When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When tomorrow starts without me and I'm not there to see
If the sun shall rise and find your eyes all filled with tears for me,
I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today,
While thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.
I know how much you loved me, as much as I loved you
And each time that you think of me I know you'll miss me, too.
But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand
That an angel came, called my name, and took me by the hand.
And said my place was ready in heaven far above
And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.
But as I turned to walk away, a tear fell from my eye.
I had so much yet to do, it seemed almost
impossible that I was leaving you.
I thought of all the yesterdays, the good ones and the bad.
I thought of all the love we shared and all the fun we had.
If I could relive yesterday, I thought for just a while,
I'd say good-bye and kiss you and maybe see you smile.
But when I fully realized that this could never be
For emptiness and memories would take the place for me.
So when tomorrow starts without me, don't
think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me, I'm right here
in your heart.



COSTNER FUNERAL HOME, INC.
Gastonia, North Carolina
— DIRECTORS —
www.costnerfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of



Lori Ann Smith-McKinney

January 27, 1969—November 2, 2026

New Holy Temple Church
1468 W. Airline, Gastonia, North Carolina

Monday, November 9, 2026 2:30 P.M.

Josephine Wallace
Officiating

Order of Service

Processional…….. **"You Know My Name"**-Tasha Cobbs

Prayer……. Josephine Wallace

Selection…..... ***"****I Know I've Been Changed"*…….Tommeka Crank

Old Testament Reading…… Josephine Wallace

New Testament Reading……..Josephine Wallace

Obituary Reading……..……Cassandra Townsend

Poem…….……...Cassandra Townsend

Remarks *(Three minutes please)*……..…….. Friends and family

Eulogy……..Josephine Wallace

Closing Prayer ……..Josephine Wallace

Music Selection...*"I Shall Wear A Crown"*..The Whitfield Company

— Interment —

Armstrong Cemetery
Gastonia, North Carolina

Flower Bearers

Zamya McKinney and Shameka McKinney

Pall Bearers

Ricky Smith
Antonio Jenkins
Robert Gillispie
Billy Parks
ShyQuwan McKinney
Jonathan McKinney

Repass will follow immediately after service:
1529 Echo Lane, Gastonia, NC 28052

Obituary

Lori Ann Smith-McKinney

Lori Ann Smith-McKinney was born on January 27, 1969, to the late Charles Franklin Smith and Lottie Mae Smith, in Gastonia, North Carolina. She transitioned to glory on Monday, November 2, 2026 in Gastonia, North Carolina at CaroMont Regional Medical Center surrounded by love.

She attended Ashbrook High School, Gastonia, North Carolina. She worked for many years as a Deli Associate/Manager for Walmart until she retired. She was known for being the sweetest person you could ever know. She loved to cook and prepare the best meals for her loved ones and leave everyone with a smile. If you ever crossed paths with her, you would never forget her. She never met a stranger; and was kind to everyone she met and had a heart of pure gold. To know her was to truly love her. She was a mother, wife, sister, true friend and a safe space for many.

Lori was preceded in death by her husband Randy McKinney Sr.

She leaves to cherish precious memories her children; E'Lisha and Antonio Jenkins, Ebony Wilson, Tiffany Mitchell, Amber Wilson, Murandia McKinney, Margaret McKinney, Andrea McKinney, Shameka McKinney and Randy McKinney Jr.
Her grand-children; Jay'Ceon Belk, Ty'Quari Jenkins, Amaya Kelley, Akhir Kelley, Kai'Ree Jenkins, Kaiden Kelley, Thomia McKinney, ShyQuwan McKinney, Robert Gillispie, Zamya McKinney, Knowledge Leach and two great grands; Elijay McKinney and Harmyni Brice- all of Gastonia, North Carolina.
Her brother and sister; Charles Anthony Smith and Sharon Smith-of Gastonia, North Carolina.

~~Note of Thanks~~

The family of Lori Ann Smith-McKinney would like to extend immense gratitude to everyone for partaking in the celebration of life for our loved one.

The Family