

— *Pallbearers* —
Family and Friends

— *Flower Bearers* —
Family and Friends

— *Interment* —
Pine Level Cemetery
4650 Arrow Head Road
Loachapoka, AL 36865

— *Acknowledgment* —

The family of the late Mrs. Mary Paradise Hawkins acknowledges with grateful appreciation all acts of kindness, prayers, cards, telephone calls, flowers, and words of comfort extended to us during our time of bereavement. May God bless each one of you.

— *Repast* —

Family Enrichment Center
1 Day Lily Street
Loachapoka, AL 36832

IN MEMORIAM

May we take this opportunity to express sincere and deep appreciation for allowing us to serve you during this most difficult period. It is our constant aim to afford to the people of this community a service completed in all details and faultlessly executed with sympathy and understanding.



Final Arrangements Entrusted to:
Harris Funeral Home
Sympathetic, Courteous & Professional Service

515 South Sixth Street
Opelika, Alabama 36801
(334) 749-6583 Fax (334) 759-7018
www.harrisfuneralhomeinc.com

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



Mary
PARADISE
HAWKINS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025
1:00 P.M.

MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
2 Day Lily Street Loachapoka, AL 36865

REVEREND ANTHONY SHEALEY, PASTOR/OFFICIANT
REVEREND TERRY CUNNINGHAM, EULOGIST

— *The Obituary* —

Mary Paradise Hawkins, a beacon of love and faith, passed away on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at Decatur Morgan Hospital in Decatur, Alabama. Born on March 20, 1952, in Lee County, Alabama, she was the cherished daughter of the late Mr. Emphel William and Mrs. Zula Mae Washington Paradise. Mary's journey through life was marked by her unwavering kindness and her deep commitment to her faith and community.

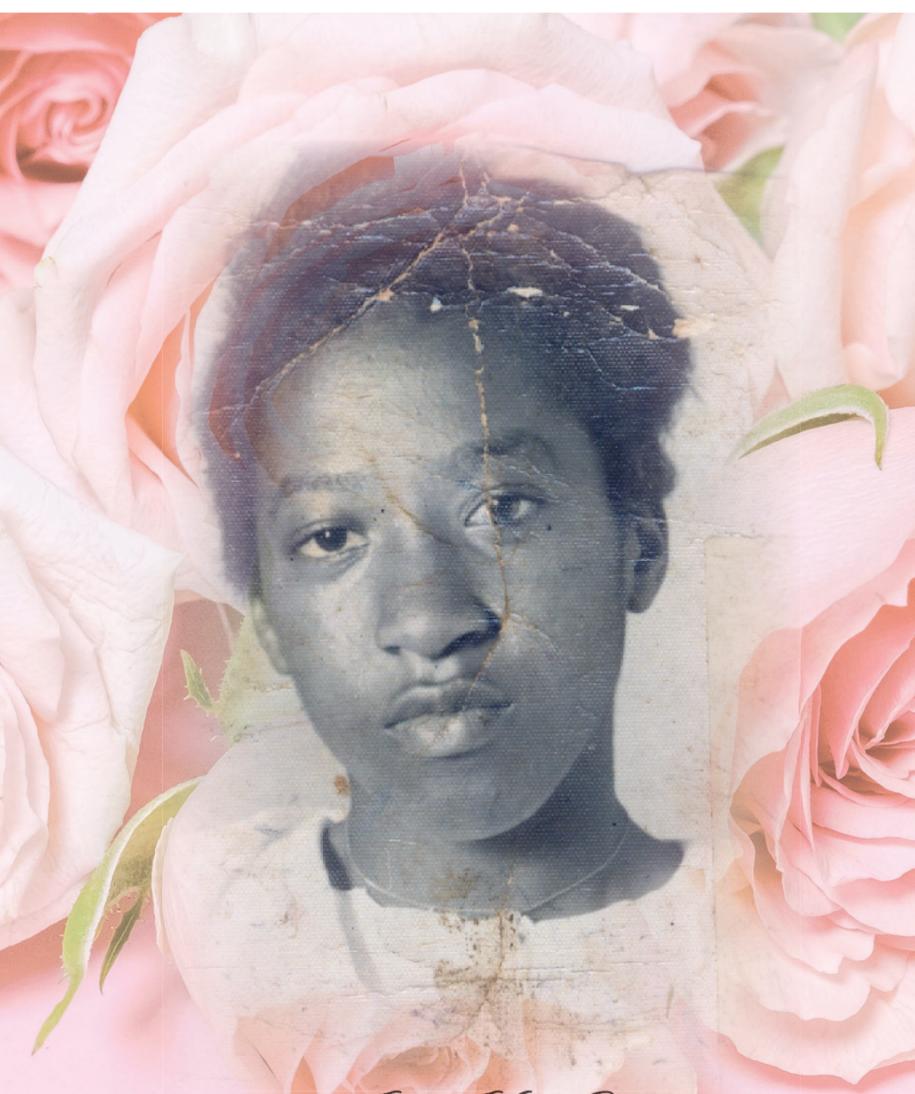
Mary's early education took place at Loachapoka Elementary in Loachapoka, Alabama, where she laid the foundations of a life characterized by learning and growth. Her spiritual journey began at a young age when she united with Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church in Loachapoka. As she moved through life, Mary continued to foster her relationship with God, becoming an integral part of Fletcher Chapel Church in Belle Mina, Alabama, and later, Grace Fellowship Church. Her devotion to her church communities earned her the affectionate title of the "mother of her church."

Mary's personal life was enriched by her loving union with Roy Lee Hawkins, with whom she shared the joys and challenges of life. Together, they navigated the world with faith and love at the helm. Although many of her siblings preceded her in death, Mary's legacy of love and compassion remains a guiding light for all who knew her.

Professionally, Mary was known for her dedication and hard work. Her career spanned various roles, including domestic work for numerous motel and hotel chains, as well as for Mr. Cooper and Mrs. Ola Mae Frazier. She also lent her hands and heart to a local chicken plant. Mary's work ethic was matched only by her kindness and the respect she garnered from colleagues and employers alike.

Mary's spirit was a source of endless kindness. She had a unique gift for making people feel special, seen, and valued. Always ready with a warm smile, listening ear or even ready to cook and enjoy a meal, Mary was the embodiment of generosity. Her love for her family, friends, and even strangers was unwavering and pure. She lived her life as a testament to the principles of God's word, demonstrating what it means to be kind, faith-filled, and loving.

She leaves to cherish her precious memory: beloved husband, Roy Lee Hawkins of Belle Mina, AL; three sisters, Barbarie Ann (Robert) Rice of Decatur, AL, Jacqueline Jackson of Opelika, AL and Caroline (Lorenza) Pendleton of Auburn, AL; three brothers, Hosea Lee (Lizzie) Paradise of Waterbury, CT, Tommy Lee Paradise (Marquetta Spinks) and Dr. William E. Paradise both of Auburn, AL; five brothers-in-law, Billy Wayne (Addie) Sandifer of Statesboro, GA, Larry Joe Sandifer of Decatur, AL, Jerry Wayne (Tameka) Grizzard of Toney, AL, Tommy Lewis Green of Huntsville, AL and Willie James Hawkins of Lithonia, GA; two sisters-in-law, Agnes Jean Harper and Ezraline Sandifer both of Huntsville, AL; seven children, who were the love of her life that she helped raise and loved as her own, Tyangie Dortch, Christopher (Tyia) Hockett, Christopher M. Glover, Marlon (Janice) Dortch, Natasha (Jerome) Cauley, Tamia Hockett, and Andrew Hockett all of Huntsville, AL; a special friend, Henry Douglas of Belle Mina, AL; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.



— *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 for long,
 And not with your head bowed low.
 Remember the love that once we shared,
 Miss me, but let me go.
 For this is a journey we all must take,
 And each must go alone.
 It's all part of the master plan,
 A step on the road to home.
 When you are lonely and sick at heart,
 Go to the friends we know.
 Laugh at all the things we used to do,
 Miss me, but let me go.

— *The Order of Service* —

Prelude

Processional.....Clergy and Family

Musical Selection Sister Senesta H. Ezell

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament Pastor Henry L. Moss
 New Life Baptist Church, Tuskegee, AL

New Testament..... Pastor Montavious Ray
 Showers of Blessings Church of God by Faith, Auburn, AL

Prayer of Comfort Pastor Jerry Dowdell
 Antioch Baptist Church, Opelika, AL

Musical Selection Pastor Henry L. Moss

Expressions of Love..... Two Minutes (Please)

Eulogy..... Reverend Terry Cunningham

Recessional

Postlude