



## Mariah Geneva Coleman

September 8, 1942 - November 10, 2021

Deacon Maria G Coleman entered into eternal peace on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at John Muir Hospital in Concord after an illness.

Maria entered into this life on September 8, 1942, to parents Noah Rivers Smith and Elizabeth Henderson. She lost her mother at a very young age and was then raised with the assistance of her oldest sister, Inell Harris who preceded her in death. Raised in Prospect, TN, she graduated from Bridgforth High School in Pulaski, TN and soon after married her lifelong partner, Herman Coleman. To that union 5 children were born. She relocated to California in 1962 when her husband joined the US Navy. Her young family lived for a few years in Alameda, CA before relocating to Berkeley, CA and then to San Pablo, CA where they purchased their first home. Although she was named Mariah after her paternal grandmother, an error on her birth certificate omitted the 'h' at the end of her name and so as she began her new life in California, she became known as Maria.

Deacon Coleman was raised as a woman of faith and so finding a church home was a priority. Deacon Coleman and her family joined McGee Avenue Baptist Church in 1966 and she continued to be an active member until her death. She worked in many capacities at the church and supporting the missions of the American Baptist Women's Ministries. She spent years as a Sunday School teacher, served on the deacon board and most recently was

instrumental in organizing food service for the bereaved.

Outside of the Church, Deacon Coleman's life was dominated by the love of her children and the children of others. In 1969 upon moving to San Pablo, CA where her then 7-year-old son was one of only 5 African American children enrolled at the local public school, she knew it was imperative that she be present on the school campus daily to ensure his safety. Thus, she began her long and storied career as an educator and caregiver for children. She worked for many years in the West County Unified School District as a teacher's assistant, librarian, and technology services director. During that time, she earned many honors including being elected President of the PTA in 1974.

After leaving the school district, Deacon Coleman was eventually able to further her dedication to the care of children. She reclaimed the 'h' at the end of her name and opened Mariah's Daycare in 1996. As an in-home care provider, she cared for dozens of children from infants to young teens. Her devotion to the well-being and adequate care of children often led her to take children in, even when their parents were unable to pay. For her, the joy was in being of service to children and families in need over just making money. Her daycare center operated in Concord, CA from 1996 until the day of her death.

For donations:

Zelle to [colemanesq@mail.com](mailto:colemanesq@mail.com)

Cashapp to \$colemanliz

In remembrance of Mariah Geneva Coleman's life, the family asks that any charitable donations be made to (designated charity/your favorite charity.)

Thank you in advance!

<https://www.cocokids.org/>

<https://communityvisionca.org/womens-cancer>

<https://www.diabetes.org/>



# Previous Events

## Viewing

DEC 3. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PT)

Harris Funeral Home Legacy Center  
1331 San Pablo Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94702  
(510) 525-1331  
<http://www.harrisfuneralhomelegacycenter.com>

## Service

DEC 4. 10:00 AM (PT)

McGee Avenue Baptist Church  
1640 Stuart Avenue  
Berkeley, CA

## Live Stream Service

DEC 4. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86950811070?pwd=QTVGSUN3NIRDa3VTZ0dvN2xqOVVYQT09>

## Interment

DEC 4. 2:00 PM (PT)

Memory Garden  
2011 Arnold Industrial Way  
Concord, CA 94520  
[help@memorygardensconcord.com](mailto:help@memorygardensconcord.com)  
<http://memorygardensconcord.com>



# Tribute Wall

CL

“ Mrs Mariah was my savior and such a light of love to my kids as they were a part of her daycare. We loved her so much. She was always so positive and her smile just made everything better. I loved how she always made the children feel loved and heard. I would sit and chat with her for a long time after time for pick up. She will always be loved and in our memories and heart 💜

Cynthia De Luca - May 24, 2023 at 01:13 PM

AB

“ Angela Dorsey Baxter sent a virtual gift in memory of Mariah Geneva Coleman



Angela Dorsey Baxter - December 03, 2021 at 01:13 PM

AB

“ Mariah and my Mom Dorothy would talk on the phone for 2 to 3 hrs. Talking about family. I would leave and come back and they would still be on the phone. They have alot to catch up on and I know they are chatting up a storm now.



Angela Dorsey Baxter - December 03, 2021 at 01:12 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mariah Geneva Coleman.*



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December 03, 2021 at 12:48 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mariah Geneva Coleman.*



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December 02, 2021 at 11:04 PM



“ *Love you eternally ~Jenn Burks Australia purchased the A New Sunrise Spray for the family of Mariah Geneva Coleman.*



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**Love you eternally ~Jenn Burks Australia** - December 02, 2021 at 04:42 PM

MR

“ My personal encounters with Mrs. Mariah Coleman were few. We both soon found out through her daughter Rev. Liz. that we shared the same birth month. Mrs. Coleman was rare indeed, a perfectly cut Sapphire. After meeting her other daughters and granddaughters I knew instantly that she was a Proverbs 31 Woman. Her child rise to call her blessed!!! I too mourn and weep at her departure. God will supply all that is needed. He promised!



Marietta Rhyne-Freeman - December 01, 2021 at 06:07 PM

P[

“ PATRICIA THERESA SMITH [Pat] lit a candle in memory of Mariah Geneva Coleman



PATRICIA THERESA SMITH [Pat] - November 30, 2021 at 11:39 PM

P[

Deacon Mariah G. Coleman will be truly missed by all who knew her and loved her.... RIH Peace

PATRICIA THERESA SMITH [Pat] - November 30, 2021 at 11:42 PM

JS

“ Maria (we only knew her as Maria❤️) was a constant, loving, and reassuring presence for me and my sister Andi. She had a laugh and smile that lit up the room and was always there with a hug. Maria could also be a no-nonsense advice giver and homework monitor!! But I'll mostly remember her generosity with her love. Jenny Sherman

Jennifer Sherman - November 30, 2021 at 12:07 PM

KB

“ Kelly, we are sending our love and condolences from Houston, Texas, and Detroit Michigan. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.



Sincerely,  
Jeff & Keisha Beasley, Quinn & Marsha Phillips, Andrea Alexander  
and Kathy Edwards

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**Keisha Jones Beasley** - November 29, 2021 at 10:34 PM

FC

To the Coleman family, your mom and I got to be dear friends for four years. We enjoyed being in the same Circle at McGee Avenue Baptist Church and away from church. During the virus (stay home) we became closer. We talked daily sometime more per day. We shared about our families, just as sisters. I am missing her already. Please continue to pray and be close. I like you all. Stay in touch with your aunt (Mariah's sister) she loved her so much. I am missing my dear friend. Please take care.

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**Freda Clark** - December 03, 2021 at 12:08 PM

JF

“ Jeff & Keisha Beasley Friends and Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mariah Geneva Coleman.



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**Jeff & Keisha Beasley Friends and Family** - November 29, 2021 at 10:25 PM

BT

“ *To Mariah's Family:*

*We lived next to the Shermans in Berkeley from 1980 to 1985 and that is how we met Mariah. She was a beautiful person with a love of family, strong values, a big big heart, a ready laugh, and a generous soul. Mariah lit up a room with her smile.*

*Barry and Libby Taylor*

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**Barry Taylor** - November 28, 2021 at 09:34 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mariah Geneva Coleman.*



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November 28, 2021 at 02:13 AM