

She is Gone

You can shed tears that she is gone or you can smile because she has lived. You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back or you can open your eyes and see all she's left.

*Your heart can be empty because you can't see her or you can be all of the love you shared. You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember her and only that she's gone or you can cherish her memory and let it live on. You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back or you can do what she'd want:
Smile, open your eyes, love, and go on.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family of Col. Elfreda Louise Kirskey, USAF Ret. acknowledges the many forms of sympathy extended to us during the transition of our loved one. Each act of love will always be treasured.

 **MURRAY BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME, INC.**
404-349-3000
1199 Utoy Springs Road, Southwest
(corner of Cascade Rd, near I-285)
Atlanta, Georgia 30331

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404-931-7230

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

FOR

COL. ELFREDA LOUISE KIRKSEY, USAF RET.

1951 - 2019



Saturday, November 02, 2019

~1:00 PM ~

Murray Brothers Cascade Chapel

1199 Utoy Springs Road, Southwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30331

BIOGRAPHY

(Ret.) Colonel Kirksey was born September 18, 1951 to Julius and Estelle Kirksey in St. Louis, Missouri. She graduated from William Beaumont High School in 1972. She earned a Bachelors of Science degree in Psychology and Nursing from Georgia State University and a Masters degree in Health Administration from the University of Michigan. (Ret.) Col. Kirksey began her military career at Scott AFB, Illinois as an active duty clinical nurse. After an active duty assignment at Eglin AFB, Florida, she set her military career aside and was married. She gave birth to three daughters: Elisa, Erica, and Elenda, who have been her greatest motivation over the years.

(Ret.) Col. Kirksey resumed her career in 1981 as a Flight Nurse with 94 AES, Dobbins AFB, Georgia; and again, for the second time, in 1990 until 2003, where she served as a Clinical Nurse, Mental Health Nurse, the USAFR Mental Health Nurse Southwest Regional Representative, Assistant and Chief Nurse among many other jobs. Later, in 2003 until 2011, she was assigned to the Air Force National Security Emergency Preparedness Directorate, Ft. McPherson, Georgia as an Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer for Georgia.

Military education includes Air War College, Air Command and Staff, School of Aerospace Medicine, Battlefield Nursing and Nursing Service Management. Dobbins ARB and she was an Air Force Academy/ROTC Liaison Officer recruiting our future leaders. (Ret.) Col. Elfreda Kirksey was the first African-American female to be promoted to the rank of Colonel at Dobbins Air Reserve Base.

As a retiree, Col. Kirksey was an active member of the National Association of Black Military Women and the Tuskegee Airmen Atlanta Chapter. Outside of being a leader, Elfreda enjoyed traveling to her favorite places, cooking, and eating with her family and friends. She always lived life to the fullest and encouraged everyone to do the same.

Elfreda "Free" Kirksey leaves to mourn her passing: three daughters and a son-in-law: Elisa Norman, Erica Stanley, and Elenda and Marlon Hayes; a brother and a sister: Donnie and Linda Kirksey, seven grandchildren: Eric, Alex, Erin, Thomas, Eva, Elle and Elise, a host of cousins, nieces and nephews, "Sister-Friends," "Golden Girls," childhood friends, godchildren, good neighbors, military family, extended family and several best friends.

Her family and friends will greatly miss her - but she will always remain in our hearts and fondest memories.

Peace Be Still...

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Word of Grace

Greeting

Group Affiliations

Eulogy

Song "Well Done"

Prayer

Old Testament Reading Psalm 23

Song "Never Would Have Made It"

Gospel Reading John 14

Words of Comfort "The Lord's Prayer"

Song "The Storm is Over Now"

Dismissal with Blessing

INTERMENT

Monday, November 4, 2019
10:00 A.M.

Georgia National Military Cemetery
1080 Scott Hudgens Drive
Canton, Georgia 30114