



Ms. Candace Elizabeth Gaynor

May 30, 1980 - April 10, 2026

Candace Elizabeth Gaynor blessed this earth on May 30, 1980 born in Harlem, New York at Harlem Hospital. She made her peaceful transition on April 10, 2026, in Durham, North Carolina.

Candace spent her early years in New York and then moved to Durham, North Carolina where she attended Durham Public Schools and graduated from Hillside High School, she then attended Durham Technical Community College and Beaufort Technical Community College.

Candace loved working in retail because she loved helping people and it also allowed her to exhibit her creative side. She enjoyed being around her co-workers because people brought her joy. She extended herself to others, whether they were words of encouragement or silly memes.

Candace believed in representing her beloved communities. She represented North Carolina with her ECU and Duke gear and beach memorabilia. Even though she lived most of her life in North Carolina, she never stopped loving New York. She would wear her Knicks or Yankees caps and Harlem T-shirts wherever she went. One of her last trips to New York included going to the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, which was something she always wanted to do.

Candace loved food. Whether it was a Rodeo burger, New York style pizza, Jimbo's, or a Carvel ice cream cake (just because) she was going to enjoy it and herself. This was who she was.

Candace loved to be around family: whether it was a family trip, going to

church or just sitting around eating and watching sports. She especially loved being with her grandmother: Serena. When she was younger, they were inseparable. They went everywhere together: church, political events, meetings, you name it. They had a loving bond that could not be broken even when Serena passed.

Music was important to her: she loved music since she was young. She had an ear for music; she could hear a song and know the original version of it even if the original version was before her time. Whether it was R&B, hip-hop, old school gospel, or jazz; she embraced the experience. She had an alter ego of being a famous deejay and would sell or give away her mixtapes. Candace was blessed to have gone to concerts of her favorite artists as well as artists that were unknown to her, it did not matter: it was music.

Candace enjoyed life. Always smiling even at times when you wondered how she continued to smile. She was concerned about people and wanted them to know that they mattered.

The origin of “Candace” is not a name but a title for a strong queen: this meaning complements her personality and how she lived her life.

Independence was important to her: it brought her joy. She cherished being able to come and go whenever she wanted. Candace lived life her way, she made her own decisions and lived by them.

Candace was preceded in death by her grandparents, Serena Hill Gaynor and Bravet Gaynor; uncles, Morris Gaynor and Gregory Gaynor.

Candace is survived by her mother, Sharon Gaynor Johnson and father, Brook Johnson; she leaves behind many loving cousins, family members, Godmothers, and friends, including her extended Johnson family.

Candace loved God and said they talked to each other. She knew she was God’s child and that she was a special person. Recently she followed the Buddhist monks “Walk for Peace” and went to see them on their journey. She began to start her day with this phrase that can help along life’s journey:

“Today is going to be my peaceful day!”

Cemetery Details

St. Francis Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery

1325 Maules Point Road
Blounts Creek, NC 27814

Previous Events

Viewing/Visitation

APR 18. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Francis Missionary Baptist Church
1325 Maules Point Road
Blounts Creek, NC 27814

Celebration of Life Service

APR 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Francis Missionary Baptist Church
1325 Maules Point Road
Blounts Creek, NC 27814

Tribute Wall

SC

“ TO SHARON OUR CONDOLENCES 🙏
GOES OUT TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.
WE PRAY 🙏 GOD'S STRENGTH DURING
THIS DIFFICULT TIME. LOVE COUSIN
LAKE (LELA YATES AND SAMUEL YATES)
AND FAMILY



Sandra Yates ONE of the cousin's - April 18 at 04:40 PM

BS

“ As Candace R.I.P.,, her journey here on Earth
is over, but the life with our Heavenly Father,
has just begun. With Deepest Sympathy and
Condolences.



Bishop Dr. Charles & 1st Lady Sandra Smi - April 17 at 05:30 PM

BP

“ Barbara Gaynor Parker lit a candle in memory
of Ms. Candace Elizabeth Gaynor



Barbara Gaynor Parker - April 15 at 10:01 PM

ZB

“ Sharon I was so sorry to hear of Candace’s passing. She was a very sweet and kind young lady! My condolences and prayers are with you!
Love, Zelda H. Best



Zelda Best - April 15 at 04:53 PM

CK

“ My sincere condolences to Sharon and Brooke during this time. My heart and prayers are with you all! May God Bless and comfort you!!



Cheryl O. King - April 15 at 04:12 PM

LD

“ Lula Jenkins Davis lit a candle in memory of Ms. Candace Elizabeth Gaynor



Lula Jenkins Davis - April 15 at 02:00 PM

CG

“ Crystal Gaynor lit a candle in memory of Ms. Candace Elizabeth Gaynor



Crystal Gaynor - April 15 at 11:32 AM

CG

“ *Rest peacefully cousin.*

Crystal Gaynor - April 15 at 11:31 AM

DB

“ *Our thoughts and prayers, are with The Gaynor and Johnson Family.*



Denese Boykin - April 15 at 09:24 AM

SH

“ *Sissy Harrington lit a candle in memory of Ms. Candace Elizabeth Gaynor*



Sissy Harrington - April 15 at 09:19 AM

EH

“ *My Thoughts And Prayers Are With The Family*



Evangelist Gwen Hudson - April 14 at 02:51 PM

SG

“ *Rest In Peace Cousin* 🙏



Shiapola Gaynor - April 14 at 10:11 AM

CS

“ *Cecily Sene lit a candle in memory of Ms. Candace Elizabeth Gaynor*



Cecily Sene - April 13 at 11:09 PM

CS

“ *Congleton Funeral Home and Staff wishes to express our sincere condolences on the passing of your love one. We light this candle in their memory.*



Congleton Funeral Home and Staff - April 13 at 05:01 PM