



Mrs. Marquita Denise Diggs

March 21, 1958 - April 14, 2025

Marquita Denise Diggs (Williams), affectionately known as “Kettie,” was born on March 21, 1958, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to the late James G. Williams and the late Juanita Nicholes (Williams-Shelton). On Monday, April 14, 2025, the Lord gently called her home.

Marquita was educated in the Philadelphia parochial school system. She attended St. Bridget School and graduated from Cardinal Dougherty High School, where she excelled in her favorite sport—track and field—earning numerous accolades. In 1978, she received her Associate’s degree from Harcum Junior College and later earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Cabrini College in 1980.

Her childhood home on Boyer Street in Germantown was filled with laughter and the joyful chaos of neighborhood friendships. It was there she met her lifelong best friend, Dori Ferguson—a bond that blossomed into an extraordinary friendship lasting over 53 years.

Marquita had an unmistakable zest for life and a personality that left a lasting impression. She had a particular love for soft pretzels, water ice, and barrel pickles—the more sour, the better. Despite being lactose intolerant, she could never resist a good milkshake, always followed by laughter and her signature playful “toot.”

While in high school, Marquita met the love of her life, Gary Diggs. Their love took them from Philadelphia to California, where they built a beautiful life together and raised three wonderful children. Marquita's heart knew no bounds—she not only adored her children but also lovingly welcomed her “bonus kids,” Eric and Jerisha, into her home and heart.

In California, Marquita found not just friends, but a second family in Sharon Jackson, Thamia “Ami” Giles, and Patricia Clark. Bound by love, trust, and shared experiences, these relationships grew into sisterhoods that brought her immense joy, endless laughter, and constant support throughout the years.

Professionally, Marquita dedicated over 35 years to serving and supporting the most vulnerable in her community. As a Night-Awake Counselor, she provided a sense of safety, structure, and love to the children she worked with. Though petite in stature, Marquita's presence was immense—her humor, wisdom, and warmth could light up any room. Known for giving out nicknames, quirky phrases, and her famous “mom stare,” she had a gift for redirecting behavior through connection and laughter. One of her many beloved traditions was preparing breakfast—her “Marquita McMuffins” and breakfast burritos became legendary, drawing sleepy kids and hungry staff alike with their comforting aroma. She mentored countless colleagues, offering guidance with a blend of insight and heart. Marquita retired in 2023 from McKinley Children's Center in San Dimas, CA, where her compassion left a lasting legacy. Upon retirement, she joyfully declared, “Every day is Saturday.”

Marquita embraced life with open arms. She loved cruising, camping, concerts, beach trips, thrift store and swap meet adventures, throwing unforgettable parties, and most of all, spending time with her grandchildren, who affectionately called her “Nanny.” A true people person, she had a gift for lighting up every space she entered—and an especially soft spot for dogs.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, James Williams and Rodney Williams, and her grandson, Lance Davis Jr.

Marquita's beautiful spirit lives on in her devoted husband, Gary Diggs; her children: Shannon Nicolle Davis (Lance), Jerome Diggs, and Soni Diggs; her sister, Juanita Tawanna Washington (Alonzo); her brother, Dion Williams; her brothers-in-law, Darrel Diggs and Marcus Diggs; her beloved grandchildren: Jalen, Autumn, Korey, Morgan, Jayden, Josiah, Mason, Mariah, Kaylani, and Ayden; and her great-grandchildren: Lorenzo and Saleya. She also leaves behind a loving circle of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends who will miss her deeply.

The family extends heartfelt appreciation for your kind expressions of sympathy, love, and support during this time of loss. Your prayers, words of comfort, and thoughtful acts have brought strength and reminded us that family and friendship are among life's greatest blessings.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 3. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Young Levett Funeral Home
129 West Washington St.
Monroe, GA 30655
(770) 267-2642

Celebration of Life

MAY 5. 2:00 PM (ET)

Ebenezer Baptist Church
701 North Lime Street
Lancaster, PA

Celebration of Life

MAY 17. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (PT)

Deco Familia Funeral Home
123 W G Street
Ontario, GA

Tribute Wall



“ *Rest in paradise 🙏🙏🙏*

Mookie Getsit - April 30, 2025 at 08:47 AM



“ *REST IN PEACE AND FLY WITH THE ANGELS.*



Kathy Patterson - April 29, 2025 at 05:49 PM



“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



Young Levett Funeral Home - April 29, 2025 at 03:25 PM