



Johnnie Mae Cleveland

November 29, 1927 - September 17, 2024

Johnnie Mae Butts Cleveland the cherished matriarch of her family and beloved pillar of the Winter Park, Florida community, passed away peacefully on September 17, 2024, at the age of 96.

Born on November 29, 1927, in Sanford, Florida. Johnnie Mae was known for her warmth, generosity, and unwavering commitment to her family and community. On April 5, 1942, she married her childhood neighbor, William Alfred Cleveland, Sr., in Winter Park, Fl. Together they built a life filled with love and devotion, sharing 62 beautiful years of marriage until William's passing in 2004. As a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend, Johnnie Mae found immense joy in caring for her loved ones. Her nurturing spirit was ever present, and she was known for feeding both body and soul, creating a legacy of love that will live on in the hearts of many.

Throughout her life, Johnnie Mae led with unshakable strength, grace, wisdom, and love. She was admired for her fearless spirit, honesty, and her ability to guide others with a balance of firmness and compassion. Her legendary cooking brought family and friends together who eagerly looked forward to the delicious meals she lovingly prepared, especially during holidays and Sunday dinners. Johnnie Mae's table was always open, offering not just a meal but a sanctuary of love, support, and kindness to all who

entered her home.

In retirement, Johnnie Mae continued to care for her family with quiet dedication, ensuring that those she loved received unwavering support. Accepting Jesus Christ at an early age, her faith in God was her foundation, and guided her through life's challenges with grace and dignity. A lifelong member of Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, Johnnie Mae faithfully served the congregation for 75 years through the Usher Board, Junior Women, the Hospitality Committee, and as Culinary Leader for over five decades. Her contributions extended beyond the church to her community where she was active in the Ideal Woman's Club, the Auxiliary of The Gardens at the DePugh Nursing Center, and the Winter Park Community Seniors.

In recognition of her civic contributions Johnnie Mae was honored by the Sage Project Phase II, where she shared her story as one of the Hannibal Square elders. Her legacy was celebrated through portraits and oral histories that paid tribute to the African American west side of Winter Park. The Hannibal Square Heritage Center, operated by Crealdé School of Arts in partnership with the City of Winter Park, FL. continues to honor her and others from this historic community.

Johnnie Mae is survived by her children: Willie Mae Means of Winter Park, FL, William Alfred Jr. (Harriett) Cleveland of Gaffney, SC, Lawrence (Jacqueline) Cleveland of Pittsburg, TX, Tresa Cleveland of Winter Park, FL, Eric (Dee) Cleveland of Mt. Juliet, TN, and her adopted granddaughter, Ashley Nicole Cleveland of Winter Park, FL. She leaves behind nine grandchildren: Keith (Kwani) Woods, William A. III (Angie) Cleveland, Valerie (JayTee) Tucker, Patrick (Dr. Renee) Cleveland, Josiah Morris, Jahni Morris, Eric Jr. Cleveland, Joseph (Timbrel) Carson; ten great-grandchildren: Brittney (Devonte) Norwood, Hope Woods, Faith Woods, Jonathan Tucker, Jameson Tucker,

Aaron Cleveland, Miles Cleveland, Emir Cleveland, Ethan Carson, and Zachary Carson. She is also survived by her sisters, Dorcas Morris, and Jistine Long and adopted brother Bishop G.E. Butts. Johnnie Mae had two adopted granddaughters, Jade and Jayla Long. She was preceded in death by her husband, William Cleveland Sr., son, Joseph Cleveland, and granddaughter, Eryn Cleveland.

Beyond her deep love for her family, Johnnie Mae found great joy in life's simple pleasures. She was an exceptional cook who loved spending time in the kitchen, shopping, playing bingo and dominoes, and took pride in decorating her home. Her creativity extended to arts and crafts, crossword puzzles, and designing elegant table settings that added beauty to her surroundings. The impact she had on those who knew her is immeasurable. Her strength, endless love, and steadfast faith will continue to inspire and guide her family for generations. While her presence will be deeply missed, her legacy of love, service, and community will remain forever.

Cemetery Details

Florida National Cemetery

6502 SW 102nd Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 27. 9:15 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church
421 S. Pennsylvania Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32790

Service

SEP 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church
421 S. Pennsylvania Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32790

Interment

SEP 30. 11:00 AM (ET)

Florida National Cemetery
6502 SW 102nd Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513

Tribute Wall

DK

“ *Those we love are never forgotten.
Praying you will have the peace of God.
You are in my prayers.
Love, Deborah Kirby*

Deborah Kirby - September 28, 2024 at 12:46 AM

RB

“ *Wishing you peace and comfort in these difficult times.*

Ron & Doris Brookins

Ronald Brookins - September 27, 2024 at 07:10 PM

CR

“ *Our sincere condolences to the family and
Friends of dear Johnnie Mae Cleveland!
Prayerfully,
Cynthia Ball Robinson and entire family!*



cynthia Ball Robinson - September 27, 2024 at 09:42 AM

MS

“ *Marvin L Morris Sr lit a candle in memory of
Johnnie Mae Cleveland*



Marvin L Morris Sr - September 27, 2024 at 05:13 AM

BM

“ Barbara Mullings purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Johnnie Mae Cleveland.



Barbara Mullings - September 26, 2024 at 12:59 PM

AF

“ Addonis Parker and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Johnnie M. Cleveland.

Addonis Parker and family - September 25, 2024 at 10:42 PM

AF

“ Addonis Parker and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Johnnie Mae Cleveland.



Addonis Parker and family - September 25, 2024 at 10:42 PM

HF

“ Hester Johnson & family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Johnnie M. Cleveland.

Hester Johnson & family - September 25, 2024 at 06:02 PM

HF

“ Hester Johnson & family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Johnnie Mae Cleveland.



Hester Johnson & family - September 25, 2024 at 06:02 PM

BS

“ Bi-County Board of Directors and staff purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Johnnie Mae Cleveland.



Bi-County Board of Directors and staff - September 25, 2024 at 01:46 PM

LR

“ Love Ray Ray purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Johnnie Mae Cleveland.



Love Ray Ray - September 25, 2024 at 11:29 AM

WF

“ Willie Parker Finley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Johnnie M. Cleveland.

Willie Parker Finley - September 24, 2024 at 10:09 PM

WF

“ *Willie Parker Finley purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Johnnie Mae Cleveland.*



Willie Parker Finley - September 24, 2024 at 10:09 PM

C1

“ *Class of 1960-HHS purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Johnnie Mae Cleveland.*



Class of 1960-HHS - September 23, 2024 at 04:14 PM

TD

“ *Lit a candle in memory of Johnnie M. Cleveland*



Terric Durden - September 22, 2024 at 07:38 PM

JE

“ *Jennie lit a candle in memory of Johnnie Mae Cleveland*



Jennie - September 22, 2024 at 04:02 PM

MD

“ Sending our sincere condolences, love and prayers to the Cleveland & Butts Family. 🙏🌸🙏
May God's Grace and the love you'll shared comfort you during this challenging period.
Mary Daniels & Family
Christine Raglin & Family

Mary Raglin Daniels - September 20, 2024 at 09:27 PM

BA

“ Sending Prayers and Condolences to the Cleveland family.
.May God be with you.

Brynda Allen & family

Brynda Allen - September 20, 2024 at 12:31 PM

PC

My condolences and prayers to Cleveland family so sorry for your loss
phyllis Wilson Cooper & family

Phyllis D Cooper - September 21, 2024 at 06:32 PM

BB

Praying for y'all.Love y'all.Rest in peace Auntie.I will always keep you
in my ❤️.

Brenda Butts - September 21, 2024 at 10:10 PM

DK

Those we love are never Forgotten.
Praying you'll have the peace of Dod,
The comfort of His Spirit,
The hope of his promises-
And joy in the gift of your memories now and always
With love, Deborah Kirby

Deborah Kirby - September 27, 2024 at 08:05 PM