

# Life Reflections

## A Tribute to "Scooter"

Today we celebrate a life oh so well lived — the life of Debra "Scooter" Epps... my Aunt Scooter.

Now if you knew her, you know she wasn't just a name — she was a presence. She was strength. She was love. She was wisdom wrapped in realness. And after our great Grandma Martha J. Hamrick passed, Aunt Scooter didn't hesitate — she stepped right into that matriarch role like she had been anointed for it. Holding us together, keeping us grounded, and making sure nobody forgot where we came from.

She had her share of health challenges, yes... but one thing about Aunt Scooter — she knew God. Not just knew of Him but knew Him for herself. And when you've got that kind of relationship, you walk different, you talk different, and even when life gets heavy, your spirit stays anchored.

I'll be honest — I tried calling her just a week ago to give her my new number. She didn't answer. And I had to think about it... knowing her, it was probably one of two things:

Either she and Grandma Martha were already up there going back and forth about something — because we all know they didn't mind speaking their minds...

Or she was already in a meeting with God Himself — while He was preparing a table, making room, and saying, "My daughter is on her way home."

And today... I believe it was the second one.

Because the Bible tells us in John 14, "I go to prepare a place for you." And I can only imagine the kind of welcome she received — a crown placed on her head, peace in her body, and every burden finally lifted.

Aunt Scooter wasn't just important to me and my Papa Songene — she was necessary. She was one of those people God places in families to be a pillar. The one you could lean on. The one who would tell you the truth whether you liked it or not. The one who loved you enough to stand in the gap.

And while our hearts feel the weight of her absence, we also celebrate the fullness of her life. Because she didn't just exist — she impacted. She didn't just live — she poured into others.

So today, we don't just say goodbye...we say thank you.

Thank you for the love.  
Thank you for the lessons.  
Thank you for stepping up when the family needed you most.

And even now, we can smile knowing this isn't the end of her story... it's just the beginning of her eternal chapter.

Rest well, Aunt Scooter.  
You fought a good fight.  
You finished your course.  
And heaven is better because you made it home.



"Sympathetic and Efficient Service Since 1922"  
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## Celebrating the Life of Debra Rena Epps



"Scooter"

October 19, 1953 - April 7, 2026



Monday, April 13, 2026  
1:00 PM

S.T. Enloe Memorial Chapel  
231 North Lafayette Street  
Shelby, North Carolina

Reverend David Brintley, Officiating Minister

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## Visitation

Prelude  
Processional  
Receiving of Friends  
12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

## Order of Service

Reverend David Brintley, Officiating Minister

Scripture Reading

Old Testament  
Mr. Benard Hamrick

New Testament  
Mr. Benard Hamrick

Prayer of Comfort  
Mr. James Hamrick

Remarks (Two Minutes)  
Rev. David Brintley  
Mr. Benard Hamrick  
Mr. James Hamrick

Reading of Obituary  
Ms. Kim Bogga

Musical Selection  
"Take Me To the King"

Words of Comfort  
Rev. David Brintley

Recessional



## Acknowledgement

The family of Debra Jennings Epps wishes to express our deepest gratitude for every act of kindness shown during our time of bereavement.

## Obituary for Debra "Scooter" Jennings Epps

*According to Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a, there is an appointed time for everything... a time to be born and a time to die...*

Debra "Scooter" Jennings Epps was born on October 19, 1953, in Washington, D.C., and entered eternal rest on April 7, 2026, after a life well lived, full of love, faith, and unwavering strength. She was the daughter of the late Willie Jennings and Fannie Griffin Jennings.

Debra was a true matriarch. Following the passing of her sister, Martha J. Hamrick, she stepped into a role of leadership within the family with boldness and purpose. She held her family together, reminded them of their roots, and instilled values that will live on for generations.

Many who were touched by her life went on to graduate from Shelby High School, a reflection of the foundation she helped build and the standard she set.

Debra lived a life full of purpose. She loved her family deeply and unconditionally. Her presence was a covering, her voice was guidance, and her love was steady, strong, and real.

Debra was a woman of God bold, faithful, and deeply rooted in her relationship with the Lord. She faced life's challenges, including health struggles, with resilience and grace. Her faith never wavered. She didn't just believe in God she knew Him for herself, and that faith guided her every step.

She was preceded in death by her beloved son, Keith Leonard Jennings; her sisters, Martha J. Hamrick, Sheila McDowell, and Doris Montgomery; and her brothers, John Dawson and Jimmy Eaves, along with other cherished loved ones.

She leaves to cherish her memory her loving husband, Kimmy White; her sisters Jeanette Banner and Ann Eaves; her nieces Kim Boggan (Willie Boggan) and Sharon Jones (Michael Jones); a host of nieces and nephews; and a host of other family members and loved ones who will forever carry her legacy forward.

She was very close to Chavalas, James Young III, (Jenifer Hamrick Young) Brianna Hamrick Young, Nicole Hamrick Young, and James Hamrick Young IV. Beyond those she raised, she had a powerful and lasting impact on countless members of her family guiding, nurturing, and shaping generations with love, truth, and strength.

Though our hearts mourn her passing, we celebrate a life that impacted so many. Her legacy of faith, strength, and love will continue to live on through every life she touched.

The Bible reminds us, "Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Lord." — Matthew 25:23

Debra fought a good fight. She finished her course. She kept the faith. She will be deeply missed, forever loved, and always remembered.

Rest well, Aunt Scooter.  
Your work is done... your reward is eternal.

*Miss Me, But Let Me Go*

*When I come to the end of the road*

*And the sun has set for me*

*I want no rites in a gloom-filled room.*

*Why cry for a soul set free?*

*Miss me a little, but not too long,  
And not with your head bowed down low.*

*Remember the love we once shared.*

*Miss me but . . . let me go.*

*For this journey we must all take  
And each must go alone.*

*It's all a part of the Master's plan  
A step on the road to home.*

*When you are lonely and sick of heart,  
go to the friends we know*

*And bury your sorrows with good deeds.*

*Miss me. . . but let me go.*

*Well done,  
good and faithful servant  
enter into the joy of your Lord.*

*Matthew 25:23*

