



Mrs. Deborah Jean McColla - Butler

September 26, 1950 - May 14, 2015

Celebrating The Life Of Deborah Jean McColla-Butler:

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Rejoice because that is what Deborah is doing.

She is now home with her mother; Eunicue Harlen; father Gene Harlen; sister, Sharon; brother, Charles; and the many family and friends who preceded her in death. Know that there is rejoicing going on. Always mother witted and wise beyond her years, Deborah matured mentally, physically, and spiritually early in life. Along with her love of reading, crosswords, and her questioning attitude, wanting to know how, who, why, and what about everything.

She married her first husband, Walter Alston in 1966 before graduating from Southwestern High School in 1967. After graduation, Deborah attended the International Data Institute for the keypunch. June 1968 Deborah started her career working for the federal government where she worked for over 36 plus years. While still pursuing her quest for more knowledge and higher learning, she attended WCCC, Wayne State and Northwood Universities. She worked for the Department of the Army, NOAA, DEA, VA Hospital, and Corps of Engineers. She was a quick learner and had no problem with sharing her wisdom, skills, and knowledge with others, mentoring several co-workers while performing her duties with the utmost ability in personnel and as a contract specialist. When Deborah retired with an early out in 2005, it allowed

her time to do things she enjoyed like reading, doing crosswords, and logic problems, and almost any word game, except word search, which she claimed searches were not challenging enough. Her main pastime after retirement was loving and nurturing her son Kendall. Kendall was born late in Deborah's life to the union of her May 1991 second marriage to Kenneth Butler. Kendall is known as Deb's miracle and blessing which he was especially during her sickly years preceding her home going.

Deborah loved her church and gospel music. She moved with Pine Grove Baptist Church from Ecorse to its present Electric St. location. She then became a member and baptized at Community AME in the early 1960's. And for as long as she attended Community AME Church she was always in a choir.

Deborah was the President of the combined choir for several years. She directed two choirs; Community's Tender Voices of Faith, a youth choir, and the Voices of Community, for a short while. She loved directing the kids because she loved working with children. She, like her mother, taught and inspired the children close to her, family, and neighborhood children knew she would give it to them straight with sugar coating it. She was a kind and giving individual, a friend to a diversity of people of all ages from children to senior citizens and with all kinds of knowledge from street to wise to professional. Deborah could communicate with them all at their level. Kids of all ages flocked to her and respected her greatly. Long before she became a parent herself, friends and family asked her parenting questions. She would respond quickly and helpfully with old school teaching and ideas.

Deborah was a good listener and many loved to talk to her about many things. She was a confidant and could be trusted with secrets, discretions, and indiscretions. In some instances she utilized the experiences of others as her own life experiences not always willing to learn the hard way.

Cemetery Details

Knollwood Memorial Park

1299 Ridge Road
Canton, MI 48187

Previous Events

Family Hour

Saturday, May **23**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Community AME Church of Ecorse Michigan
4010 17th Street
Ecorse, MI 48229

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Deborah Jean McColla - Butler*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *My condolences to Kendall & Family. I worked with Deborah for many years at the Corps of Engineers, those were good times. God Bless the Family*

Yolanda McLaurin - May 22, 2015 at 01:27 PM



“ *My prayers go out to Deborah's family in their loss of a wonderful woman. We worked together for over 20 years, and she was a very helpful, dedicated & knowledgeable person. I remember her staying late a few time to help me complete a contracting tasks, which meant that she missed her bus, so I drove her home one time. She always seemed to have a smile on her face.*

Bill Rito

Bill Rito - May 22, 2015 at 06:12 AM



“ *My condolences to Deborah's family. I worked with Deborah for 30 years and always enjoyed our times together.*

Jeff Weiser

Jeff Weiser - May 19, 2015 at 08:13 AM

VM

“ There are too many memories to share! Deborah was always a great friend to me! God bless the family with peace during this time of her transitions to be with our Lord and Savior. Sincerely and with love from Vee

Vernard L. Moore - May 19, 2015 at 07:44 AM

VM

“ There are too memory to state, just know that they are all fond memories! Deborah was always a good friend to me! I am very sadden but glad to know that she is at peace! Much love always from your friend Vee!

Vernard L. Moore - May 19, 2015 at 07:40 AM

SL

“ Kendall and Family: Your Mom will truly be missed. We not only worked together over thirty (30) years we remained friends until the end. I will always treasure our friendship and will remember all the great conversations and our annual event on the Diamond Jack/Queen (smile)! Deepest Sympathy, Love You all!

Sharon, Zack, Tiffany, Ben, Bianca & entire Lawrence & Drake Families

Sharon Lawrence - May 18, 2015 at 03:33 PM

MR

TO KENDALL AND FAMILY SORRY FOR THE LOST YOU ARE FAMILY TO US FROM THE RAY FAMILY FAMILY! RIC, FLASH, AND MATTISON,

mattie thomas- ray - May 20, 2015 at 10:24 AM

KB

To Kendall & Family I am so sorry for your loss. We will truly miss Deborah. We will cherish the memories that we have of her, even though we were neighbors we were family. Love the Bankheads

keisha bankhead - May 21, 2015 at 08:29 AM

RT

Kendall...you might not remember me, but I remember your mother well and you as a kid. You mom was one of those people at work that you are always glad to see, someone who never brought you down and went out of her way to help you. I am truly sorry for your loss. It is a loss to all of us.

Richard Thompson - May 21, 2015 at 05:55 PM

TE

Kendal i am deeply sorry for your loss and sorrow. God bless you in this very hard time. My name is Teresa your cousin.

teresa - May 22, 2015 at 04:24 PM

TH

Kendal and Family I am deeply sorry for your loss. May happy memories give you comfort during this time. I worked with Debra at the Corps for many years and she was always a dear friend. God bless!!

Tracy Hough - May 26, 2015 at 07:22 AM