



## Gloria Joyce Monteiro-Jones

Gloria Joyce (Mercer) Monteiro-Jones passed away on Sunday, January 17, 2016, from complications related to early-onset Alzheimer's disease. She was born to Astor Garthaniel and Ethel Mae Mercer on September 16, 1949, in Corpus Christi, Texas. Gloria was their firstborn, and they cherished her dearly. She was baptized at St. Paul United Methodist Church and grew up in the house of the Lord, going to Sunday school and participating in church programs. She attended Holy Cross School at an early age and later attended the elementary program at Lozano Elementary School. In junior high and throughout high school, she cultivated an interest in music and learned to play the clarinet as an active member of the marching band. Due to her excellence in academics and talent for trigonometry and calculus, Gloria became a member of the National Honor Society. At the age of sixteen, she graduated among the top ten students in her class at Roy Miller High School. Her lifelong love of mathematics led her to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Texas A&M University. Gloria married and had two daughters, Terri L'Dior and Omolara Toni. They were the joys of her life. She was a devoted mother intent on keeping the Lord in her children's lives and teaching them the value of education. Gloria held several jobs throughout her life and excelled in professions that allowed her to help people. She worked at The Arthritis Foundation (where she enjoyed doing publicity for the non-profit organization), sold Mary Kay cosmetics (because she loved showing women how to beautify themselves), and worked as a counselor at NutriSystem (where she enjoyed teaching people how to eat right and maintain a healthy lifestyle). She worked for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) under the direction of Tony Bonilla in the SER-Jobs for Progress Program. There she taught vocational accounting skills to adults and developed a love for teaching that would shape her later career. In 1994, she entered Houston Independent School District's Alternative Certification Program and became a certified Texas teacher. She enjoyed teaching at several different schools, including Bastian Elementary and Long Middle School in Houston and Grant Middle School in Corpus Christi. She loved her students, and they adored her in return. In the middle of her life, Gloria renewed the faith that had been instilled in her in childhood. She visited several churches seeking a spiritual home but felt moved to become a Jehovah's Witness. Going door-to-door and "witnessing" suited her outgoing nature, and she was

drawn to the in-depth Bible study offered at the Kingdom Hall. She was baptized in the faith and remained an active member of the Alief Congregation until the progression of early-onset Alzheimer's disease prevented her from attending. Gloria was known to all her family, friends and colleagues for her love of Jehovah, her vivacious personality, her kind and tender heart, and her elegant sense of fashion. Gloria was preceded in death by both parents. She leaves to cherish her memories: her daughters, Terri (Tyrone) Browne and Omolara (Samuel) Biggs; three sisters, Pamela Sue Shields, Carol Anne Mercer, and Charisse (Gregory) Evans; her grandson, Justin Randall Ray; her niece, Stephanie (Ty) Kennedy; her husband, Willie Charles Jones; a special "sister-like" cousin, Carolyn Nadine Brown; and a host of loving family and friends. Had she been able to speak to friends and family in her final days, her sentiments would no doubt have been, "Remember, God loves you, and so do I!" Services Memorial services for Gloria will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2016 at 11:00 AM at Distinctive Life Funerals and Cremations, 5455 Dashwood Street, Bellaire, Texas 77401.