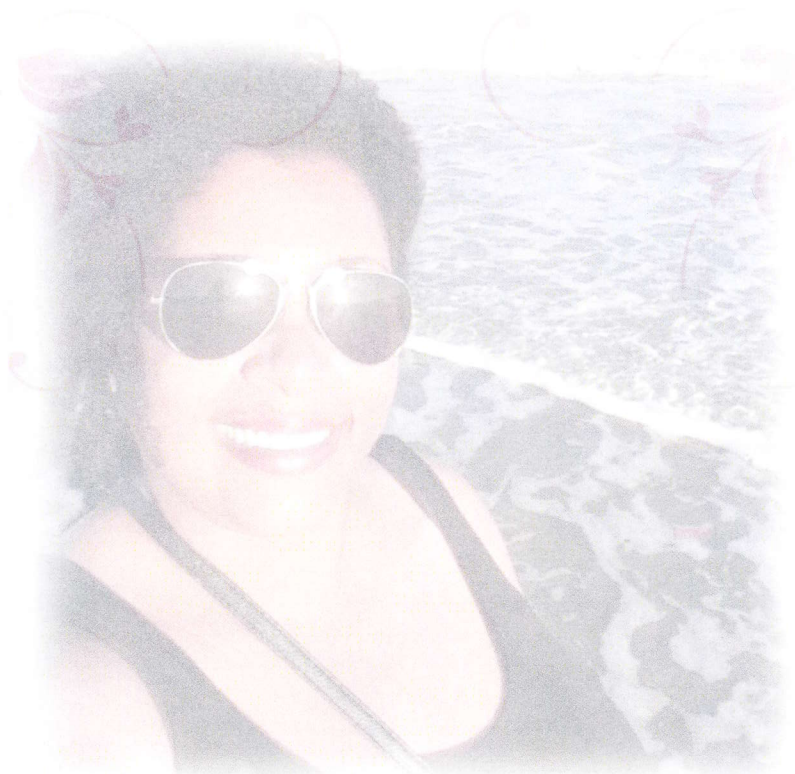


IN LOVING MEMORY
of



Maria Lanette Bridgeforth

November 11, 1982 – April 25, 2020



When I Must Leave You

*When I must leave you for a little while
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you through the years.
But start out bravely with a gallant smile;
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same,
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
But fill each waking hour in useful ways.
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer,
And I in turn will comfort you and hold you near;
And never, never be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky!*

Obituary

Maria Lanette Bridgeforth was born November 11, 1982 in Athens, Alabama to the late Milton W. Bridgeforth and Pearlie Jackson Bridgeforth. She grew up with her parents and two sisters in her family's Beulahland farming community in Tanner, Alabama.

Maria accepted Christ at an early age and joined Lakeview United Methodist Church, and remained a member until moving to Birmingham for college.

Maria graduated from Tanner High School in 2001, and received her Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the health care fields. While attending college, on April 21, 2007, Maria became a member of the Iota Lambda Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She took great pride in her sorority, and sustained life-long friendships not only with her sorors, but also very special college friends.

Maria was employed by Children's Hospital of Alabama for more than 15 years as both a transplant coordinator and performance improvement coordinator.

Maria departed this life on April 25, 2020 at her home in Pelham, Alabama. She was surrounded by her loving family.

Those left behind to cherish the memories of Maria's sweet and beautiful soul include her daughters, Ariana Marie Smith and Gabrielle Alyse Burroughs; her mother, Pearl Bridgeforth; step-grandmother, Willie Bridgeforth; sisters, Jackie B. Lacy (Ira), Veronica Bridgeforth, and Millicent Langford; nephews, Zackary Lacy, Andrew Lacy, and Koltyn Langford; nieces, Allison Lacy and Joi Bridgeforth-Lee; and many beloved aunts and uncles, cousins, friends, classmates, sorors, and co-workers.

Maria was smart, strong, independent, talented, articulate, and such a joy to be around. She loved her family and friends. She asked that we "take care of her children because they are her legacy". We pledge to always surround them with our love and never let them forget the special person Maria was to all of us. She is forever in our hearts. Rest well dear Maria.until we meet again.

*The Lord is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts.
-Psalms 28:7*



Order of Service

11:00 A.M.

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2020

Beulah Land Cemetery

9130 Lucas Ferry Road ♦ Tanner, Alabama 35671

REVEREND WILLIE BYRD, OFFICIATING



Gathering

Solo..... Candace Byrd-Vinson

Prayer Reverend Willie Byrd

Scripture/Eulogy Reverend Willie Byrd

Burial Rites/Committal

Depart



*To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven.
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant,
and a time to pluck up that which is planted.
A time to kill, and a time to heal, a time to break down,
and a time to build up; a time to weep,
and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.*

-Ecclesiastes 3:1-4



Acknowledgements

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone for the love, care, support, and many acts of kindness shown to us during Maria's illness and passing. We ask for your continued prayers in the days ahead as we adjust to life without her physical presence. A special thanks to Children's Hospital of Alabama staff and the UAB Hospital staff for your visits and support to Maria. May God Bless you all.

TRIBUTES CAN BE MADE IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

Maria's Girls Memorial Fund at
Redstone Federal Credit Union (any location)

OR

Children's of Alabama (www.childrensal.org)
Pediatric Cancer Research in memory of
Maria Bridgeforth/Performance Improvement Department



FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

Royal Funeral Home, Inc. - Mason Chapel

718 Brownsferry Street Athens, Alabama 35611

(256) 232-4822 www.royalfh.com

"When only memories remain, let them be beautiful."