who I am if it wasn’t for your encouragement and guidance. From expansion summer camps, vacations out of the country, or enjoying the arts, you made sure I had the best! But now I lay my fellow nurse to rest.

Grandma, you will forever be in our hearts. And one day, we will meet again and I hope to look upon you and say, “I hope I made you proud.”

- Brittany



Grandma,

Thank you for baking cookies with me and coming every Christmas. I was sad not

having you with me this Christmas but I love you. - Mariah

Acknowledgements

Maryjean was 82 years young and in good health, so the timing of her transition to heaven was indeed unexpected. However, we are comforted in knowing she lived a full and purpose-driven life. We want to acknowledge all of you, family and friends, for your unwavering support and prayers. We feel your love in every phone call, card, message, and care package. We received an outpouring of love and encouragement from here and abroad and just want to say thank you, and we love and sincerely appreciate you. It is a testament to Jean's impact and outreach here on Earth. God bless you all!

Floral Arrangements

Avenue Florist
409 Round Table Drive
Fort Washington, Maryland 20744

Interment

Maryland National Memorial Park
13300 Baltimore Avenue
Laurel, Maryland 20707

Services Entrusted To

Reese Funeral Professionals
311 N. Patrick Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Program Design

Veda Savoy
vsavoy521@gmail.com

Slideshow

Nathanael Milam II
Raven Jackson



Note: Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, there will be no Repast