



Ms. Dianne Faye Jefferson

April 4, 1955 - June 30, 2023

Ms. Dianne Faye Jefferson

(April 4, 1955 – June 30, 2023)

Memorial services will be held at 11:00 AM Saturday, July 8, 2023 at Williams Funeral Home in Opelousas, LA.

Inurnment will be held in Bellevue Memorial Park

Psalms 23:4 – Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thou rod and they staff they comfort me.

On June 30, 2023, our Lord dispatched an angel to carry home our beloved Dianne Faye Jefferson.

Dianne was born April 4, 1955, to the late Watt Morel Jefferson and Sadie Blanche Lemelle Jefferson in Opelousas, Louisiana. She was the ninth child born to this union. Throughout her life, Dianne was an avid reader which resulted in her excelling academically. She graduated top of her 1972 class at Port Barre High School, receiving many prestigious awards and summa cum laude from Grambling State University in 1975 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and French. While at Grambling, she pledged Delta Sigma Theta in 1973. She returned to Grambling and received her Master's degree in French in 1978. During her time at Grambling, she was a member of several honor societies such as:

- Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society
- Pi Gamma Mu National Social Science Gamma Honor Society
- Alpha Mu Gamma National Foreign Language Honor Society

Dianne had a passion for foreign languages. She was fluent in French, Mandarin, and Spanish. She traveled extensively to countries where these languages were spoken.

In 1979, she began her employment at Alcorn State University (ASU) in Lorman, Mississippi. During her 25 year tenure at ASU, she taught three languages, French, Spanish, English and served as an Advisor for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Her students and colleagues enjoyed her cooking. She introduced them to various international foods and different types of sweets. In 1983, Diane received the honor of being named Outstanding Young Women. In 2004, Dianne retired from Alcorn State University and returned home to Opelousas, Louisiana. She is a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church and the local chapter of Delta Sigma Theta.

Intelligent, creative, passionate, generous, and loving are only a few attributes of our beloved sister, aunt, cousin, and friend.

Dianne leaves to mourn and cherish her memory two brothers, Watt Jefferson, Jr. of Takoma, MD and Vernon Jefferson (Gwen) of Shreveport, LA; one aunt, Dr. Adeline Evans of Tallahassee, FL; one sister-in-law, Crystal Jefferson of Durham, NC; special nieces, Colandra Authorlee of Opelousas, LA, Tizna Harrison of Houston, TX, Erica Williams and Ashley Jefferson both of Baton Rouge, LA, Olufemi Adebo of Boston, MA; Mona Lawrence (Peter) of Houston, TX, Cristin Jenkins (Adam) of Durham, NC; special nephews, Joseph Jefferson Jr. (Michelle) of Houston, TX, Marcus Jefferson of Phoenix, AZ, Olumide Adebo (U-Meleni) of Boston, MA and Gregory Jefferson (Brittany) of Brooklyn, NY; special great nieces and nephews Lacy Authorlee, Benjamin Jefferson, Naomi Jefferson, Jabulani Adebo, Rylee Williams, Jamey Lawrence, Matthew Lawrence, Raegan Jenkins, Ryan Jenkins, Marlow Jefferson; special cousin Marilyn Kennerson (daughters, Kaitlyn Semien and Caroline Kennerson) of Carencro, LA; close friends, Esther Thomas, Maxine Simon and Debra Thomas; and a host of family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Watt and Sadie Lemelle Jefferson; three brothers, Morel Jefferson, Joseph Jefferson, Sr., and Gregory Jefferson,

Sr.; six sisters, Blanche Smith, Hazel Jefferson, Vax Jefferson, Lena Adebo, Virginia Allison, and Sylvia Belle Jefferson. Also, two uncles, Zackarie Lemelle Sr. and Clifton Lemelle Sr.; and five aunts, Elizabeth Perry, Virginia Arnold, Zoia Jones, Josie Pennywell, and Ida Gafford.

Quiet hours and reflection will be held from 8:00 AM to 10:45 AM Saturday, July 8, 2023 at Williams Funeral Home.

Share words of comfort with the family at www.williamsfuneralhomes.net

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas, 337-942-2037.

Tribute Wall

JB

“ *Condolence to the family of Dianne F. Jefferson, I remember her kindness and sweet smile. She was always ready to assist.*

Jackie Brown - July 10, 2023 at 10:27 AM

MM

I am so sorry to hear about my friend Dianna. We graduated together from Grambling State University. oh my gosh I am so sorry. I was calling her on the phone and didn't get any answer and then something told me to look online and see what was going on and I see that she passed away last year She was a dear friend when I would come to Breaux Bridge she would come back down to Breaux Bridge and we go out and eat . She's my daughter 's godmother, Angelique. She came to the wedding in New Orleans when Angelique got married in 2017. I'm so sorry. and Dianna was made of honor in my wedding when I got married to my husband James Myers in 1976 I didn't know that she had passed away. I would've come down. I live in Texas right now. My condolences to the family and all her friends. Love you Dianna. I will truly miss you. God bless rest in peace.

Margaret Myers - June 18, 2024 at 04:58 PM

JA

“ From Femi Janine Adebo (Niece,Lena Jane's Daughter and Olumide's Sister)

I remember her as simply amazing fearless fair and full of life. Two memories that stick out for me.

When i was 18 and My mum Lena and I went to see Aunty Dianne at Alcorn.. I realized how talented and creative she was. We all shared a love of Languages so I remember trying to impress her with my grade school French and feeling such adoration for all she had accomplished. A true Maverick

Second is my Last call with her a week before her passing.. Our conversations always started with the humdrum of family life.. who what where of all those we Loved. She was a connector and in our talks I knew that her happy place was having close siblings, cousins, nieces, nephews of all generations at her home. I always wanted to make sure she was active (walking her property) and socially active. And she was to the end. after giggles about clothes fashion and pop culture .. We would say the same thing .Love you .

Aunt Dianne you have gone to rest too soon.. But those you nurtured in all aspects of your life are you legacy.

Rest In peace je t'aime

Olufemi Janine Adebo for all of us.

janine Olufemi Adebo - July 08, 2023 at 11:07 AM

LO

“ Sending condolences 🕊️🙏 Rest In Peace Cousin.

Linda O'Neil - July 08, 2023 at 09:12 AM

KM

“ Heartfelt Condolences & Prayers To The Family Of The Deceased. May GOD Bless You With The Strength & Comfort That You May Need At Your Time Of Grief & Sorrow. May She RIHP.



Kathy T. Meullione - July 08, 2023 at 01:24 AM

JJ

“ Jewel Jackson lit a candle in memory of Dianne Jefferson



Jewel Jackson - July 07, 2023 at 08:48 PM

GG

“ Sending prayers to the family Dianne Faye Jefferson. Alcorn Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Dr. Gwendolyn Lucas-Gordon, President

Gwendolyn L. Gordon - July 07, 2023 at 10:56 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Dianne Faye Jefferson.



July 06, 2023 at 02:37 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ms. Dianne Faye Jefferson.

July 06, 2023 at 02:37 PM



“ Condolences and prayers to the family. Enjoyed your friendship. Will Miss you. *Eva Brown*

Eva Brown - July 06, 2023 at 01:50 PM



“ Vernita Joubert sent a virtual gift in memory of Dianne Jefferson



Vernita Joubert - July 06, 2023 at 11:57 AM



“ Please accept my sincere condolences. *Charles Jagneaux*



Charels Jagneaux - July 06, 2023 at 09:43 AM

EW

“ *Emma West lit a candle in memory of Ms.
Dianne Faye Jefferson*



Emma West - July 05, 2023 at 10:52 PM