



Rebecca Smalls Oakley

March 21, 1953 - November 5, 2025

Rebecca Smalls Oakley, affectionately known as “Maxine,” was born on Saturday, March 21, 1953, on Saint Helena Island, South Carolina, to the late Elting Buster Smalls Sr. and the late Rosalee Archer Smalls.

At an early age, Maxine was baptized at Ebenezer Baptist Church, beginning a lifelong journey of faith and devotion to God. She began her educational journey at Saint Helena Elementary School and graduated from Beaufort High School. She later continued her studies at Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio, where she pursued her higher education with dedication and excellence.

Following her academic achievements, Maxine established a remarkable career with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Human Services, where she served faithfully for thirty-five years as an Executive Secretary before retiring. Her strong work ethic, grace, and attention to detail left a lasting impression on her colleagues and everyone who had the privilege of working with her.

She later worked part-time at her sister-in-law’s daycare center, Kenney’s Latchkey, where she poured her heart into caring for children, especially her great-nieces and great-nephews. The children loved and adored her for her gentle voice, warm smile, and nurturing presence. She treated each child as

her own, leaving them with memories of kindness, laughter, and love.

Maxine was a devoted member of Turner Memorial Missionary Baptist Church in Steelton, Pennsylvania. She served faithfully under the leadership of Pastor Melvin Baber and Pastor Richard Hampton for more than 30 years. As an active member and former President of the Usher Ministry, she joyfully welcomed countless worshippers and guests into the house of the Lord. Her radiant smile and gracious spirit reflected the love of Christ she carried in her heart and extended to others.

On Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at seventy-two years of age, Maxine transitioned from this life into eternal rest and peace, surrounded by the love of her family. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Elting Buster Smalls Jr.; her sister, Felicia Smalls Ragland; her stepbrother, Richard Markovich; and her stepmothers, Laura Markovich Smalls and Mary Marshall Smalls.

She leaves to cherish her memory her devoted husband, Charles Oakley Sr.; her beloved children, Charles Oakley Jr. (Dana), Jason Oakley, and Courtney Oakley Martin (Michael); her cherished grandchildren, Lina Jane Oakley, Kingsley Oakley, Caiyan Robert Martin, and Trace Bentley Martin; her brothers, JoeNathan "Butch" Smalls (Mildred), Daniel Smalls (DK), and Darryl Smalls (Lecia); her sisters, Gloria Smalls Garmany (Frank), Omega Smalls-Francis (Jonathan), Rosalyn Smalls Barrett, and Victoria Smalls; her stepbrothers, Thomas Markovich (Linda), Michael Marshall, and Vincent Marshall (Cynthia); her stepsisters, Lynn Markovich Bryant (Wilbert), Sally Markovich Lombard (Warren), Carmen Marshall King (Leroy), and Diedra Marshall; her sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, Edna Mae Griffin, Bernice Kenney (Don), Shelia Davis, and Douglas Oakley (Gail); along with a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, relatives, church family, and dear friends whose lives were enriched by her love and grace.

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.

Flower delivery, 8:30 a.m., Saturday, March 21, at Turner Memorial Missionary Baptist Church.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Turner Memorial Missionary Baptist Church
130 Watson Street
Steelton, PA 17113

Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rebecca Smalls Oakley.*



March 17 at 11:02 PM



“ *My condolences to the Oakley family. Maxine was such a beautiful person inside and out. We had so many good times and laughs together. She was a gem. When I met her we just click and always spent time together. Maxine loved to eat and I loved to cook and she would eat. And she always made sure we fix a plate for Charles. I spend time with her in her last days and she was just so sad. She knew God and she knew she was going to be ok. I miss my friend and sister. Love you Maxine.*

Sheila Rucker - March 09 at 11:56 AM



“ *I love and miss you so much, Aunt Maxine.*
Con



Janet;Griffin Simmons - March 05 at 01:34 PM

JO

“ Miss you mom! Keep an eye on us!



Jase Oakley - March 04 at 05:49 PM