

Floral Bearers

Felicia Royster
Taquisha Durham
Mia Plummer
Mashayla Graves
Janae Graves
Zaria Freeman

Basket Bearers

Charles Royster, Jr.
Jevontae Jefferson
Robert Durham, Jr.
Shelton Seward

*Don't think of her as gone away
Her journey just begun,
Life hold so many facets
This earth is only one.*

*Just think of her as resting
From the sorrows and the tears
In a place of warmth and comfort
Where there are no days and years.
Think how she must wishing
That we could know today
How nothing but our sadness
Can really pass away.*

*And think of her as living
In the hearts of those she touched
For nothing loved is ever lost
And she was loved so much.*

Acknowledgements

The family of the late Annie Iola Durham would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation for the many prayers, calls, visits, and other expressions of love shown to us during this time.

*Special Thanks to the staff Dr. Subramanian and Staff (Cheryl Hester) at
Maria Parham Primary Care Dr. Mack and staff at Maria Parham Oncology
Community Home Care & Hospice, Boyd & Royster Funeral Services*

*Your unselfish support and love have been a source of comfort to us and will be eternally cherished. May the Lord
bless and keep you. The Durham Family*

Professional Services Entrusted To:

BOYD & ROYSTER FUNERAL SERVICES

Post Office Box 31 – 149 Holland Bland Road
Warrenton, North Carolina 27589

Telephone: (252) 257-5902 Fax: (252) 257-0220

www.boydsfuneralserviceinc.com

"Where Services Are Rendered with Pride"

Celebration *of Life*

Annie Iola Durham

"Happy"

Sunrise: April 28, 1932

Sunset: May 23, 2022



Friday, May 26, 2022

11:00AM

Boyd & Royster Funeral Services

149 Holland Bland Road

Warrenton, North Carolina 27589

Order of Services

Reverend Elton Buffaloe, Officiating

Sharon Baptist Church , South Hill Virginia

Reverend Alexander Mayo, Eulogist

Associate Minister, Manson Missionary Baptist Church , Norlina, North Carolina

PROCESSIONALClergy , Family & Friends

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament..... Reverend Elton Buffaloe

New Testament.....Reverend John E. Alston

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....Reverend John E. Jefferson, Sr.

MUSICAL SELECTION.....Sister Mary Henderson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....Sister Linda Mayo

READING OF OBITUARYSilent Reading

REFLECTIONS.....Reverend James Durham

MUSICAL SELECTION.....Sister Rossie Steverson

EULOGY.....Reverend Alexander Mayo

*Associate Minister, Manson Missionary Baptist Church
Manson, North Carolina*

RECESSIONAL

Obituary

Annie Iola Durham, affectionately called “Happy” was born April 28, 1932 to the late Robert and Lillie Yancey and departed this life May 23, 2022 at her home surrounded by family. She was blessed with 90 wonderful years.

Annie worked beside her husband farming for over twenty-five plus years and for a brief time, she worked at Americal Corporation in Henderson, NC. She was later employed at Facet/Purolator in Henderson, NC for 20 years where she retired in 1994. Over her precious lifetime, she enjoyed cooking, fishing, gardening and taking care of her family, especially helping raise her grandchildren. After the death of her husband, she continued to harvest grapes from his vineyard, and distribute honey from his beehives. Annie’s greatest joy came from the annual family trip to Myrtle Beach where she enjoyed watching the ocean and the grandchildren swimming.

At an early age she became a member of Manson Baptist Church where she remained a faithful member until her declining health.

On April 15, 1950, she married Ed Durham for 69 years and to this union nine children were born. She is preceded in death by her husband Ed and her daughter Laura. She is also preceded in death by her sister Sarah Hall, brother James Yancey, and grandson Corey Yancey.

She leaves to cherish her memories a very special granddaughter/caregiver, Courtney Durham, three sons Randolph Yancey (Carrie) of Moncure, NC, Robert Durham (Lillie) and Rev. James Durham (Mamie) of Manson, NC, five daughters Shirley Seward (McKinley) of Manson, NC, Gracie Jefferson (Thomas) of Atlanta, GA, Irene Royster (Charles) of Henderson, NC, Mary Durham of Goodlettsville, TN and Josephine Alston (Pastor John Earl) of Norlina, NC; twenty grandchildren; thirty great grandchildren; and nineteen great-great grandchildren; one son-in-law James Whaley; two sisters Lillie Drumgo and Rosa Lee Bullock; one sister-in-law Elnora Durham; and a host of nieces, nephews., cousins, and friends



“Happy”, I sure do miss you, you and I, we were like peas in a pod, I have some beautiful memories of our time together to help me get through this. Side by side, you in Papa’s chair, and me in your wheelchair, we would look at your favorite TV shows, including sports, you loved to watch sports, on Sundays and Wednesdays’ night I got your iPad ready for Sunday services and Bible Study, it was very important to you that you kept up with what was going on at Manson Baptist Church. Pastor Clark and Reverend Mayo made sure you did. I also made sure your lipstick was always in place, I know how important it was that you looked good at all times, I made sure you always had fresh water to drink, your throat often became dry, plus water is good for you.

Happy, I remember all of the delicious meals that you prepared. You even convinced me to eat some “pig feet”. With you watching, I later went on to prepare a few meals on my own. I wonder Happy what will happen to Tollie now, I know he is already missing all of our leftovers, scraps, and bones. We fed him well.

Happy, won’t we good together, whether it was cooking, doing laundry, or cleaning, we had a plan of how to make things happen or how to get things done. You could rock and roll that wheelchair all over the house, you pulled the laundry basket with your wheelchair, you cleaned your bathroom while sitting in your wheelchair, you even mopped the floors while sitting in your wheelchair, and I can’t forget your magical sticks with the hooks on the end, you could cut on the lights with those magical sticks, you could open and close curtains, or pick up something off the floor all while sitting in your wheelchair. You were awesome, Happy, you never gave up.

So many precious memories “Happy”. I remember how we would just sit and talk to each other, or we would laugh until we cried, either at something on the TV, or at each other, or at one of your children.

You remember how your children would come in and ask you where something was, and you would say, “it is back there somewhere” and they couldn’t find it, I would just sit there and listen, often laughing to myself, knowing they wouldn’t find it, and sooner or later, they would have to ask me where it was, for it was me Happy that knew how you liked things. They never learned. I knew where EVERYTHING was.

Thank you Happy for letting me take care of you, no one could have done it like me, no one else would know : 1st to open the curtains/blinds in the morning, come into your room, make sure you are okay (Mommy would say Courtney make sure she is still breathing), and ask you if you slept good last night, cut your heater on to warm up your bathroom, and room so that it wouldn’t be cold when you got up, Papa would be proud, for I did what he told me to do: I took care of “Happy”. I would then tell my Mommy to cut off the alarm, I knew which/when your favorite TVs shows came on, even down to the channel, it was News in the morning, Price is Right, Let’s Make A Deal, News at Noon, most favorite: BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL at 1:30, then your court shows followed until News at 6, then Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy followed by sports, all day Sunday, it was the Golden Girls, along with America’s Funniest Videos, I was disappointed if I went somewhere and came back, and it was time for one of your favorite shows, and one of your children had the TV on another channel like Lifetime or Gunsmoke, no questions asked, I simply just turned the TV to where it needed to be, I knew that at the end of the day when you had watched all of your tv shows, you ended the day watching sports, channel 156, I then helped you into bed, told my Mommy to lock us down, then I would go to bed, that was our daily routine, Happy. I won’t forget how we always brought in the New Year together, and the Super Bowl, we had a feast prepared, I even knew when/how to screen your phone calls, when you were tired, we both would just let the phone ring, and we would tell anyone that questioned us as to why we didn’t pick up, you would simply say, I thought Courtney had the phone, and I would say I thought Happy had the phone, other times, I would simply just say, Happy can’t talk right now, she will call you back later.

It was a must that Mommy always took me to Bath and Body Works, smelling good was a must for you and I, I would always tell Mommy that this is for Happy, I had to tell her something Happy to get what we needed, and if Happy wanted/needed it, it was done.

Happy, I already took some of your belongings that is precious to me, I heard your girls laughing , saying they haven't even got Mom to the funeral home yet, and Courtney already took some things, yes, I did Happy, I took some of your shoes and smell good hand wipes, that I had been admiring, and I am already wearing the shoes, even though our feet sizes are completely different, it makes no difference to me, I am proud to wear your shoes. I took your coloring book and coloring pencils, you know Happy you colored quite well, colorful and you were awesome at staying inside of the lines.

One other thing Happy: you told your children to give you your flowers while you were still alive, not to put you in a nursing home, and not to call hospice in, well , you compromised with hospice after hospice care was explained to you, Happy, I watched your children give you your flowers, they all came together and gave you the best care ever. Uncle Randolph came when he could, he called almost every day, we would hold the phone to your ear so that you could hear his voice, he always said with an emphasis if there is ANYTHING Mom need,, let him know, when we told him to come, he came, Uncle James and Uncle Robert came every day, most days twice, the boys first questions was "How is Mom doing today" Then Happy they would go into your room and sit down by the bed and talk with you, some days, you talked to them, some days, you didn't , but they stayed right there. I saw Uncle James feed you, and Happy, he prayed many times for you, I watched Uncle Robert sit by your bedside when you were feeling anxious, and he set right there until you settled down, it was nothing that your 3 boys and their wives wouldn't have done for you, , Carrie, Mamie, and Lillie was right there supporting their husbands for they love you just like a Mother, and I know that you love them just like a daughter.

Your girls: Happy, your girls were awesome! I saw Aunt Shirley become the Mother to you, and everyone else, she went with you to almost every appointment, she made sure everything was in place, she kept everyone up on what was going on, I watched her talk to you and treat you with such compassion. Aunt Gracie would travel back and forth from Georgia, sometimes staying with you almost a month, go home, stay a week or so, then back to you. Aunt Irene, would work 3rd shift , and then come every day to help take care of you, Aunt Mary would work 3rd shift, come from Tennessee for 2 days, take care of you, fly back, work, a few days then she would be back, My Mommy would work all day, go home fix supper, and then come over to stay with you Happy, your girls gave you your flowers, they

would sleep in the recliner next to your room so that when you rang the bell, or called, they would be right there. Happy, they treated you with the most upmost gentleness. Happy, they sometimes were tired in their body, but they didn't stop doing what they needed to do, they never gave up, it wasn't anything that they wouldn't do to make you comfortable McKinley, Thomas, Charles, Uncle John was right there supporting their wives taking care of you, for they love you like a Mother and I know you love them like a son.

Your children were so much into you that you had everybody, including your boys talking about what happened on the BOLD and BEAUTIFUL

Your grand/great/great-great children was the apple of your eye, they always brought a smile to your face, they came as far as Arkansas, Florida, Maryland, Georgia, Richmond, Sanford, Greenville, Greensboro just to be with you they called their parents every day making sure you were being taken care of. Anything you needed, they made sure you got it. Happy, they would cross an ocean so you wouldn't drown.

Well, Happy you got your flowers, figuratively and for real, your room stayed full of fresh flowers, sometimes sent all the way from Maryland and Tennessee e Happy, Sunday as you laid looking out the windows, your last words spoken to Reverend Mayo was "It is a beautiful day

Happy, you show did give us all SOME BEAUTIFUL DAY!!

Happy our precious memories together weren't made on words or promises, they were made out of "pure love". I love you Happy, and I know you love me. No one had to ask me or make me take care of you, I did it willingly and was honored to do it, if I could, I would do it all over again. Well, Happy, I am moving back home now to take care of Mommy and Uncle John, they need me!!

Forever love you,
Courtney



In Loving Memory of Mom



*I am sending a dove to Heaven
With a parcel on its wings.
Be careful when you open it
It's full of beautiful things.
Inside are a million kisses
Wrapped up in a million hugs
To say how much I miss you
And to send you all my love
Mom*



*I hold you close
Within my heart
And there you will remain
To walk with me
Throughout my life
Until we meet again.*



Love,

Randolph, Robert, James, Shirley, Gracie, Irene, Mary and Josephine

Fallen Limb

*A limb has fallen from the family tree.
I keep hearing a voice that says, Grieve not for me.
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.
The good life I lived while I was strong
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through
My mind is at ease, My soul is at rest.
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.
Continue traditions, no matter how small.
Go on with your life, don't worry about falls
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin
Until the day comes when we're together again.*

Love Always,

The Durham Family

