My Momma

I never thought I'd have to say goodbye,
Or learn to live without you by my side.
There were still so many things left to say,
So many memories I thought we'd still make someday.

You were my Momma, hardworking and strong,
Always on the move, never staying still for long.
Working or traveling, wherever you may be,
You always carried your love for your family.

I hope somewhere reggae is playing loud,
And you're listening to Stephen Marley with a smile.
I hope you're traveling to places you've never seen,
Free and at peace, exactly where you're meant to be.

You loved Kiyah more than words could ever explain,
And I know that love will always remain.
The bond you shared was beautiful and true,
And she'll always carry a piece of you.

You gave me my love for every animal I see,
And now I know that's another piece of you inside of me.
In so many little ways, I'll find you everywhere,
In the things that I love and the memories we share.

There's so much about you I still want to say,
And I wish more than anything you could've stayed.
But I will carry your love everywhere I go,
And make sure the people I love always know.

You weren't just my Momma; you were a part of me,
And losing you has changed who I will forever be.
I will miss you more than words could ever say,
And I will love you, Momma, every single day.

Until the day I get to see your beautiful face again,
This isn't goodbye; it's I'll see you then.

Forever your daughter,
Hope

Appreciation

The family of the late Ms. Jada McDonald McKinney wishes to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the many acts of kindness, prayers, comforting words, and expressions of sympathy shown during our time of bereavement. Your support has been a source of strength, and we are truly thankful.
May God bless each of you

Arrangements Were Entrusted to:
Gregory Funeral Service, Inc.
601 North York Street
Gastonia, North Carolina 28052
704-867-4364
www.gregoryfuneralservice.com

CELEBRATING

THE LIFE OF

"Your life was a blessing,
your memory a treasure.
You are loved beyond words
and missed beyond measure."

Tuesday; July 21, 2026
5:00 p.m.

Gregory Funeral Service Chapel
601 N. York Street
Gastonia, North Carolina

Ms. Jada McDonald McKinney

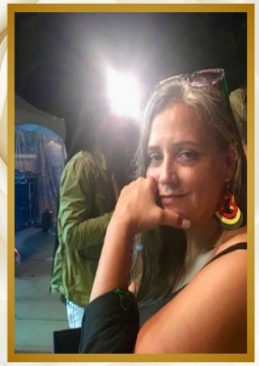
Sunrise: September 17, 1972 - Sunset: July 14, 2026

Pastor Matthew Shortridge
Officiating

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

In Love and Memory

A Life Beautifully Lived



Ms. Jada McDonald McKinney

My momma was a hardworking woman with a beautiful spirit and a love for life. Whether she was working, traveling, listening to reggae music, or spending time with the people she loved most, she was always on the go. Time management may not have been her strongest quality, but then again, that seems to run in our family, and it was simply one of the many things that made her who she was.

She had a deep love for reggae music, especially Stephen Marley, and she loved to travel and experience the world around her. She also had a special love for animals, a trait she passed down to her daughter. Those who knew her often described her as beautiful, both inside and out, and that is exactly who she was.

Above everything else, she loved her family. She deeply loved and cherished her daughters, Hope McKinney and Kenesha Bratton, and her granddaughters, Sakiyah Brown and Kashlynn Bratton. She shared an especially close and loving bond with her granddaughter Sakiyah, affectionately known as Kiyah. Their relationship meant so much to her, and there is no doubt that Kiyah brought tremendous love, happiness, and purpose into her life.

She also cherished her friendship with Gina Clary. Together, they created memories traveling, listening to reggae music, searching for crystals, and simply enjoying life and each other's company. Their friendship was one she held close to her heart.

She was preceded in death by her father, Steven McDonald; her brother, Cory McDonald; her uncle, Danny Rogers; and her grandson, Ilyas Steven Wise Bratton.

There is so much that could be said about her, and still, somehow, there would never be enough words. Her life cannot be summed up on a single page. She will be remembered through the music she loved, the places she traveled, the animals she adored, the friendships she cherished, and most of all, through the family she loved with her whole heart.

Her beautiful spirit and the memories she created will continue to live on in everyone who had the privilege of knowing and loving her.

Order Of SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL

RECEIVING OF FRIENDS
4:30 until 5:00 p.m.

CALL TO WORSHIP
Pastor Matthew Shortridge

SONG

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Old Testament
New Testament

PRAYER OF COMFORT

REMARKS (2 minutes, please)

SELECTION

WORDS OF COMFORT
Pastor Matthew Shortridge

RECESSIONAL