



Mrs. Janie Burns

September 14, 1938 - January 19, 2025

In His own way and for His own purpose, God called His daughter home on January 19, 2025. Janie Odessa Brown Burns, beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend, was born on September 14, 1938, in Beargrass, North Carolina, to the late Aaron and Dora Brown. The youngest of their children, Janie was raised with strong values of faith, love, hard work, sacrifice, and commitment to family and service, which she carried throughout her life.

Janie attended E.J. Hayes High School and later pursued her passion for nursing and caregiving by completing the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) 1 and 2 programs at Martin Community College. She worked as a private duty, in-home aide in Brooklyn, New York; and upon her return to North Carolina, she was employed for over 30 years at what is currently The Carrollton of Williamston. Janie was recognized by the administration and staff for her excellent care and service on the Alzheimer's Unit for many years.

In her early years, Janie joined Cedar Hill Baptist Church and rejoined once she relocated back to Williamston years later. She attended services until her health declined. Janie's faith in God was her comfort, unwavering source of strength, and the cornerstone of her life. You would often hear her say, "Devil you keep on messing but God keep on blessing" and "Jesus you get in the mix and devil you get out of it".

In 1954, Janie married Johnnie Ray Burns, and from their union, seven sons were born. She later spent much of her adult life in Brooklyn, where she met Lawrence Wilson, and together they welcomed two daughters. In 1988, Janie returned to Williamston with her children to care for her mother, a testament to her unwavering devotion to family.

Janie was known not only for her loving spirit but also for her impeccable sense of style. She believed in always dressing to impress, effortlessly pairing stylish hats and fascinators with a sharp suit, designer purse, and the shoes to match. Whether it was for church, family gatherings, or simply a doctor's appointment, she always exuded confidence and grace through her style. She instilled in her children and grandchildren the importance of appearance, education, and bettering themselves. She would often brag about her children and grandchildren's accomplishments.

Janie was preceded in death by her parents, Aaron and Dora Brown; four children, Johnnie Ray Burns Jr., Michael Burns, Craig Burns, and Terrell Burns; eight siblings, George Brown, Charlie Brown, Clarence Brown, Hattie Brown, Viola Brown, Blanche Brown, Ollie Moses, and Dorothy Worsley.

Janie leaves to cherish her memory five loving children, Gregory Burns (Deborah) of Williamston, Kevin Burns (Sonja) of the Bronx, NY, Vincent Burns (Minnie) of Williamston, Kessha Burns Harrison (Joe) of Atlanta, and Nalalia Burns of Winterville; her dear sister, Lucille Speller of Petersburg, VA; one special goddaughter, Destiny Bonds, and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends who will forever remember her kindness, resilience, and unconditional love.

Janie's life was one of service, love, and faith. Her legacy will live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know her.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Cemetery

299 W Pine Street
Williamston, NC 27892

Previous Events

Viewing/Visitation

JAN 25. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Cedar Hill Missionary Baptist Church
2131 Rodgers School Rd
Williamston, NC 27892

Celebration of Life Service

JAN 25. 1:00 PM (ET)

Cedar Hill Missionary Baptist Church
2131 Rodgers School Rd
Williamston, NC 27892

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program* ”

Congleton Memorial Mortuary - January 25, 2025 at 12:08 PM

RH

“ *“To be absent from this body and be present with the Lord”. I am confident that Ms Janie is rejoicing around the throne of God. She was one of my mother’s (Doris Hudson) closest friends and know the two of them are cutting up and laughing as they always did. Rest in peace Ms Janie Burns. Our prayers to the family
Rev Jullia Hudson-Moore
Egg Harbor Township, NJ* ”

Rev Jullia Hudson-Moore - February 01, 2025 at 12:01 AM

DN

“ *Heaven has received another Angel. May you Rest in Peace.* 🙏🙏🕊️🕊️🌸🌸❤️ ”



Denise Nelson - January 25, 2025 at 05:59 PM

TO

“ *Our sympathy and condolences go out to the family and friends. Sending our love to you and the family during this difficult time. Love,
Anthony Shepherd and family.* ”



Tony - January 25, 2025 at 12:36 PM

YB

“ Yvonne Benton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janie Burns



Yvonne Benton - January 25, 2025 at 11:55 AM

JD

“ Jack And Diane lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janie Burns



Jack and Diane - January 25, 2025 at 10:16 AM

SS

“ Shelia Stokes lit a candle in memory of Janie Burns



Shelia Stokes - January 24, 2025 at 07:30 PM

TW

“ Sending my sincere condolences to the entire family! Praying for strength and comfort for you all!



Talaika Williams - January 24, 2025 at 01:18 PM

CS

“ *Cecily Sene lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janie Burns*



Cecily Sene - January 23, 2025 at 08:01 PM

SS

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family. I pray God strengthens you all during this time of sorrow. Love you and God bless always*



Sandra Shepherd - January 23, 2025 at 04:34 PM

EH

“ *My Thoughts And Prayers Are With The Family*



Evangelist Gwen Hudson - January 23, 2025 at 04:18 PM

C-

“ *Clorette Harris -Mason lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janie Burns*



Clorette Harris -Mason - January 23, 2025 at 03:17 PM

DC

“ Donte Crowell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janie Burns



Donte Crowell - January 23, 2025 at 01:28 PM

JB

“ JACQUELYN BELL lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janie Burns



JACQUELYN BELL - January 23, 2025 at 10:59 AM

JP

“ Joyce Purvis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janie Burns



Joyce Purvis - January 23, 2025 at 10:20 AM

AR

“ Annette Daniels Rouse lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janie Burns



Annette Daniels Rouse - January 23, 2025 at 09:51 AM

ED

“ *May the ever abiding comfort of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your family now and in the days to come.*

Elders Irvin & Johnise Dudley - January 22, 2025 at 09:19 PM

SS

“ *Evening though we were cousins Janie always felt like my aunt. We shared so many wonderful memories in both New York and North Carolina. Janie you will always have a special place in my heart and thank you for always being there.*

Sandra Shepherd - January 22, 2025 at 06:53 PM

SS

“ *Sandra Shepherd sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Janie Burns*



Sandra Shepherd - January 22, 2025 at 06:49 PM

LB

“ *LaBrena Burns lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janie Burns*



LaBrena Burns - January 22, 2025 at 02:55 PM

CJ

“ All praise, glory and honor belong to you God. Lord when I look at the age you allowed her to live, we should all rejoice for long life He did give to you Aunt Janie. I thank God for you being a fixture, not only in your children, grandchildren and great children's lives, but to so many others. May your soul forever seat at the Master's feet. Until we all meet again, love you. Your niece Cynthia Brown Jones

Cynthia B. Jones - January 22, 2025 at 10:05 AM

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 - January 21, 2025 at 06:52 PM

Annette James

“ Annette James lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janie Burns



Annette James - January 21, 2025 at 06:41 PM

LR

“ Lillian Reaves lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Janie Burns



Lillian Reaves - January 21, 2025 at 01:58 PM