

Celebrating the life of
Ms. Myrtle Blanding
“Mert”



August 30, 1954~ December 29, 2015

The Obituary

On Tuesday, December 29, 2015, Myrtle "Mert" Blanding, quietly departed this life at Palmetto Health Richland in Columbia, South Carolina. Born on August 30, 1954, in Manning, she was a daughter of Elreeda Martin Blanding and the late Alfred Blanding Sr.

"Myrtle" was raised and baptized in Mt. Zero Missionary Baptist Church. Although, she moved to Columbia, South Carolina and attended Brookland Baptist Church, she still maintained her membership with Mt. Zero Missionary Baptist Church.

"Mert" was devoted daughter and always helped her mother who was widowed very early. She traveled each year with her and they visited all 50 United States.

All the nieces and nephews knew that *Aunt "Mert"* had their backs. At her home, upstairs served as the off campus dorm room, a place to stay when you landed a summer job, a place to do laundry to save your money, a place to find a meal, and a place to shop for necessary essentials like soap and paper goods.

She graduated Class of 1972 from Manning High School and was a graduate of South Carolina State University with a BA in Accounting.

"Mert" was employed with Blue Cross and Blue Choice in Columbia, South Carolina for 38 years.

"Myrtle" was a member of the Beauty Grand Chapter, Auxiliary of the Most Worshipful Palmetto Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Rite Masons, Prince Hall Origin, National Compact, USA. Her membership in this Organization consisted of membership in Martha Chapter #580, Order of Eastern Star; Cleopatra Court #580, Heroines of Jericho; and St. Mary's Council #4, Council of Crusaders.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Audrey Nell Blanding and Sylvia McDuffie.

"Mert" is survived by her mother, Elreeda M Blanding of Manning; her companion Roosevelt Sumter of Columbia; two sisters, Vernice (Sampson) Pearson of Manning and Bertie (James) Martin of Bay Shore, NY; three brothers, Alfred (Angelika) Blanding of Columbia, Dennis Blanding of Sumter and Arnold (Donna) Blanding of Charleston; four nieces; Iphigenia (AJ) Linen of Columbia, Marshelda Dozier of Kileen, TX, Christina Blanding of Columbia, and Audriena Blanding of Chapel Hill, NC; ten nephews, Ricky Ricardo Blanding of Sumter, Sampson Pearson Jr of Charlotte, NC, Jamal (Whitney) Martin of Fayetteville, AR, Minister Bertram A Martin of Bayshore, NY, John Franklin McDuffie II of Manning, CPL Sidney (Ranisha) McDuffie of Kileen, Texas, Alexander Blanding of Columbia, Deion and DeAnthony Blanding of Sumter and Justin Blanding of Columbia; two grand nieces, Kaytlan and Kelsey Linen of Columbia; two grand nephews, Kierston Linen of Columbia and Conner Alan McDuffie of Kileen, TX; two adopted nephews Brett and Brandon Floyd; adopted daughter, Marlena Isaac; close friends, Etta V. Cauley and Carrie Walker and life time friend Agnes Williams.