

# Celebration of Life

FOR

## Sheila A. Braxton



*Alpha*

December 26, 1948

*Omega*

August 28, 2025

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

CALLING HOURS: 10:00AM

SERVICES: 11:00AM

GREATER FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
646 LAKEWOOD AVENUE, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO 44502

J.E. WASHINGTON  
FUNERAL SERVICES, INC.

# *Order of Services*

## Pastor James C. Bowie, Officiant



## Parting Viewing

Reading of Sacred Text - Min. Tony Bankhead, *Calvary Revival Church, Norfolk VA*

Prayer of Comfort –Rev. Hosea Ekong, *Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church*

Musical Selection Mr. Danny Friendly

Acknowledgements of Public Tributes Ms. Sheleia E. Allen, Granddaughter

Expressions Respectfully Limit Remarks to TWO Minutes Not to Exceed Five Persons

## Poem Recitation and Reflections

Rhonda Braxton, Daughter & Hershaun Gardner, Son

Musical Selection Ms. Sandi Love

Words of Comfort      Pastor Bowie, Greater Friendship Baptist Church

## Committal Ceremony & Benediction

## Recessional

# Cortege Tod Homestead Cemetery for Interment



After the Interment the Family will return to Greater Friendship Church for repast and fellowship in the Church's Dining Hall on the Lower Level



# *The Life & Legacy of Our Mother*

**S**heila Annette Braxton, 76, received her wings August 28, 2025, in the comfort of her home in Boardman Ohio with her family surrounding her. Our mother was born on December 26, "A Long Time Ago" which was her standard answer when asked for her birthday, to the union of Sellers M. Barnett and Helen B. Bradley.

Mommy graduated as a proud Warrior of South High School in 1966 and attended Youngstown State University. Mommy worked as a nurse's aide at Northside Hospital, and as a waitress and barmaid at various bars and social clubs in the area before becoming an assembler at General Motors in Lordstown. She retired in 2003 after 30.1 years. She emphasized the .1 because of her displeasure at working even a single day over 30 years!

Mom was a member of Greater Friendship Baptist Church where she faithfully attended Sunday School and served in the Dress to Succeed Clothing Ministry. Anyone that knows her could see that she was in the perfect ministry. Mom had a "Passion for Fashion and Social games".

Her greatest earthly pleasure was spending time with her family and friends, whether it was helping her mother with her younger siblings, or raising us and later her grand and great grandchildren. Her mantra was "I see about mine". You did not have to be a blood relative for her to see about you.

Mom was an avid reader with an expansive vocabulary, excellent speller and a talented writer. She could be found dispensing sound advice such as, "take what you can get, until you can get what you want" to all who sought her out. Trust us when we say the list of the recipients of her wisdom was long and vast. She was always ready to entertain you with her quick wit and sense of humor. This was on display whenever she answered the phone with her patented "House of Beauty this is Cutie, may I help you?" OR when asked by a nurse if she had a preference for which arm to use for drawing blood, she would always say "yes" and point to the arm of whichever of us had accompanied her to the appointment! Her love language was soulful sounds of R & B especially the mighty, mighty O'Jays!

Left to cherish mom's memory, celebrate her life and continue her legacy are her daughters Yalonda Braxton of Lawrenceville Georgia, Rhonda Braxton of Columbus Ohio and son Hershaun Gardner of Toledo Ohio, bonus son Min. Tony Bankhead, her godsons Derrick and Dante' Catley of Jacksonville and Pensacola Florida respectively, and her significant other Thomas "Buddy" Spivey. Mom leaves four grandchildren: Sheleia Allen, Ryan Davis, Joshua Braxton, Justin Davis and bonus grandson Cedric Henderson. Five great grandchildren: Ariana, Sa'Niyah, Dominic, Marilyn, and King Jelani. One bonus great grandchild, Kai Marie.

Mom also leaves four sisters Peggy Ann Cambell and Lillie (Rev. Hosea) Ekong of Youngstown Ohio, Celestine "Cookie" (Roy) Veal and Janice Barnett of Detroit Michigan. A bonus sister, Delores Bobo resides in Girard Ohio. Additionally, she leaves her childhood friend Mary Williams, as well as longtime friends Frances Turnage, Loretta Robinson and her neighbors Rita Adger and Lisa Woodley, along with nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Awaiting Mom's arrival in heaven are her parents, four brothers: Wayne "Butch", Kenneth, and William Bradley, Tyrone Hogan and sister Rhonda Hogan. Also anticipating her presence her sister/best friend Charlie Mae Chatman and her lifelong friends Ida Mae Chatman, Carol Catley, Delores "Bootsie" Freeman and Orene Gibson.

Lovingly Shared by Her Children



Dedicated to:  
**Samuel Prince Barnett - great grandfather, Walter Barnett –  
grandfather and Sellers Mack Barnett - father**

## The Barnett Tree

**As I look out upon this Sea of faces that are part of me,  
I realize that what we share has brought us here from everywhere.  
Not just from cities, States or towns  
But from our fathers who have now gone on  
And from our mothers whose faces would smile  
Because we've gathered for a little while.  
The blood they shed, the tears they cried  
Would now be gently laid aside.  
For they too would be proud as me  
To have been a branch on the Barnett Tree.  
The Barnett tree stands tall and wide  
And welcomes all to come inside  
To share your love, your dreams, your pride  
And no that God is on your side  
For He too smiles when he sees  
How the seed he planted became the Barnett Tree  
A tree that strong, a tree that's tough!  
A tree whose branches ( at least my Dad's), didn't take no stuff!  
I've long wondered how I got to be me...  
And now I know cause it's plain to see  
That I too am a branch on the Barnett Tree  
So it fills my heart to finally meet  
Some other branches of this Tree.  
And to you all I have to say  
This is truly a glorious day.**



**Humbly written by Sheila Braxton**



May I go now?  
Do you think the time is right?  
May I say goodbye to pain filled days  
and endless lonely nights?

I've lived my life and done my best,  
an example tried to be.  
So can I take that step beyond  
and set my spirit free?

I didn't want to go at first,  
I fought with all my might.  
But something seems to draw me now  
to a warm and loving light.

I want to go. I really do.  
It's difficult to stay.  
But I will try as best I can  
to live just one more day.

To give you time to care for me  
and share your love and fears.  
I know you're sad and afraid,  
because I see your tears.

I'll not be far, I promise that,  
and hope you'll always know  
that my spirit will be close to you  
wherever you may go.

Thank you so for loving me.  
You know I love you, too.  
That's why it's hard to say goodbye  
and end this life with you.

So hold me now just one more time  
and let me hear you say,  
because you care so much for me,  
you'll let me go today.







# *Floral & Casket Bearers*

## **- Family & Friends -**



## *- With Gratitude -*



The family of Sheila Annette Braxton wishes to thank the community for the intentional acts of love & outpouring of kindness which have been extended during this time. God is not unrighteous to forget your labor of love. Sheila's spirit lives in the hearts of all who loved her—and though she may have left our sight, her love will forever surround us. In this time of loss, let us remember Sheila not only for her devotion to her family and friends but also for the kindness and joy she spread so freely throughout her life. She will be dearly missed but never forgotten. We would like to thank the medical professionals on her care teams with special thanks to Hannah and Contessa of WellBe Medical and Francine, Tammy and the entire team at Ohio Living Home Health and Hospice. Your love & support have been a source of strength, comfort and peace.

Lovingly expressed by The Braxton Family

## *Transitional Care Arrangements Entrusted*

### *J. E. Washington Funeral Services*

2234 Glenwood Ave, Youngstown, OH 4451

330.782.8500

