



Bonita Q Tillman

May 15, 1942 - July 13, 2020

Bonita Quiett Tillman was born on May 15, 1942 in Richmond, Virginia to the late Granville Quiett and Ruth Wood. She was raised by her loving and dedicated grandparents, the late Granville P. Quiett and Penelope Boone Quiett in Norfolk, Virginia.

Bonita thrived as a youth. She had a full life and enjoyed outings, activities and spending time with family and friends. She was an avid reader and loved to learn, resulting in her skipping a grade in her primary years. Later she attended Booker T. Washington High School where she also excelled academically. After graduating from high school, she attended Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science and Education in 1963, graduating with honors in the top 5 percent of her class.

After earning her degree, Bonita moved home and taught in the Norfolk Public School system before moving to the Washington, DC area where she taught in the District of Columbia School system. During this time, Bonita married Fred Tillman, Jr., the love of her life, on June 25, 1964 and they were blessed with 53 years of marriage. They spent most of their years in Fort Washington, Maryland where they raised a son and daughter.

Bonita was a devoted and loving wife, mother and grandmother who

dedicated her life to her family. She was compassionate, thoughtful, generous and full of life. She cared for her family and took pleasure in making sure everyone had what they needed and was prepared for every occasion of life. She was a wise and principled woman with a very strong sense of right and wrong who, along with her husband, strived to keep her family on track. Together they ensured their children were well educated, well rounded and prepared to succeed in life. She joined John Wesley AME Zion Church with her husband and children in the early 1980's where she was involved in various activities throughout the years. Bonita faithfully cared for Fred in the final years of his life until his passing on February 14, 2018.

For more than 13 years, Bonita sold real estate in the surrounding Maryland area and won sales awards while raising and caring for a family, continuing her teaching career in the state of Maryland and obtaining her Master of Education in Public School Administration and Supervision from Bowie State College in 1989, graduating with a 4.0 GPA. She was an exceptional, hardworking woman who was highly intelligent with a tremendous ability to do many things and to do them all well. She had a zeal for learning and an ability to quickly absorb information, adapt and excel in various situations. She had high expectations for herself and those around her, often refusing to accept anything less than what she believed was our best.

Bonita served for over 20 years in the Prince George's County Public School System. She was a Social Studies middle school teacher for several years where she also served in different leadership roles including Departmental Chairperson and Team Leader. Bonita's leadership abilities, understanding of educational processes and methods, and her desire to help improve learning outcomes led her to administrative roles in the county as a Community Instructional Specialist and a Regional Instructional Specialist. Bonita impacted many students, parents, faculty and administrators during her tenure in the school system before retiring in 2004.

In her spare time, Bonita could be found zipping through cross word puzzles or other cognitive games, challenging friends and family to a game of Scrabble, or watching Jeopardy. She was an avid reader of many genres. She loved to learn, had a knack for remembering historical facts and trivia and she had an extensive vocabulary. She also enjoyed travelling and the arts. She often attended concerts and plays, and enjoyed going to the movies and the casino. Bonita also had a love for gardening and for years grew many of her own fruits and vegetables, as well as a variety of beautiful flowers and plants. She and Fred would often spend hours together planting, watering and caring for their gardens. Bonita was known for being an excellent cook and enjoyed preparing meals and spending time with her family. She was known for her pound cake and for trying new recipes for all to enjoy. She would often repeat a well-known saying to the younger women in the family that “if you can read, you can cook” and she gave that saying a whole new meaning as she always knew how to create or adapt a recipe to suit her taste and those she prepared for.

Bonita lived and full and rewarding life. She was called home by almighty God to eternal rest on July 12, 2020. Her beautiful life will forever be cherished by her family. She is survived by her devoted son, Fred T. Tillman (Dina), loving daughter, Traci Tillman Jackson (Greg), adoring grandchildren, Cierra Jackson, Charles Jackson, Bonita L. Tillman, Paloma Tillman, cousin, Jonelle Justis, and a host of first cousins, other relatives and friends. Bonita often expressed how blessed she felt her life had been. Her life was well lived and will forever be treasured with the fondest of memories.

Cemetery Details

Washington National

4101 Suitland Rd
Suitland, MD

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - Prince George's County
4308 Suitland Road
Suitland, MD 20746
(301) 736-1616
info@marchfh.com
<https://www.marshallmarchfh.com>

Service

JUL 28. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

MARSHALL-MARCH FUNERAL HOME OF MD
4308 SUITLAND ROAD SUITLAND MARYLAND 20746
SUITLAND, MD 20746

Tribute Wall



“ To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Bonita Q Tillman, Please Click the Link below.



Marshall-March Funeral Homes - July 22, 2020 at 05:52 PM

KJ

“ I am so grateful to have had Mrs. Tillman as my 7th and 8th grade Social Studies teacher. She challenged us to excel and helped me develop a love for history. Mrs. Tillman provided us with the opportunity to see Bill Clinton speak when he was running for President, see the Honorable Thurgood Marshall lie in state after he passed always and go to New York to tour the United Nations and see The Nutcracker. She will always have a very special place in my heart.

Kyva Jones - May 16, 2024 at 06:43 PM



“ **Bonita Q Tillman**

October 23, 2023 at 08:15 AM

TG

“ Dearest Traci, Fred and Tillman Family--
Our heartfelt condolences are extended to your family. We were heartbroken to learn of the loss of our neighbor. As the days and weeks pass, and you begin to return to your routines, know that we love and support you. May your hearts be filled with beautiful memories as you celebrate a life well lived. May God continue to bless and comfort you during this difficult time.

Sorrowfully,
The Gray's

The Gray's - July 28, 2020 at 10:40 AM

DB

“ My dear cousin Bonita. Thank you for sharing your time with me. You were a beautiful person with a beautiful soul. I will miss you.
Love, Cousin Delta

Dr. Delta R. Bowers - July 28, 2020 at 09:48 AM

RF

“ My deepest sympathy and condolences to the entire family..... for heaven has truly received another Angel...
With love and blessings....

Ralph Fuller & Family

Ralph Fuller - July 28, 2020 at 06:37 AM

JF

“ *James & Sandra Bowers & Virginia B. Fenty families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Bonita Q Tillman.*



James & Sandra Bowers & Virginia B. Fenty families - July 27, 2020 at 10:34 AM

DT

“ *Department of Environmental Science and Technology purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bonita Q Tillman.*



Department of Environmental Science and Technology - July 27, 2020 at 08:50 AM

“ Tracy, Trent & family,

Your mother's love will live on in all of you. May God bless and comfort you at this difficult time and in the days ahead.

All our love,

Darlene Cunningham Crawford & family

A Mother's Crown

*'Heaven lit up with a mighty presence,
as the Angels all looked down.*

*Today the Lord was placing the jewels
Into our mother's crown.*

*He held up a golden crown,
as our darling mother looked on.*

*He said in His gentle voice,
'I will now explain each one.'*

*'The first gem,' He said, 'is a Ruby,
and it's for endurance alone,*

*for all the nights you waited up
for your children to come home.'*

*'For all the nights by their bedside,
you stayed till the fever went down.*

*For nursing every little wound,
I add this ruby to your crown.'*

*'An emerald, I'll place by the ruby,
for leading your child in the right way.*

*For teaching them the lessons,
That made them who they are today.'*

*'For always being right there,
through all life's important events.*

*I give you a sapphire stone,
for the time and love you spent.'*

'For untying the strings that held them,

*when they grew up and left home.
I give you this one for courage.'
Then the Lord added a garnet stone.
'I'll place a stone of amethyst,' He said.
'For all the times you spent on your knees,
when you asked if I'd take care of your children,
and then for having faith in Me.'
'I have a pearl for every little sacrifice
that you made without them knowing.
For all the times you went without,
to keep them happy, healthy and growing.'
'And last of all I have a diamond,
the greatest one of all,
for sharing unconditional love
whether they were big or small.'
'It was your love that helped them grow
Feeling safe and happy and proud
A love so strong and pure
It could shift the darkest cloud.'
After the Lord placed the last jewel in,
He said, 'Your crown is now complete,
You've earned your place in Heaven
With your children at your feet.'*

Author Unknown

Darlene C Crawford - July 25, 2020 at 07:01 PM

MJ

“ To the Beloved Family of Sister Bonita Q.
Tillman,



Words cannot express the feelings held in my heart for my wonderful friend, and Nana to our grandchildren-what joy we shared in talking about Cierra and Chucky! She was a warm, giving person and I will miss her tremendously-we loved our families, each other, but, most of all God. Of course, as good friends do, we were "frank" with each other and knowing it was coming from a heart of LOVE; we smiled and took it!

Know you will always be in my thoughts and prayers.

*Lovingly,
"Mother" Margaret Brown Jackson (AKA: Grandmommy)*

Margaret Brown Jackson - July 23, 2020 at 04:37 PM

JB

“ *Hey cousins Tracy & Fred, Jr.,
I wish I could have known your mother and felt the warmth and comfort that comes through relationship, but I hope now that the gentle breezes from her familiar voice, and the calming tones of her remembered counsel, and that gleaming pride of her watchful eyes will forever send billowing waves of love, joy and an expectation which will bring satisfaction from, and through a life well-lived and inspirational to all.*

God bless

Cousin James Bowers & family

James H Bowers - July 23, 2020 at 01:11 AM

JJ

“ *Joseph & Juanita Jackson sent a virtual gift in memory of Bonita Q Tillman*



Joseph & Juanita Jackson - July 20, 2020 at 05:49 PM

SG

“ *Hi Cousins,
I was tremendously shocked and heartbroken to hear of Aunt Boe's transition. She is definitely going to be missed. She and I talked after your Dad's transition and always had good conversations. She always showed her love. You had awesome parents who taught and raised you 2 wonderfully. Live your life as if you are showing them the awesome legacy they created. I love you and will make myself available if you need me!*

Susie Goldring - July 20, 2020 at 05:45 PM

SG

“ *Susie Goldring sent a virtual gift in memory of Bonita Q Tillman*



Susie Goldring - July 20, 2020 at 05:36 PM

JM

“ *To the Tillman Family,
My prayers are with the family.
Precious Memories I will cherish forever
May God comfort be with the family.*

Sis. Mckesey

Janie Mckesey - July 19, 2020 at 05:32 PM



“ *We the March Family and Marshall-March Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - July 17, 2020 at 06:21 PM