



Vernia C. Hackney

September 11, 1939 - February 18, 2021

Vernia C. Hackney was born Vernia C. Gavin on September 11, 1939 in Wakulla County, Florida, to the late Tom and Allie Maude-Hill Gavin. The sixth of Tom and Allie Maude's eight children, Vernia's siblings included Rosetta Cromartie, Earnestine Davis, Christine Gavin, Anna Louise Stewart, Mertha Smith, Walter Gavin, and Clinton Gavin. Vernia, or "Verna C." as she was affectionately known to her immediate and extended family, enjoyed a childhood filled with strong family bonds. As a young girl growing up in a small tin-roofed home alongside a dirt road on the outskirts of Tallahassee, Florida, Vernia's parents instilled the importance of hard work and lovingly enforced high expectations regarding her education and contributions to the numerous domestic tasks involved with running a household at the time. Those who have shared memories of her at this time describe her as kind and respectful and always eager to help out her mother, especially with gardening. She was known to have a lovely singing voice and she enjoyed singing in the church choir. Vernia was also an outstanding student who excelled in her studies and graduated from Shadeville High School. After graduating, she began working at a dry-cleaners in Tallahassee, Florida.

Propelled by the hope of establishing a new life with broader possibilities for her family, in 1969, Vernia and her two children Gwendolyn Cobb and James Hackney, boarded a Greyhound bus bound for Los Angeles, California. The 2,255 mile journey reunited Vernia with three of her older siblings, Christine, Rosetta, and Clinton, who had already relocated to Los Angeles. As a single

mother supported by her siblings, Vernia established a loving household for Gwendolyn and James to whom she imparted the value of a strong work ethic, education, and devotion to family through her lifestyle. Never one to avoid hard work, she secured a job at the Mattel Toy Company. She also joined the Gospel Temple Baptist Church where she remained a dedicated member for decades actively serving on committees and participating in numerous fundraising drives.

After working at the Mattel Toy Company for a period of time, Vernia started working as a pre-school teacher beginning a fulfilling career in early childhood education that spanned nearly fifty years. While working as a teacher, she attended evening and weekend classes at Los Angeles Southwest College, earning an Associate in Arts Degree in Childhood Development. Vernia, or "Hackney" as she was fondly regarded by many of her educator colleagues, cherished the many years that she taught at the Training and Research Foundation-Head Start Program located in the Los Angeles' Chinatown district. After working in Chinatown, she continued as a Head Start program teacher in the South Central Los Angeles area. Even while in official retirement she continued to work in Los Angeles Unified School District's inner city schools- particularly within the South Central area of the city as a substitute for several years. Undoubtedly, generations of children in the Los Angeles area were blessed by Vernia's patience, calm demeanor, and ability to appreciate each student's potential while finding humor in their daily antics. Aside from her devotion to her friends and family, Vernia was known as a fashionista with an affinity for leopard clothing and accessories. In addition to a passion for clothing, she was a chocolate enthusiast and Los Angelino at heart. Vernia was a steadfast friend to many and was careful to maintain those close friendships over the course of several decades. She was a devoted aunt and cousin. As the last surviving sibling, or the "last pea in the pod" as she called herself, she cherished years of frequent communication, family gatherings and celebrations with her cousins, nieces, and nephews. Vernia's deep and abiding love for her children, Gwendolyn and James,

extended to their spouses Garry Cobb and Ann McCarthy Hackney, respectively. As a loving grandmother to Allie Cobb, Garry Cobb II, Allyse Wesolowski and Adrian Hackney, Vernia assumed many aliases of which "Gramms", "Graham" and "Grandma Vernia" are just a few. And even before they officially joined the family, Vernia was happy to become "Graham" to Garry Cobb II's wife Shardae Cobb and Allyse Wesolowski's husband Jeff Wesolowski. To her beloved great-grandchildren, Azlan Cobb, Rayna Harrison, Vivien Wesolowski, and Sebastian Wesolowski, she was an attentive great-grandmother who gleaned joy from each stage of their development. Throughout the course of her life, Vernia truly embodied 1st Corinthians 13 in that she always looked for the best in each of her loved ones and consistently demonstrated that love through her words and actions. For those fortunate to share in her life, her memory will continue to be a blessing.

A gathering of friends and family will be held on Friday, February 26 from 10:30am to 11:30am at Givnish of Marlton, 398 E. Main Street. Her funeral service will follow at 11:30am and will be live streamed on her tribute page under the photos & videos tab.

Cemetery Details

Locustwood Memorial Park

1500 Route 70 West
Cherry Hill, 08002

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 26. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Givnish Funeral Home Marlton
398 E Main St
Marlton, NJ 08053
(856) 452-5090
info@givnish.com

Funeral Service

FEB 26. 11:30 AM (ET)

Givnish Funeral Home Marlton
398 E Main St
Marlton, NJ 08053
(856) 452-5090
info@givnish.com

Live Stream

FEB 26. 11:30 AM (ET)

Website Tribute Page

Tribute Wall



“ *Givnish Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Vernia C. Hackney*



Givnish Funeral Home - February 25, 2021 at 02:41 PM

WE

What a fantastic tribute to you my beautiful cousin, Vernia (Vernie). I've learned alot more about you as I look through your life.

Wanda Lee Evans - February 26, 2021 at 01:55 AM

SE

What a great tribute. Her sweet and calm spirit always took me to a peaceful place. I always felt at peace around Vernie. Man, will she be missed. My prayers to the family. Love you always.

Stacey Evans - February 26, 2021 at 11:32 AM

WE

Family, thank you for providing the opportunity for those of us who could.... witness this beautiful, heartfelt and real service. Much love and light to each and everyone of you as you continue on your personal journeys navigating Vernie's transition.

February 26, 2021

Wanda Lee Evans - February 26, 2021 at 01:13 PM

PE

This is a wonderful tribute to cherish always.

Porcha Evans - February 26, 2021 at 01:24 PM

LM

Wonderful Homegoing and Tribute Service for Cousin Vernia C. We cherished the opportunity to view this very special and heart-warming service. Vertia Rollins, Barbara Rollins McGriff, and Lydia Rollins Mount (Tallahassee, Florida).

Lydia Mount - February 26, 2021 at 02:41 PM



“ *Givnish Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Vernia C. Hackney*



Givnish Funeral Home - February 21, 2021 at 02:09 PM

EC

Rest In Peace Auntie! I love you..

Eric Christian - February 26, 2021 at 12:18 PM



Beautiful service. Thanks for allowing us to share in this celebration of life for our dear cousin Vernia C. Thankfully, Ruth & Renita

Renita Gwyn - February 26, 2021 at 12:49 PM

PE

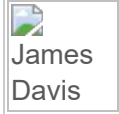
What a beautiful tribute. Sending so much love to you all.

Porcha Evans - February 26, 2021 at 12:51 PM

PG

Auntie I Thank God that he made you my Aunt. May you Rest In Peace! I will miss your smiling face and the love that you gave us❤️. I will Love you forever!!! Your Niece Pattycakes.

Patricia Gavin - February 26, 2021 at 12:58 PM



James
Davis

Rest in power my beautiful Auntie, missing you right now!!!!

James Davis - February 26, 2021 at 01:11 PM



BM

Beautiful service RIP 🕊️🕊️🕊️

Barbara R. McGriff - February 26, 2021 at 01:36 PM



SE

Rest in peace my sweet cousin Vernie. Thanks for sharing your wisdom, time, family and love.

Stacey Evans - February 28, 2021 at 04:40 AM



DR

“ *I am extremely saddened to learn of Vernia's passing. I just opened my 23andme DNA results and found that Vernia and I are related as 4th cousins but this is the first that I have known this. I will continue to figure out how we are related and just wish we could have met on this side.*

*Much Love,
Cousin Daniel Rainge, III
Atlanta, Georgia 2023*

Daniel Rainge - June 11, 2023 at 10:20 PM



“ *Vernia C. Hackney*

September 09, 2022 at 01:27 AM

AC

“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Allie Cobb - March 01, 2021 at 08:26 PM

AC

“ Vernia's cousins *Vertia Gavin Rollins, Lydia Mount, Tiffany Mount and Bobbi Mount* created this beautiful tribute.

Allie Cobb - March 01, 2021 at 08:20 PM

SE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Stacey Evans - February 28, 2021 at 01:15 PM

WE

Much love to you brother Stacey. Whenever we, talked, Vernie always wanted to know how you were doing.

Wanda Lee Evans - March 01, 2021 at 01:44 AM

SE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Starrlette Evans - February 26, 2021 at 01:53 PM

SE

“ Stacey Evans lit a candle in memory of Vernia C. Hackney



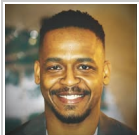
Stacey Evans - February 26, 2021 at 12:56 PM

SE

“ Starrlette Evans lit a candle in memory of Vernia C. Hackney



Starrlette Evans - February 26, 2021 at 12:43 PM



“ Rest in power Auntie.



Trevor Davis - February 26, 2021 at 12:05 PM

MB

“ *Michael Burns lit a candle in memory of Vernia C. Hackney*



Michael Burns - February 26, 2021 at 11:37 AM

PE

“ *Porcha Evans lit a candle in memory of Vernia C. Hackney*



Porcha Evans - February 26, 2021 at 11:33 AM

WE

“ *Vernie,
I had no idea how much of a pillar you have become for our family
You represent so strongly the essence of who we are or at least
aspire to become. Your strength, abilities, intelligence, compassion,
vision, ambition, style, adventurous nature, kindness, clarity and
beauty constructs the best.. You are one of those beings where the
words sweetness, gentleness, and quietness carry quite a punch,
for there was always persistence, focus and knowing that was about
fulfilling. . I was feeling the need for another conversation and I
guess I will just have to have it in another way.
I love you and know you will be even more present for some of us
as time goes on.*



Wanda Lee Evans - February 26, 2021 at 05:10 AM

WE

“ *Wanda Lee Evans lit a candle in memory of Vernia C. Hackney*



Wanda Lee Evans - February 26, 2021 at 03:38 AM

GB

“ *Gwendolyn Cromartie Burns sent a virtual gift in memory of Vernia C. Hackney*



Gwendolyn Cromartie Burns - February 25, 2021 at 10:41 PM

GB

“ *Gwendolyn Cromartie Burns lit a candle in memory of Vernia C. Hackney*



Gwendolyn Cromartie Burns - February 25, 2021 at 10:22 PM

AF

“ *Aurelio Romero and Family purchased the Peace Eternal Wreath for the family of Vernia C. Hackney.*



Aurelio Romero and Family - February 25, 2021 at 04:02 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Vernia C. Hackney.*



February 25, 2021 at 03:22 PM



“ *220 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Givnish Funeral Home - February 25, 2021 at 02:13 PM



“ *Soror Veronica & Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Vernia C. Hackney.*



Soror Veronica & Family - February 25, 2021 at 01:27 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Vernia C. Hackney.*



February 25, 2021 at 09:42 AM



“ *James T Davis Jr lit a candle in memory of Vernia C. Hackney*



James T Davis Jr - February 25, 2021 at 07:43 AM



“ *Vernell and Angela Watson purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Vernia C. Hackney.*



Vernell and Angela Watson - February 24, 2021 at 10:50 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Vernia C. Hackney.*



February 24, 2021 at 07:30 PM

AW

“ *My prayers and condolences to Gwen, James and the entire family. She will be greatly missed. I'm sure she is smiling down on you, enjoying a delicious slice of chocolate cake right now! Love you Guys!!*

Angela and Vernell

Angela Watson - February 24, 2021 at 03:45 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Vernia C. Hackney.*



February 24, 2021 at 12:23 PM