



Loretta Irene Bass-Hawkins

March 23, 1935 - November 8, 2022

Loretta Irene Bass (Hawkins) was a natural born encourager, cheerleader, and caregiver!

She was born in 1935, to Louise and Lester Bass, in a single family home at the top of a very steep hill in North Braddock, Pennsylvania. She later had brother Robert, and sister Adrienne.

She graduated with honors from Scott High School in North Braddock, where she took an active interest in academics as well as extra curricular activities as a cheerleader and a majorette. She also earned an academic scholarship. After graduation, she attended the University of Pittsburgh for two years.

Loretta's mother went home to be with the Lord in 1955. Consequently she had to drop out of school, and she got a job to help take care of her sister. She remained with her sister until she married Aubrey Calvin Hawkins, Jr. (Hawk) in 1956.

They had two children - Beverly Simone and Aubrey Calvin, III. "Hawk" passed away in 2002, after 47 years of marriage.

Loretta was grandmother to six grandchildren - Erika Ashley, Lauren Victoria, Reginald Kenneth (Mack), Jordan Maurice, Serena Jaqlene, and Abrielle Sage. She was great-grandmother to two children - Aubrey Ava and Austin

Bennett.

Loretta resided in the same home, in the Garden City community of Monroeville, Pennsylvania, from 1965 until 2013, when she sold her home and moved to Atlanta, Georgia to live with her daughter Beverly and son-in-law Reggie.

Loretta thrived and became an integral part of every community where she resided.

She enjoyed entertaining, hosting and organizing functions and gatherings for family, friends and neighbors, throughout the summer months, and during every holiday season. She belonged to multiple Garden City Church clubs and committees (Bible Study groups, fundraising committees, and church social committees). She helped organize an active social club for young married minority couples in the Monroeville community. She took an active role in multiple women's clubs, and was appointed as a Matron for the Eastern Stars.

She never knew an idle moment. She was determined to learn how to golf, so she could spend quality time with her husband. Her efforts were met with much success and were greatly rewarded. After Hawk passed, she invested her free time in taking computer classes at the Boyce Park Campus, attending concerts in the park, participating in monthly birthday celebrations with her circle of Scott High School friends, and another group of friends who called themselves "The Golden Girls". She never missed a Scott High School class reunion.

She also developed quite the "green thumb", as she annually enjoyed shopping for, planting, cultivating, and nurturing just the right seasonal flowers in her yard, AND her daughter's! She also loved planting and growing a vegetable garden in her back yard every summer, under the direction of a close friend, who owned a farm that she took an active roll in tending to.

Loretta was a devoted encourager, via personal, thoughtful and endearing notes, letters and cards. She treasured the relationships she'd developed and maintained, with friends and her church family, and she faithfully and diligently reached out to each by phone and in writing, just to keep in touch.

When she moved in with her daughter and son-in-law in 2013, she embraced and attended their church. She took an extra special joy in getting to know and socialize with the young children and pre-teens who attended the church, and they delightfully responded to her in-kind.

While residing in Georgia, Loretta traveled with Beverly to Maryland every year, to visit her sister Adrienne, until Loretta's health no longer allowed her to travel. While there, Adrienne made it a point to reach out to relatives they hadn't seen in years, and they were able to spend precious time with extended family

members, while looking through old photo albums together. Loretta and Beverly looked forward to these annual trips to visit with Adrienne. Together, they attended church services, sorority fashion shows, fancy tea parties, and they took many day-trips to see the sights and museums in the Washington DC area.

In August 2016, Loretta experienced a mysterious devastating health event that resulted in revealing that she had Parkinson's Disease, but it had gone undetectable for some years before she moved to Georgia. That significant health event changed the status of the disease, from undetectable to a case of advanced Parkinson's. That coupled with Dementia, made her apathetic toward many of the activities she once enjoyed. She stopped actively participating in social pleasures, because she could no longer communicate fluently over the phone, nor could she communicate in writing. Her mobility, her thought processes and her ability to read and write were gravely

impacted. When she attempted to write, her fingers and hands stopped cooperating with her efforts to express her thoughts, as and she could no longer maintain fluidity of thought.

She remained strong and tenacious over the past four years. She weathered the challenges that the COVID epidemic brought with it - like her personal care home's strictly enforced visiting limitations. She was still able to enjoy music and her mind was able to keenly focus when she heard familiar gospel hymns from her past. She actually spent many precious hours, during the many COVID months, singing gospel hymns led by her son Aubrey, when they shared intimate one-on-one FaceTime visits. They continued to share such precious time together during special in-person visits. To our delight, her mind was surprisingly and particularly sharp when Aubrey challenged her to spell difficult words. She was always a wordsmith and she was quite the champion in the Hawkins household, when it came to spelling and grammar.

She continued to recognize family members. She was particularly fond of her son-in-law Reggie, and enjoyed his visits immensely. She also was visibly delighted and gleaned much pleasure when she was able to observe her great-grandchildren in action.

Her family intensely missed the person Loretta was before Parkinson's Disease took over her mobility, and Dementia took over her mind and speech. She was such a lively and spirited woman, full of life, a social butterfly, and was warm, friendly and kind to strangers and children. She was also very feisty, and had plenty energy, motivation and spunk! She possessed a unique, hearty and deep-belly laugh. She was a woman filled with passion for her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and she overflowed with warmth, adoration and admiration for all those whom she held dear.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 17. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Garden City United Methodist Church
500 Laurel Drive
Monroeville, PA 15146

Service

NOV 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Garden City United Methodist Church
500 Laurel Drive
Monroeville, PA 15146

Repast

NOV 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

Garden City United Methodist Church
500 Laurel Drive
Monroeville, PA 15146

Tribute Wall



“ Hello I used to live in Garden City when I was younger. Me and Ms Hawkins used to both live on Bittersweet, she was the sweetest lady ever!

I still drive to garden city sometimes and she always pops up in my mind, so sad to know she passed away.

She was literally the sweetest lady i've ever met! i used to look forward to getting off the bus and hoped she would be outside lol.

I want to send my condolences and prayers to the family. She will always be in my heart.

Quayla Desiree - November 20, 2024 at 04:06 PM



“ *Loretta Irene Bass-Hawkins*

January 29, 2023 at 12:45 PM



“ *Loretta Irene Bass-Hawkins*

January 29, 2023 at 10:10 AM

“Loretta and I were school mates and graduated together From Scott High School in North Braddock. Loretta and I shared the same birth month and not a year passed that she would not send me a beautiful card. We spoke many times throughout the years and shared cards until she could no longer write. I lost contact with her for the last couple of years and just the day before her going home service came across her telephone number and my heart wondered if she was still with us. Though saddened upon receipt of her obituary, the sadness did not linger as I was blessed to read about her life journey and all the beautiful people whose lives she touched and whose lives touched hers.

Loretta will always be in my heart and a beautiful precious memory. To all the family and all her cherished friends I share the following thoughts.

“She’s Gone” Written in 1981 by David Harkins and read by the Queen at her mother’s funeral

You can shed tears that she is gone, Or you can smile because she has lived

You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back, Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left. Your heart can be empty because you can’t see her, Or you can be full of the love that you shared. You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember her and only that she is gone, Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on. You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back, Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

*With Love and precious memories
Cecelia Hamlin
Toronto, Ontario*

RT

“ *to the family*

knew back in the day

tuttie

braddock,pa.

rose thorne - November 18, 2022 at 09:45 AM

VM

“ *Beverly, Aubrey and Family, Ms. Loretta was one of my favorite people. When I first met Ms. Loretta I was in the hair business and she came to me and I didn't know if I was going to pass out or take the challenge and do what I knew best, HAIR. Fortunately she became one of my steady, standing clients. She stayed with me until I got out of the hair business in 2000. To know her was to know a genuine loving person I've never seen a mean streak in her she loved everyone I enjoyed her at our family reunions and looked forward to seeing her there EVERY year, she was family! I will miss her greatly, knowing her was to love her. RWG Ms. Loretta 🙏🙏*

VANESSA MCLEE-HALL

Vanessa McLee-Hall - November 17, 2022 at 08:23 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Loretta Irene Bass-Hawkins.*



November 17, 2022 at 12:18 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Loretta Irene Bass-Hawkins.*



November 17, 2022 at 11:03 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Loretta Irene Bass-Hawkins.*



November 17, 2022 at 09:15 AM

AD

“ I've wondered so often and for so long how Loretta was doing once communications stopped. She told me a bit about the early onset of her medical condition-what it was and how it was changing her life but I had no information about dementia. People at my church periodically asked me about her because they knew her or were related to someone who kept in contact with her. Eventually all of us were saying the same thing- 'we didn't know how she is doing'. She was heavy on my mind about 2 weeks before she passed: I was trying to figure out a way to check upon her. I concluded I would call her church in Garden City. Just maybe(?) they would let me know if she was still alive and perhaps(?) share a family member's contact information with me after I explained my connection to her. Otherwise I just trusted that her daughter, Beverly, would some how let me know if something happened to her mom and she did. Thank you, Beverly. She was an outstanding, refined, gracious, and fun human being. She endured much in her young years but those things did not make her bitter; they made a better. I really admired her so very much. She exemplified "true grit" but with such grace, such class. You, Loretta Hawkins, were "mahvelous darling" and you will be missed by all who got to know you.
Arlene D.

Arlene Douglas - November 16, 2022 at 11:09 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Loretta Irene Bass-Hawkins.



November 16, 2022 at 02:04 PM

JB

“ We formed a beautiful friendship with Loretta thru Garden City church! During our many years there, we grew to become best friends because of her loving, caring, sweet personality! We love you forever and thank God for all the wonderful times we shared!❤️
❤️ Our deepest sympathy the her family!🙏

Judy & Chuck Boyd - November 16, 2022 at 01:01 PM

PW

“ Preston R. Wright purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Loretta Irene Bass-Hawkins.



Preston R. Wright - November 15, 2022 at 09:45 AM

GM

“ My fondest memory was watching Ms. Loretta and Hawk dance together at social events. You could tell from their dance moves, precision,togetherness,they loved each other so much. Now they are together again.
🙏 RIP Ms. Loretta.
Grace McLee

Grace McLee - November 14, 2022 at 11:41 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Loretta Irene Bass-Hawkins.



November 14, 2022 at 07:45 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Loretta Irene Bass-Hawkins.

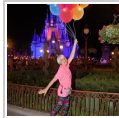


November 13, 2022 at 05:04 PM



“ loretta and I worked together for more than 25 years and enjoyed a friendship that still lasts. My wife and I enjoyed many great times with Loretta and Hawk a many different social gatherings or on the golf course. I was honored to be asked to hit a golf ball at Hawks burial site. Loretta was one of the finest people I have ever known and we will miss her dearly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

Martin Stachuck - November 13, 2022 at 12:32 PM



I just discovered that she is gone. My Mother passed last year at the age of 99. Every so often she would ask about Loretta. I loved when they would come to Ocean Isle Beach area. We would always get together. I loved her so much.

Alice Fuller - December 17, 2024 at 04:12 PM



“ Wayne-Sanderson Farms Corporate QA Group purchased the A New Sunrise Spray for the family of Loretta Irene Bass-Hawkins.



Wayne-Sanderson Farms Corporate QA Group - November 11, 2022 at 02:13 PM

CA

“ *Chip and Nancy Carlisle - Hartselle, AL purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Loretta Irene Bass-Hawkins.*



Chip and Nancy Carlisle - Hartselle, AL - November 11, 2022
at 12:33 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Loretta Irene Bass-Hawkins.*



November 11, 2022 at 04:27 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Loretta Irene Bass-Hawkins.*



November 11, 2022 at 04:20 AM



“ *Warmest Remembrance Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Loretta Irene Bass-Hawkins.*



November 11, 2022 at 04:03 AM