



## Esther Diane McKenzie

March 20, 1952 - March 3, 2022

Our family is deeply saddened to announce the passing of Esther Diane Bessent McKenzie. After a short illness she went home to be with our Lord on March 3, 2022. Surrounded by her family, she passed away peacefully.

Esther was born to Dorothy Lee Bessent & Harold Maxie Bessent on March 20, 1952, in Jacksonville, Florida. She was a resident of Jacksonville and a longtime employee of UF Health Shands. She grew up in Jacksonville and attended Paxon High School. Esther was a devout, loving member of Heavenly Heights church in Jacksonville. She often posted her love of Jesus on Facebook. Anyone who knew Esther knew that she was incredibly kindhearted and deeply loved her family.

She is survived by her husband David McKenzie, daughter Kristy Brannan Hicks, son James Brannan, daughter in-law Stephanie Brannan as well as 2 grandchildren: Jenna Brannan and Silas Hicks, sister Kathy Rhoden and husband William, brother Steve Bessent and wife Roxanne, and several nieces and nephews, and mother-in-law Norma McKenzie. She is preceded in death by three sisters: Rhonda Bessent Schaedel, Gaynell Bessent Nolan and Karen Yvonne Bessent.

Services will be held at Heavenly Heights Baptist Church on Monday, March 14th at 11am. She will be interred at Restlawn cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, feel free to donate to one of Esther's favorite charities, the Jacksonville Humane Society (8464 Beach Blvd Jacksonville, FL 32216).

# Cemetery Details

## Restlawn Memorial Park

2600 Ribault Scenic Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32208

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAR 14. 11:00 AM (ES)

Heavenly Heights Baptist Church  
6680 Dunn Ave  
Jacksonville, FL 32218

# Tribute Wall

DG

“ *Darsel Griffin lit a candle in memory of Esther Diane McKenzie*



Darsel Griffin - March 15 at 03:00 PM

LH

“ *Esther was one of a kind , Kindhearted ,Caring ,Sharing , Loving Mother to her Children and Others alike too , she Never had a Sad face Always had that Ear to Ear Smile she Couldn't Smile Big Enough !! So Happy and Content with her Husband and her Life . I met her in 1973-74? She was my Boss at Jax Drugs , worked there in 1976 Esther Never had a Bad word to say , but She Knew how to get her point across if needed (God knew he had to put a sign on her meaning her Red Hair , I'm Pretty Sure she had Fire in her Soul but she Held Her Composure a Real Lady her Mother Dorothy was too) She Made the Best out of Life . Family Get to Gathers was a Must , with the Bessent's Family . Dorothy her Mother and Esther Always made Sure I was invited to the Easter Get togethers every year . Esther was never to Busy to stop and talk and catch-up with Family and on each other's lives,?Always asked hows Your Family , is Everyone Good ? She's Already Missed and has a Special Place in my Heart ❤️ I Love You Esther Always have since day one . Give your Mother the Biggest Hugs and Kisses Ever from me and Fly High with the Angels and Keep that Bright Beautiful Smile on your face for Eternity.*

Laura Lyne Jenkins Bessent Hand - March 14 at 09:49 AM

DL

“ I want to send my deepest sympathy to Esther's family and friends. My immediate family and hers were always very close, so we basically grew up together from childhood. Although not blood relatives, it felt as if we were, and my siblings and me called Esther's parents Aunt and Uncle and they referenced my parents the same. I have many good memories of Esther and her siblings and parents, because we spent much time at their house. I recall one particular night in 1966, I think, when we were at their house. Our parents were in the kitchen playing cards and all us kids were hanging out in the back of the house. I remember Esther had gotten the 45 vinyl record of Johnny Rivers' "Secret Agent Man" and playing it consecutively several times. She had good taste in music! Those were definitely the good old days! I also recall that same night she made an interesting observation about TV commercials...asking, "Has anyone ever noticed the commercials advertising household cleaning products...they show a house that's already sparkling clean and doesn't need cleaning? They should show a dirty house before using the product and then show a sparkling clean house AFTER using the product?" It was certainly an excellent observation that made us all laugh but also realize how true the statement was! I have a million fond memories of Esther, her parents and siblings and will always carry these memories in my heart of her and her very special family that meant the world to me and my family. They were the best of people and knowing them certainly made me a better person and I am grateful that all of them touched my life in such a positive and inspiring manner. Find comfort in knowing heaven now has another precious soul, a beautiful angel...now that Esther is gracing the Heavenly realm of existence and we all will see her again. May God bless Esther abundantly in her new Home and may God bless each of her loved ones left behind with the peace of knowing she is not GONE, only AWAY, living in a different neighborhood, where we will reunite with her again. With deepest heartfelt sympathy, Donnie Lepper, Meadows of Dan, Virginia

Donnie Lepper - March 08 at 03:29 PM

JP

“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Esther Diane McKenzie.



March 07 at 12:57 PM

JP

“ Mrs Esther was such a loving and dear soul. A true jewel. She will truly be missed.

Jeri Priester - March 07 at 12:16 PM

SR

“ *Sandra Reyes lit a candle in memory of Esther Diane McKenzie*



Sandra Reyes - March 07 at 11:15 AM

KR

“ *I Love You Forever Ms Esther*



Keiondra Russell - March 07 at 10:15 AM

TD

“ *We were best friends all through childhood and high school. We rode to school together and when she worked at burger King we ate there often . I always called her Red even after it wasn't any longer. She was a wonderful person and will sorely be missed. Rest in peace my sweet friend.*

Terry (Seckner) Dyer - March 05 at 10:17 PM

KR

“ *I am so proud you were my momma! You deserve to rest now, rest in the arms of God.  
Your daughter Kristy*



Kristy - March 05 at 01:49 PM