

*Celebrating the Life and Legacy of*

OUR DEVOTED MOTHER



*Linda Joyce Jones*

SUNRISE – February 11, 1953

• SUNSET – August 10, 2025





# A LEGACY™

*a heritage: character qualities, memoirs . . .*

## A Time to Be Born

Linda Joyce Jones was born in Orlando, Florida, on February 11, 1953. She was the oldest of four children born to Wilbur and Nellie Sapp. From a young age, Linda embraced the values of family, faith, and togetherness—values lovingly instilled by her parents.



Some of her fondest memories were built around Sundays at her paternal Great-Grandma Bertha’s house—gatherings filled with love, laughter, and tradition. Sunday dinners at the Sapp family home (in Richmond Heights) were a cornerstone of her upbringing, where food was plentiful, stories flowed freely, laughter was contagious, and generations came together in joy.

Weekends and summers were full of adventure, with trips to the beach and visits to amusement parks, creating lasting memories and strong family bonds. These joyful experiences became the foundation of Linda’s own family life, traditions she lovingly passed down to her children and grandchildren, ensuring that the spirit of family lived on through every generation.

## A Time to Grow

Linda Joyce attended Orange County Public Schools and was a proud graduate of the mighty orange and green Jones High School, Class of 1971. Her Tiger pride ran deep, and she cherished the lifelong friendships she formed during those years. Linda loved gathering with her classmates for reunions and social events, often playing an active role in organizing them. She proudly served on various committees, including those responsible for planning the 50th-year class reunion.



## A Time to Enjoy

Linda accepted Christ as her personal Savior at an early age, and her faith remained the foundation of her life. She grew up in St John Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Fred L. Maxwell, and later in life became a devoted and active member of Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, where she served faithfully on the Usher Board ministry. She also found joy in participating in the church’s Senior Connect program, Food Pantry, and The Sisterhood. Her faith was evident not just in words, but in how she lived each day—with grace, compassion, and a servant’s heart.

Linda found great joy in life’s simple pleasures. She had a special talent for creating beautiful faux floral arrangements and came alive during the holidays, transforming Christmas trees into magical, one-of-a-kind displays. She loved to shop and travel, always eager for a new adventure or the thrill of a great find. Whether it was a road trip with friends or a family vacation, she embraced every moment. Family gatherings held a special place in her heart—she treasured the laughter, the food, and the chance to be surrounded by those she loved most. Her warm, welcoming spirit lit up every room, and for Linda, time with family and friends wasn’t just important—it was everything!

## A Time to Love

Linda was united in marriage to Elmore Jones, and their union was blessed with the loves of her life, her two children, Kelvin and Sharonda. As a family they enjoyed many Friday night visits to Peaches Music Store for the latest and greatest, dinner and dancing on the home front. And even after Elmore and Linda separated, she consistently poured her whole heart into raising her kids, offering unwavering love, strength, and wisdom every step of the way. As a mother, she gave selflessly, and her children never lacked for anything. Everything they needed, God saw fit that she was able to provide it, and this included more than material things, because comfort, care, and boundless unwavering support was always available in Linda’s home.

Her greatest joy came in the role of “Grandma.” Her grandchildren were the light of her life; she was incredibly proud of her talented grandson, Demerick, whose passion for theater filled her with pride, and her dancing granddaughter, Demi, whose grace, confidence, and energy always made Linda smile. And when Amber and Teddy got married back in December of 2023, Linda was simply ecstatic. She was always that grandmother who celebrated their every accomplishment and cherished every moment spent with them.

## A Time to Serve

Linda was employed with BellSouth for 38 years, where she served faithfully in various positions. She was known for her professionalism, reliability, and warm personality that made a lasting impression on coworkers and customers alike.

After retiring from BellSouth, she shifted her focus to what mattered most—helping care for her beloved grandchildren. But once they were in school, Linda found that sitting still simply wasn’t in her nature. Eager to stay active and engaged, she returned to the workforce part-time, first with Utilities Works, OCPS, and later with Pearson Testing. But her serving did not stop with her employer.

## A Time to Mourn

Linda Joyce slipped away peacefully into eternal rest on Sunday, August 10, with her beloved children by her side. Her transition was as graceful as the life she lived, surrounded by love, comfort, and the family she so dearly cherished. Though she will be deeply missed, her spirit lives on in the hearts of all who knew her.

## Cherished Memories

Linda will be remembered for her warm heart, loving spirit, and unwavering devotion to her family, friends, and faith. She touched many lives with her generosity, kindness, and joyful nature. Her legacy of love, laughter, and tradition will live on in all who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by **father** – Wilbur Sapp Sr., **mother** – Nellie K. Sapp, and **sister** – Valerie Jean Sapp-Stephens.

She leaves behind her beloved **children**, who will forever cherish her memory: her **son** – Kelvin Jones, and her **daughter** – Sharonda (Demerick) Dunlap. She was a proud and devoted **grandmother** to Demi Dunlap, Demerick Dunlap II, Amber Dunlap (Teddy) Auyoma, and Dimon Brown.

Linda is also survived by her loving **siblings** – Gloria Sapp (Sheldon) Watson and Wilbur (Ernetta) Sapp Jr.; her special **cousin** – Johnny McCauley; and a host of **nieces, nephews, cousins**, other relatives, and many dear friends.

To her **Sister-Friends** — you know who you are — thank you for the laughter, love, prayers, and presence throughout the years. Each of you held a special place in Linda’s heart, and your bond meant the world to her. XOXO

# Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church

5200 W. South St., Orlando, FL 32811 • Officiating – Dr. Lantz G. Mills, Pastor • Presiding – Dr. Larry G. Mills, Pastor Emeritus

*Music Provided By Perfecting Praise, under the direction of Marquita Brown [cherished neighbor]*

## ORDER OF SERVICE

Saturday, August 23, 2025 • 11:00am

### Musical Prelude

**Processional** .....Officiants & Family

**Invocation** ..... Dr. Larry G. Mills

### Scripture Readings

Old Testament .....

New Testament .....

### Music Ministry

**Reflections** *(limit your remarks to 2 minutes each, please)*

Classmate: JHS ‘71 – Mr. Sugar Ray Grier

Neighbor: Mrs. Bonnie Howell

Friend: Ms. Tranny Jackson

Buddy / Bonus Son: Mr. Robert Clayton

God Daughter: Mrs. Hope Massey-Williams

**Video Tribute** ..... CREATED BY Rodney Johnson

### Music Ministry

**Resolutions & Acknowledgments** ..... Virginia Hayes

**Hymn of Consecration**.....

**Words of Comfort** ..... Dr. Lantz G. Mills, Pastor

**Recessional** .....Officiants and Family

## INTERMENT

**Evergreen Cemetery**, 150 S. Cypress Way, Casselberry, Florida 32707

## REPAST

Immediately following the interment, a Repast will be held at Mt. Sinai in the Multi-Purpose Building.





*“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there will be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.”*

– Revelation 21:4

## Honorary Pall Bearers

Johnny McCauley • Leonard Starks • Wayne Childs

## Pall Bearers

Phillip Hales • Demica Harrington • Rod Harper, Sr.  
Terrence TJ Jackson • Phillip Riley • Virgil Thomas

## Flower Attendants

JHS Class of 71 and Mt. Sinai Ushers

### Message from The Grands: Demi, Demerick II, and Amber

Love takes many forms, but the love of our grandma is the most precious, the one we will carry with us always. Our grandma, Linda Joyce, was kind, comical, strong, and authentically straight up. She led with love, and because of that, she was loved by many.

She was a phone call away for a trip to the store when she didn't really need to shop but maybe decided she wanted a new couch, she was a phone call away to share inspiration as we continued to navigate through life, and she was a phone call away simply for a well-needed unfiltered talk. Those conversations were special and felt like our little secret.

As the seasons changed and Thanksgiving slowly crept into Christmas, our grandma found her greatest joy. She had many hobbies, but she also had THE hobby “Trees by LJ.” Whether she wanted to call it a business or not, it became her passion. What started as a hobby grew into her signature.

Christmas trees, to her, were never just holiday décor; they were her statement, her signature. She was quick to go from Orlando to Atlanta and back again, and everyone wanted their tree done by our grandma because she was just that good. You knew a tree by Linda Joyce when you saw it because it was full of more than just ornaments, it was full of life. But for us, it was more than a tree, it was our tradition, something we had to look forward to every year. Decorating with her or watching her decorate wasn't just about the lights or the ornaments; it was about the laughter and the love she wrapped around us like the garland on the tree. Those moments will forever remain a part of us, even as the seasons continue to change.

It's hard, because the thought of doing it without her is one that never crossed our minds. This moment is not easy; it is heavy. But the memories, the love, and the laughter we shared with her are moments we will cherish forever. Love takes many forms, but the love from our Grandma is the one we will carry with us always.



## In Appreciation

The family of Linda Joyce Jones wishes to extend genuine gratitude and appreciation to all who found so many comforting ways to convey condolences, acts of love, heartfelt sympathy, uplifting words, supporting prayers, or whatever acts of kindness you expressed during this time.

Please accept our sincere gratitude and know that your love and support have meant more to us than mere words could ever express. May God's blessings rain upon each of you! We take solace in 1 Corinthians 2:9.....

*“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

– The Family

For a Digital Copy of this program, scan QR-code below.  
This will also allow you to zoom in on the photos.



### Mitchell's Funeral Home, Inc.

Directors



“The Home That Faith and Service Built”

501 Fairvilla Rd., Orlando, FL 32808  
(407) 298-0703 • [www.mitchellsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mitchellsfuneralhome.com)

more than a program by [jab designs](http://jabdesigns.com) orlando (407) 381-9339

© 2025  
[www.jabdesigns.com](http://www.jabdesigns.com)

