



Donna Jean Kimbrough

MAR 30, 1951 - OCT 2, 2020



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



Donna Jean Kimbrough

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Donna Jean Kimbrough was born Friday, March 30, 1951 in Fort Wayne, Indiana to

the union of Donald Eugene Russell and Margaret Helen Russell. She was preceded in

death by her father, Donald Eugene Russell; grandparents, Charles Culpher, Carrie Culpher, William Otto Russell and Kathrine Russell; and brother, Robin Andrew Russell.

Donna confessed hope in Christ at an early age. She was a dedicated member of New Northside Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the Late Rev. Dr. Willie J.

Ellis, where she also carried sons to church with her. She was active on the Missions Board, Girlfriend Fellowship Connection, and she spearheaded the grant writing to fund the New Northside Banquet and Community Center. She sang in the choir while

serving as a choir director, and volunteered her time until her health declined.

Donna received her education from Concordia Highschool. She majored in theater and

earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Valparaiso University (Cum Laude), and a Master's Degree in Business from Maryville University, respectively.

Donna married Leotis James Kimbrough on June 6, 1979. Her proudest life dream was to have children. To this union, three handsome sons were born: Devlon Kimbrough, LeDon Kimbrough, and Sean Kimbrough, of whom she loved deeply.

Donna opened her home to many people who were down on their luck. She was a mother to many in the neighborhood. She was best known for her cooking. She served

as a long time Civil Rights activist for the Black Panther Party and was an active



Obituary

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member of the Historic St. Louis Dred Scott commemorative committee. She was instrumental in hiring the first 600 African American employees at McDonnell Douglas. She was the only woman selected by Mac to travel to Japan to train and serve as company consultant for Lean Six Sigma and helped implement millions in cost savings initiatives. She was the coordinator for the first Miss Black America Pageant in California. Even in her illness, she remained selfless in helping others, rather than thinking of herself.

Donna leaves to celebrate her life and cherish her memory: her devoted mother, Helen Russell; her loving sons, Devlon (Jennie) Kimbrough, LeDon Kimbrough, Sean Kimbrough, and bonus son, Jonathon Montgomery; her brothers, David (Carol) Russell and Mark Russell; her grandchildren, M'Kane Knox, Kyra Kimbrough, Kailise Kimbrough, Brianna Mabins, Tayln Kimbrough, Zariah Kimbrough, Xavier Atkins, Croix Kimbrough; her one and only husband, Leotis Kimbrough; and a host of family and friends



Events

Donna Jean Kimbrough

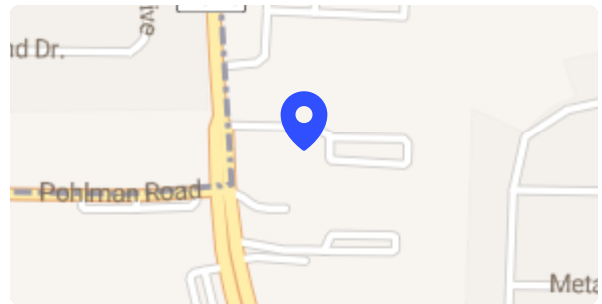
MAR 30, 1951 - OCT 2, 2020

Visitation

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT

McClendon Mortuary and Cremation Services
12140 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant MO
63033

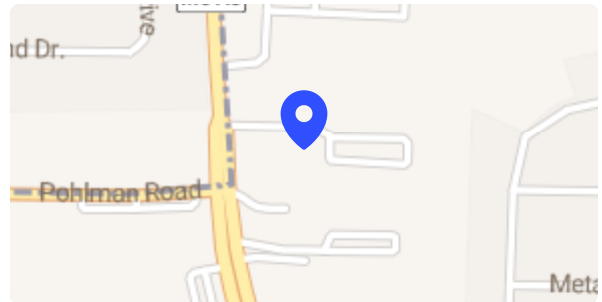


Visitation

Thursday, October 15, 2020

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT

McClendon Mortuary and Cremation Services
12140 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant MO
63033

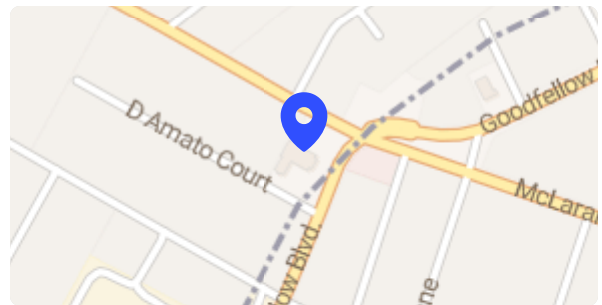


Service

Thursday, October 15, 2020

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM CT

New Northside Missionary Baptist Church
8645 Goodfellow Blvd., St. Louis MO





Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Kimbrough family.



October 15 at 8:01 AM



Tai Cobb lit a candle in honor of Donna.

This is my Aunt, my favorite, my mentor, my confidant, my shero, my paper writing Queen, a Phenomenal woman and most of all my friend. There's no stranger she has ever met and not allowed them in, she has touched so many lives and shared her home with some that had no place to go and she has been there countless times for many and for that I'm grateful for being able to have been able to call her my Aunt! You silently slipped away from us, but God knows best. Rest easy my favorite, I love you more! Tai Cobb



October 15 at 1:58 AM



John T. & Valerie Caldwell sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Kimbrough family.



October 14 at 3:34 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Kimbrough family.



October 13 at 8:17 AM



Betty Brantley sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Kimbrough family.



October 12 at 1:09 PM



Patricia Harris posted:

PAT HARRIS, CLASS OF '74

October 11 at 5:35 PM



Tribute Wall

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Valerie Caldwell posted:

10/11/2020 Dear Fellow VU Black Alum, We recently received news from our Alum Betty Brantley regarding the passing of Donna J Kimbrough, Class of '73. Please remember Donna's family in your prayers and thoughts. The attached writing below was submitted by Donna in honor of Prof LouJeanne Walton. Those of us who were fortunate to know Donna will recall her joyous spirit of laughter, encouragement and high achievement. As we entered Valpo in 1969, we opened our hearts and became friends as well classmates. I admired Donna for her forthright and caring concern for others. As a Social Work Major, she lived out her highly esteemed principles and values. Donna shared her outstanding talents with the entire VU campus. Anyone who wants further information, please click the link below to view the obituary and service information. Grateful for Donna in our lives, Valerie Climons Caldwell, Class of '73A TRIBUTE TO "BOOTS" When LouJeanne walked into the Social Work Department, Yes, she had on Boots. All I know is that her classes were so interesting And Lord I loved her suit! It soon became clear that while engaging, funny and so dynamic in her presentations She would take no mess and would put you out Of her class with no hesitation. She took pride in her work and took care of Ail of her students. She could lay down the law and call you Out on incomplete assignments when it was prudent. She defended her students like a fierce mother hen and to most of us she wasn't just a professor- She was a FRIEND. Through marriage, challenges, tragedies and illness LouJeanne's positive attitude strengthens those around her and gave happiness. All I can say about my friend "BOOTS" Is that her dedication to the cause is beyond measure So let all of the VALPO family and friends Give her a big salute! Respectfully submitted Donna J. Kimbrough (Russell) Class of 73 -BA Social Work, Minor in Speech and Drama, Urban Studies, and Theology

October 9 at 12:30 PM



Lynne Jackson lit a candle in honor of Donna.



October 9 at 12:30 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Donna by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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