



A. Joann "Jodi" (Robinson) Overton

November 6, 1947 - May 28, 2024

A. Joann "Jodi" Overton (Robinson) was born to Joseph and Shirley Robinson (Williams) on November 6, 1947, in Harrisburg, PA, where she embarked on a life rich in the hearts of those she touched.

Growing up in the warm embrace of the Steelton community and the fond memories of Sumter, South Carolina, with her grandparents, Thomas, and Joanna "East" Robinson, Jodi's life was a testament to the power of family, faith, and community. A graduate of Central Dauphin East Senior High School in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and the Harrisburg Hospital School of Nursing, Joann became a registered nurse. In her first year of nursing school, Joann was crowned Miss Tan of Harrisburg, demonstrating her beauty inside and out. A lifelong learner, Joann was always looking for something new to add to her toolbox, including studying scriptures, Mandarin, quilting, and using her multiple cell phones and Facebook pages.

As a child, she gave her life to Christ and attended Monumental AME Church in Steelton, where she continued to attend with her children, singing in the choir, and participating in prayer meetings and Bible studies. Joann later joined St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church where she loved her pastor and church family.

She was married to William M. Overton, Jr., Esq. and their union brought forth

three beautiful children, Shileste, BJ, and Karina. What mattered most to Jodi was her family. She loved her children and was very proud of who they were as individuals and often repeated the mantra, "After I am gone, all you have is each other." She instilled in her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren the need to know and understand their African and African American history and culture. Some of the family's greatest memories are of her hosting Kwanzaa and seeing her African art, sculptures, and robust library. Joann also believed that everyone she met was family, adopting many as sons, daughters, cousins, and grandchildren, extending her love and care to all. She leaves behind a rich tapestry of memories and traditions, instilling the importance of faith, heritage, and unity.

"Jodi," as she was affectionately called by her colleagues, had a heart that overflowed with love and compassion, leading her to a fulfilling career as a nurse at Harrisburg Hospital, Woodland Lodge, Harrisburg State Hospital, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, retiring in 2008 to provide care for her first granddaughter. Giving back was something she believed in greatly; she traveled to Belize on a mission trip to help others using her nursing experience and was also known to share her nursing skills with family and friends who needed it. Joann's advocacy knew no bounds, as she tirelessly championed for those without a voice, participating in anti-apartheid rallies, voter registration campaigns, and serving as a certified Dauphin County Department of Aging Resident Advocate. Her commitment to service extended beyond her professional life as she actively engaged in numerous civic, community, and religious organizations, including Red Hatters, Pinochle Bugs, Purpose Driven Women of Zion, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. DREAM Showcase, and Black Women's Caucus. Joann loved yard sales, diners, and the arts! She was her happiest when she was out with friends, sewing, or performing in Signature Productions. She enjoyed jazz and was a member of the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz and loved attending the Dauphin County Jazz Festival.

Beyond her personal and professional accomplishments, Joann was a source of love and strength. Her infectious laughter, genuine empathy, and unwavering support touched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing her. She approached every interaction with authenticity, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those she encountered.

Joann, a beacon of love and light, gracefully completed her earthly journey on May 28, 2024, at the age of seventy-six. While her daughter, Karina Overton, preceded her in death in 2015, her spirit continues to shine brightly in the memories they shared as a family.

Joann is survived by her cherished daughter, Dr. Shileste Overton Morris (Honorable Royce L Morris); her devoted son, William Joseph "BJ" Overton (Nicola); her dear brother, Avery Robinson; and sister-friend, Delores Morton, all of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Her legacy will be honored and cherished by her grandsons, Terrell and Troy McCraw, Christian and R. Ian Morris (Ashia), and William J. "Chico" Overton; and granddaughters, Janiyah McLaughlin and Sanai "Sugas" Overton. She was GiGi Mom to seven great-grandchildren, Mia, Caliana, Terrell Jr., Terrian, Terriel, Royce Harmony, and Kairos; Goddaughters, Michelle and Giovanna Hughes, Jazmine Morton and Ayana Herbert. Joann is deeply missed by a host of relatives and friends whom she loved with all her heart.

In lieu of flowers, donations should be made to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, 1400 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20560. - <https://nmaahc.si.edu>

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLICK ON THE SHARE A MEMORY TAB TO POST VIDEOS, SHARE MEMORIES, CONDOLENCES,

REFLECTIONS OR SIMPLY LEAVE YOUR NAME.

Previous Events

Flower Delivery

JUN 7. 8:30 AM (ET)

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
1201 N. 17th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17103

Viewing

JUN 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
1201 N. 17th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17103

Service

JUN 7. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
1201 N. 17th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17103

Tribute Wall

LS

“ My condolences to Shileste, BJ, family and friends. Keeping everyone in my prayers.

I am saddened to read the passing of Ms. Joann. It breaks my heart. She was beautiful inside and out. So full of love. She touched many lives with her wisdom, knowledge and love.

Rest In Heavenly Peace beautiful Angel. You are loved by many and will be missed.

Laurie McKinney-Stroble and Family

Laurie Stroble - June 19, 2024 at 03:32 PM



SF

“ Sandra Bell, Rhonda & Jarvas & Family lit a candle in memory of A. Joann "Jodi" (Robinson) Overton



Sandra Bell, Rhonda & Jarvas & Family - June 07, 2024 at 09:19 AM

LC

“ Linda Collier lit a candle in memory of A. Joann "Jodi" (Robinson) Overton



Linda Collier - June 06, 2024 at 07:54 PM

LC

Dearest Shileste, Royce, Other Family Members and Friends to Joann Overton: We have on many occasions taken comfort from some quotes from the SERENITY PRAYER like "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change . . . Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time . . . trusting that He (Christ Jesus) will make all things right if I surrender to His will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next."

This is one of those occasions. Just a few weeks ago, we consulted with Joann for wisdom on a decision we needed to make concerning an elderly loved one. Now looking back to the time we spent together, we send this tribute in her memory, grateful for having known and loved Joann as a faithful sister, mentor and friend, thankful for the caring for others she demonstrated on earth that, we believe, reaps for her eternal reward in heaven.

Please know we will deeply miss Joann and will remember to keep you in our prayers as you grieve the absence of her presence. We'll also pray and believe you will allow God to comfort your hearts every moment of every day, while He gives you the patience to wait for Him to reunite you with her in Heaven.

Dr. James & Linda Collier; Mother Vivian Smith & Ronald & Deaconess Shirley Yates and Families.

Linda Collier - June 06, 2024 at 08:05 PM

MO

“ *My sincere condolences to Shileste, BJ and remaining families. I knew Joann for many years and she was the kindness person who always had a great smile. May God continue to bless each of you at this difficult. Joann will truly be missed.*

Maxine Oakley

Maxine Oakley - June 06, 2024 at 04:33 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of A. Joann "Jodi" (Robinson) Overton.*



June 06, 2024 at 03:27 PM

NM

“ My condolences to the family. Jodi always had that big smile on her face whenever I saw her. Whenever we had a gathering of family and friends Jodi would come. I have a lot of special memories of her from childhood to now. She fought the good fight now her soul is at rest. Peace and Blessings



N Mosley - June 06, 2024 at 10:27 AM

SH

“ My condolences to the family I remember her being a sweet woman. May she rest in peace



sheryl - June 05, 2024 at 06:41 PM

TR

“ I remember how sweet and how much love you always showed me and you will be greatly missed. I love you, cousin rest in peace.



Tanya Rowan - June 05, 2024 at 06:00 PM

MD

“ With deepest sympathy love and blessings We the Red Hat Sisters will truly miss Joann's fun, joy and laughter. God's blessings to the family. Love the Red Hat Sister Queen Mother Mary Jane Davis

mary jane davis - June 04, 2024 at 06:03 PM

EP

“ With deepest sympathy during this time as you all mourn the loss of your beloved Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother and friend to so many people. I too share in your loss of my Red Hat Sister who brought so much joy when in her company. God bless and keep you, love Red Hat Sister Emma Pettis.

Emma A. Pettis - June 04, 2024 at 01:10 PM

PF

“ Patricia Richards and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of A. Joann "Jodi" (Robinson) Overton.



Patricia Richards and family - June 04, 2024 at 11:33 AM

MD

“ I want to express my sincere condolences to Joann's children, grandchildren and other family members. Joann was a true treasure. Her heart, smiles and jokes I will forever cherish those memories. I will forever cherish her. God grant you all peace knowing 🙏 she is now resting in our Father's house.

Marva Dixon-Hamilton - June 04, 2024 at 11:02 AM

JS

“ John 14 says “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many [a]mansions; if it were not so, [b]I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know.” Your Mother, grandmother was a beautiful person and will be missed. Most of all she would want to see you one day, so live the life she paved for you, get to know her Lord and Savior so you can see her again.



Joyce Simms - June 03, 2024 at 08:42 PM

SF

To Jodi’s family : We certainly will miss Jodi’s present on earth but we know she is truly dancing for joy in her heavenly Home

Exodus 15:2 - The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Sandra Bell, Rhonda & Jarvas & Family - June 07, 2024 at 09:09 AM

EC

“ It is with deep sadness that I offer my condolences to the family of my dear friend. We were classmates at Harrisburg Hospital School of Nursing where she was assigned to the role as my "big sister". She took this assignment seriously and went above what was expected to make sure that I stayed on task. Jodi was a faithful friend over these many years, and we kept in touch almost monthly by telephone. She always made time to join my family gatherings on my trips back to PA. I will miss her kindness and infectious smile. I will keep all of you in my prayers during this time of grief.
Elaine (White) Colbert

Elaine M Colbert - June 03, 2024 at 06:50 PM

JM

Juan and Jacquie Martinez wish to send our heartfelt sympathy to Jodi's family and friends. Jodi was a beacon of light from the first time we met over 30 years ago at Wesley Union AME Zion Church. I knew her as one who shared her knowledge wisdom and strength with everyone she encountered. I am confident that she has her crown of glory, and that a piece of her loving spirit will remain in all of us that loved her. Revs. Juan & Jacquie Martinez

Jacquie Martinez - June 05, 2024 at 09:34 AM

SW

To Shileste, Royce, BJ and the rest of the family...

I extend my deepest sympathy and prayers during this difficult time. I have so many fond memories of Jodi. Her conversations were full of "wisdom nuggets" on any given subject. Sweet memories as neighbors, church, and we also worked together at the PA Department of Health. A few co-workers would get together share ideas, and on the lighter side of things would laugh so hard, we really enjoyed each other. Jodi always said, "laughing is good for the soul!" No more pain! I will cherish these memories! Rest peacefully, my dear!

*Love,
Stephanie Jackson-Woodward*

Stephanie Woodward - June 07, 2024 at 08:40 AM