



## Mrs. Johnnie Faye Davis

August 27, 1948 - November 12, 2017

Johnnie Faye was born on August 27, 1948, in San Francisco, CA. Her parents, John and Lela Howard, raised her in a loving, Christian home. At an early age, Johnnie confessed Christ as her personal Savior and was baptized by her pastor, the late Dr. W. A. Holly, at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Oakland, CA.

At 14, Johnnie began to play the piano for Mt. Zion. She continued playing for her church and later became lead musician. Her Mt. Zion membership continued under the leadership of Pastor Brian Hunter until 2004, when she united with Bible Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Timothy Hawkins, Pastor.

From childhood, Johnnie was eager to learn. In 1968, she graduated from U.C. Berkeley, class valedictorian with a bachelor of arts degree. In 1969, she received her law degree from Boalt Hall at U.C. Berkeley and at the same time obtained her teaching credential. Shortly after, she enrolled in a master's program at U.C. Berkeley. In 1971, she was only 12 credits away from obtaining the degree, but chose to stop.

Never one for sitting idle, Johnnie was a career woman, starting while she was still at Berkeley. From 1968 through 1971, Johnnie served as an intern at the law firm of F. Lee Bailey in San Francisco. She was a school counselor at Berkeley's Willard Jr. High School and Berkeley High School, and she worked as a paralegal for the Oakland law firm of Boxer & Gerson.

From 1979 through 1987, Johnnie spent time raising her children, Yvonne and Derricke. She returned to the workforce in 1988 as an attorney for the F. Lee Bailey law firm. That same year, she formally retired from teaching.

While working as an attorney, Johnnie was incapacitated by a major accident that left her facing the possibility she might never walk again. During this devastating period, she had an epiphany and realized that her life needed to change. Her first step was a promise to God that if she were ever able to walk again, she would sacrifice her career and lifestyle to help others. She kept that promise.

In 1996, shortly after a miraculous recovery, Johnnie founded Sister 2 Sister, a corporation to help women battling drug and alcohol addiction and physical, sexual and mental abuse. From that seed came Serenity House.

A residential facility and community center, Serenity House has provided a refuge and

compassionate service for over 10,000 women. God gave Johnnie the capacity to love each woman who enrolled in treatment. Johnnie always put God first in her endeavors to help others, and God gave her the vision, strength and courage to do just that.

Johnnie lived a life of service and sacrifice for the less fortunate. She was a mother and mentor to many women throughout the community at large, receiving numerous commendations for her civic work from the City of Oakland, County of Alameda, State of California, and the White House. She was always willing to extend her time and resources to help others; and she always provided guidance and wise counsel to those needing it. Knowing her burdens, God blessed Johnnie with a dedicated and loving mate and partner. On April 26, 2007, after a brief courtship, she and Timothy Davis, Sr. were united in holy matrimony. She and Timothy were true partners, spending numerous hours working together at Serenity House and ministering to the community. They shared a passion for following Christ and being His disciples.

In her spare time, she enjoyed traveling with her husband, going to the movies, enjoying and playing music, cooking, and entertaining family and friends.

Johnnie departed this life on Sunday, November 12, 2017. She leaves to cherish her memory her loving and devoted husband, Timothy Davis, Sr.; daughter, Lela Yvonne Garner (Delilah); son, Derricke Antonas Brown (Danielle); sister, Jennifer Ann Reed; dear friend and sister Linda Brown; two stepsons, Timothy Davis, Jr. (Lila) and Emanuel Davis; stepdaughter, Elaine Davis; sister-in-law, Brenda Davis-Barbagelata (Glenn); four grandchildren, Jonathan Brown, Jaylah and Kaylah Davis and Alex Conley; niece Angelique Brown; the current and former clients of Serenity House; and a host of other family members and friends.

# Cemetery

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**Rolling Hills Memorial Park**  
4100 Hilltop Drive  
Richmond, CA, 94803

# Events

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**NOV 27 Visitation 11:00AM - 04:00PM**  
Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home  
3665 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, CA, US, 94609

**NOV 28 Service 11:00AM**  
Bible Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church  
1520 8th Ave, Oakland, CA, US, 94606

# Comments

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“ I met Johnnie in 2000 working as a volunteer in Sister Recovery. She was an amazing community leader, passionate in her commitment to helping women. She inspired me so much that I went on to get an MA in Counseling and spent many years counseling women in New Mexico. I am sorry to see she has passed, but I know she is exactly where she always wanted to be.

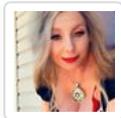
Lisa Grinnekk - May 10, 2019 at 05:13 PM



“ She will Forever ☺ Infinitely Be in my Heart ☐

♥ Love LEA

Lea - March 08 at 02:15 PM



“ I Hope this to See Her in Heav n

Lea - March 08 at 02:16 PM



“ Ms. Johnnie worked at Willard Junior High when I was in the 7th grade. She was an easy person to speak with, eventhough we were rebellions kids. Therefore, when I was taken to her program in 2000 for protecting myself from a domestic violent husband she was there. After six months she told me I was "cured" and told me that I could leave. That was on a Friday, and Monday I was in my seat. Since that day, we have been the best of friends. I finished my classes for my Ph.D in Public Policy and I have been working on my dissertation. My son got killed while riding his Harley on April 29, 2016, and she was there for me. She song and played the piano for the services. Although, Me and Ms. Johnnie would bump heads in the past. I knew that all she wanted was the best for me. A couple of months ago, she was blowing up my cell and work phone just to check on me, and she always told me that her phone was always on for me. She was a trooper. I have worked as a Paralegal for the Law Offices of John L. Burris for the past 15 years. My counselor at her program "Sisters' gave me a flyer for City College of San Francisco Paralegal School, and the rest is history.

Ms. Johnnie, you will continue to be in my heart and I love you....

Maxine Johnson



Max Johnson - November 27, 2017 at 03:11 PM

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“ My condolences to Yvonne and Derricke. May GOD continue the comfort & support to you both and your family even as the days and years continue on. Faye will be truly missed and even though GOD has called her Home she will never be forgotten, her legacy will leave on in each an everyone of us. GOD bless you.

**Lisa LaNae** - November 24, 2017 at 11:48 PM

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“ My family and I sincerely pray that God will comfort and strengthen you all in this most difficult time. Much love to you and your family.

Gwendolyn Amey  
Felecia Cunningham  
Rodney Amey, Jr.  
Jonathan Amey



**Gwendolyn Amey** - November 23, 2017 at 01:27 PM