



Gloria J. Jackson

December 24, 1948 - July 11, 2013

NORTHAMPTON-“A beautiful life that came to an end, she died as she lived, everyone’s caring friend and a “community” mother to all. In our hearts a memory will always be kept, of one we loved, and will never forget.” Gloria Jean Jackson, a resident of Northampton and previously of Amherst, Massachusetts, passed away on Thursday, July 11, 2013 at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, MA. Gloria was born in Albany, New York on December 24, 1948 to Harold and Arthur Mae Johnson. She was raised all of her life in Albany, New York, and graduated from Philip Schuyler High School in the year of 1966. During high school Gloria was quite shy, yet displayed an outward beauty and charismatic personality that enabled her to become part of her high school’s Homecoming Court and Hospitality Club. Upon high school graduation, Gloria took it upon herself to move to Manhattan, NY and pursue a long desired career in modeling. She stayed in The Brandon Women’s Boarding House and took a sales clerk position at Saks Fifth Avenue to finance her modeling career. When her career didn’t bring her the satisfaction that she desired, her Aunt Dorothy talked her into leaving modeling for good and attending college at Florida A&M University. During Gloria’s freshmen year, December of 1968, she met Dennis Jackson. Four months later, while still in college, Dennis and Gloria were married on May 16, 1969. It was the start of their 44 year journey as a married couple. Upon graduation from Florida A&M University, Gloria and Dennis relocated to New Jersey where Gloria worked for Bamburgers, a subsidiary of Macy’s. At this

time Gloria became pregnant with their first child Millicent. The couple then relocated to Albany, NY where they settled at the State University of Albany, where Dennis was a resident director. It was here that Gloria had her second and third children, Kimberly and Jamahl. In Albany, Gloria became the director and advocate of Parents Against Drunk Driving, known to all in the community as P.A.D.D. Gloria and Dennis relocated the family to Blackwood, NJ where Dennis was the assistant basketball coach at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1984, the family ventured to Amherst, MA, and settled in the growing Amherst community. At this time Gloria dedicated her time to raising her children and started a consignment business for some time in the Amherst Carriage Shops. Upon her children getting older, she became an Occasional Worker/Evaluator for National Evaluation Systems in Hadley, MA, and it was not until recently that she retired from this position. Gloria was diagnosed with cancer this spring and although she was determined to fight hard, she succumbed to the disease. She passed away the way she wanted; with loved ones by her side. Predeceased by her parents and son-in-law Wade A. McDowell, Jr. of Holyoke, MA, Gloria leaves behind her husband of 44 years, Dennis Sidney Jackson, her three children, Millicent Renee Jackson of South Deerfield, MA, Kimberly Ali McDowell of Holyoke, MA and Jamahl Rashad Jackson of Boston, MA. She leaves behind her two grandchildren, Kaley Aaliyah McDowell of Holyoke, MA and David Rashad Snell of Middletown, CT. Gloria also leaves behind her only sister, Gwendolyn Taylor of Atlanta, GA and a nephew, Jeff Taylor, his wife Gina Taylor and their three children, Jasmine, Jeff Jr., and Jada all of Atlanta, GA. Gloria leaves three sisters-in-law, Jennifer Jones of Easton, PA, Carleen Jackson of Lakewood, NJ and Deborah Green of Summit, NJ, as well as Deborah's husband, Frank Green and their children, Khadijah Green, Shabazz Green and Aleia Helms. She also leaves a brother-in-law, Gilbert Jackson and his wife, Jacqueline of Piscataway, NJ. Gloria will be missed by a plethora of friends and extended family members alike. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2013 at 1:00 PM at Mount Holyoke College Gamble Auditorium Art Building. Memorial contributions may

be made to Cooley Dickinson Cancer Center, Development Office, P.O. Box 329, Northampton, MA 01061. The family has entrusted New England Funeral & Cremation Center, LLC 25 Mill St., Springfield, MA with the arrangements. For expressions of sympathy please visit www.nefcc.net

Tribute Wall

DS

“ My memories of Gloria include her being so kind, someone who listened well and was interested in your voice. She had a wonderful, easy laughter. My sincere condolences to all of her family and close friends. She was a remarkably lovely person.

Diane Stanton - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

BR

“ Dennis and family,\r\nI was so sad to learn of Gloria's passing. At NES, she was the person everyone wanted to have on their team -- when a difficult assignment came up, managers would say, \"Well, o.k., but can Gloria work with me?\" And, in addition to her extraordinary competence, her sincerity and humor made the day go by in the pleasantest of ways. The last time I saw Gloria she said to me, \"I am SO glad I ran into you,\" and hugged me -- her beauty and kindness were quite a gift. I am sure her passing will leave a terrible hole in your family and I extend my deepest sympathies.

Betsy Rider - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

JH

“ Dear Dennis and family,\r\n\r\nSo sad and shocked to read about Gloria's death. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.\r\n\r\nLove,\r\n\r\nJudi

Judi Herlihy - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

MG

“ Dear Mr. Jackson and Family,\r\n\r\nWe are so sorry for your loss. Please know that you all are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.\r\n\r\nThe Gallo Family

Marilyn Gallo - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

AR

“ Jose and I would like to express our deepest sympathy for your loss. May the love of friends and family and the memories of your lovely wife give you the strength for the days ahead.\n\nSincerely,\n\nAna Rivera and José Passalacqua

Ana R. Rivera-Passalacqua - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

FT

“ Dennis,\n\nI'm very sorry to hear of the great loss of a beautiful mate to you and your family.\n\nI hope that her memory soothes your loss and helps to minimize your pain.\n\nWith warm regards,\n\nFrank

Frank Tripoli - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

DS

“ Dennis and family\n\nWords can't express the sadness I feel. I guess its because I never got the chance to see Gloria and tell her my thoughts. I really enjoyed our times together. The fond memories will never go away.\n\nYour family were so instrumental in helping me with my children when I was rearing them alone. We seem to get so busy and time passes by. But I will always keep you all in my prayers. \n\nI hope to see Gloria when she awakens from her sleep. I pray you all will be there also. Please read John 5:28,29 and Rev. 21:3,4. These words are TRUE. May Jehovah comfort you all during this time.\n\nOur God JEHOVAH is a God of LOVE, COMFORT AND MERCY. \n\nLOVE to All of You\n\nDaphne, Jason, Monique, Renee(souza) and my husband Anthony Simon

Daphne Simon - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

DS

“ Sind guest book but gave a wrong email address. sorry

Daphne Simon - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

HW

“ Dear Millie:\r\n\r\nI was so sorry to learn of your mother's death from my friend Betty Brennan. The three of us had a very pleasant evening together over dinner at Union Station some years ago. My condolences to your whole family for this untimely loss.\r\n\r\nFondly, Helen (now retired)

Helen Wise - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

MS

“ Please accept my most heartfelt sympathies for your loss... My thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.

Maria Soto - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

LW

“ Dennis,\r\n\r\nI know words can not erase the pain. But I do know that when I think of Gloria and you, I smile. We love you and are thinking of you.

Lorraine & Otto Williams - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

LF

“ Millicent\r\nKim\r\nJamahl\r\n\r\nYou don't have to be strong and put on a happy face all the time.\r\nWade's passing is raw and now mom. The fact that you can function at all is amazing. You are and will forever be Gloria's kids. \r\n\r\nSending you lots of love and big hugs. Do you feel us?

Lorraine & Otto & family - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

SZ

“ Hi Mr. Jackson, I hope you are doing well. It is not easy to lose the ones we love, but We all know that she is in a better place now. I am sorry for your loss Sincerely Sue Zebian

Sue Zebian - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

BD

“ Dear Coach Jackson and Family, Our deepest sympathy for your loss. We were saddened to hear of Mrs. Jackson's passing. You're in our thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Bill Donnelly RN and Family (Special K's Dad)

Bill Donnelly - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

RS

“ 07-22-13 Dear Family: I just learned of Gloria's passing today and my heart hurts. Gloria, Barbara Adams and I were suite mates at the Brandon Residence in Manhattan. She and I were great friends from Junior to Senior high school in Albany, NY. Dennis, Children and Gwen, my friend has left us physically, know that she will always live in our hearts. And she's happy now. I know how much you loved her. All in Albany and across this country who knew her will have warm thoughts of her. You are in my prayers, Weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning. Ronnie Saunders Albany, NY

Ronaline M Saunders - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

JF

“ Dear Family, Our hearts are sadden upon hearing of the passing of Gloria. Our hearts and prayers are with all of you. James and Rolene Ford

James E. Ford - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

CW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. \r\nCalvin Webb and Adell Smith

Calvin Webb - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

BA

“ Dear Family sorry to hear of your lost. Gloria and I grew up together in Albany,we went to High School and our graduation gift from our families was a trip by bus across country to California.What a adventure.We went to New York together to futher our Education and as Ronnie\r\nposted above we stayed at the Brandon Home for women.I will miss her our mothers were friends,so keep the faith and God will take care of you.

Barbara Adams - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

YB

“ To The Jackson Family,\r\nGloria's beautiful life touched so many people in countless positive and lastly ways. Her work is finished here on Earth, but her loving legacy remains. This is what will gladden our hearts and keep Gloria close in our spirits. She is only a thought away. Her precious memories will visit us all.\r\n\r\nComfort and peace,\r\nYvonne Brown

Yvonne Brown - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM

VM

“ Hello Dennis and Family:\r\n\r\nGloria remains with you always. She was a wonderful wife and mother. I have fond memories of our time at FAMU. Gloria lived the life God expects of us all--to always remember the importance of giving and loving!!\r\n\r\nPeace and Blessings\r\n\r\nVerina Mathis-Crawford

Verina Mathis-Crawford - February 14, 2023 at 10:27 AM