



Mrs. Constance Ward Smallwood Lee

January 17, 1935 - December 26, 2016

Constance Ward Smallwood Lee was born January 17, 1935 in Washington, DC to the late Lena Josephine Massey Ward and Holsey DeCosta Ward, Sr. She was the oldest of two sisters: Lena Ward Morris Washington (deceased) and Diane Ward Beal White (deceased), and one brother: Hosley D. Ward, Jr. As a child, Constance was a very loving person, and she made sure that her siblings were cared for. She enjoyed sitting in the front room talking with them and sharing stories of their young lives. She also had a lot of fun dressing up in her mother's clothes and shoes. As a young child, she dreamed of one day dressing up her own daughters in pretty dresses and her sons in suits and bowties.

Constance attended Garnet Patterson Junior High School in Washington, DC and received a degree in nursing from Martha Washington School. Upon graduation, she worked at the Arlington Hospital in Virginia until the time of her retirement.

On June 19, 1954 Constance married Donald Webster Earl Smallwood. To this union were born five children: three girls and two boys. One son, Michael DeCosta Smallwood, preceded Constance in death. Donald later married Willie Smallwood, and they had three children: one boy and two girls. The Smallwood Family shared a close bond and became a blended family of love. Then Constance married Theodore Lee whom she cared for until he passed.

Constance was an activist in the Washington, DC community, known as The Arthur Capper Housing Development, and she was instrumental in its planning process and growth. She served as president of the Arthur Capper Resident Council and served on the Mayor's Task Force. She was also the cochair of The South Washington Family Strengthening Collaborative and sat on the Board of the first Community Development Coalition for townhomes on Capitol Hill. Constance loved her block parties where the entire street was "shut down" to enjoy the fun and fellowship of neighbors in her treasured community.

She accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior and was a member of the Lutheran Church of the Reformation under the leadership of Pastor Paul Wee. She served on The Child Care Committee of the church and enjoyed working with the Decorating Committee to beautify the church during the Christmas season. In her later years, Constance joined the Cornerstone Church in Alexandria, Virginia, where she attended services with her grandchildren and daughter, Deborah Carr.

Constance was an awesome mother who reared her children with love and discipline. She made sure there was no TV in the front room, and when the street lights came on, all her children had to be in the house. Well before the electronic age, she purchased encyclopedias so that her children would have educational resources that would help them in school. Her childhood dreams came true as she cared for her own children and dressed them up in style, shopping wherever she could get the best bargains. Constance shared a special bond with her nieces, Lolita Morris, Paula Hackley, and Lavenia Jordan and nephew Johnny Smallwood. They all called her "Big Connie."

Constance's life and legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of her family. She leaves to cherish her memory her children Juanita E. Smallwood Jones

(James), Donna Patricia Lee Smallwood (Wayne Marshall), Debra Lillian Carr (Nathaniel), Donald Webster Earl Smallwood, Jr., Gregory Webster Smallwood, Greta Smallwood, and Sheila Smallwood; grandchildren Joel Q. Ricks Smallwood, Nakita Young Smallwood, Calvin Carr, Steven Porter, Jr., Denaë Carr, Phillip A. Jones (Wendy) and three great-grandchildren: Quintershae Antonio Ackers (De'Shay Anyia), Lashae Ikea Ackers and Leah Washington.

Previous Events

Viewing

DEC **31**. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Lutheran Church of the Reformation
212 East Capitol St N.E.
Washington, DC 20003


Funeral

DEC **31**. 11:30 AM (ET)

Lutheran Church of the Reformation
212 East Capitol St N.E.
Washington, DC 20003

Tribute Wall

PS

“ Happy 89th Birthday Aunt Big Connie, love you  and continue to rest in peace , your niece Penny!




Penny Scott - January 17, 2024 at 10:32 AM

JJ

“ Mother Smallwood, spirit will forever live in me. I am waiting to cross over so you can take my hand. A life time a memories of my mommy. A mother love never dies. She will keep order in heaven just like mommy need with all her children. Oh yes, when I see snow I will no that's you sending your powerful message to me. Mommy I am waiting for the first snow to come this year. I will love you forever. Nothing no one can do about it. Love your first born Juanita Smallwood Jones.

Juanita Smallwood Jones - January 11, 2017 at 06:43 PM

DW

Tootie!!! This is Donna Pleasant here. I've been looking for you. OMG 
Donnaw11@comcast.net

Donna Whitehead - December 31, 2025 at 10:06 AM

LO

“ Lolita lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Constance Ward Smallwood Lee



Lolita - January 05, 2017 at 10:47 AM

DA

“ To the family, I am very sorry for your loss. Big Connie was such a sweet and loving person. I remember when my mom used to bring me over her house to visit, there was always lots of laughter. I especially enjoyed her and I sharing the same birthday and favorite color. I made sure I called her to wish her a Happy Birthday and our favorite color is purple. She had a beautiful spirit and her spirit will live inside each and every one us. We will all in some way be as gracious as she was. I love her and she will never be forgotten! That's my birthday twin!



With Love Daisha (Paula's daughter)

Daisha - December 31, 2016 at 12:14 PM

LO

This is Lo Aunt Connie second niece my SISTER was her first. but now they are together, Aunt Connie now with her son Micheal, her father Hosely, mother Lena, sister Diane, sister Snezzie, her Aunt Grace her niece Dink, Her grandmother and father, her Aunt Louis. And more I can't name right off hand. But now it's time for there family reunion up in heaven. She now get to see the people she has been missing. And now we are missing you but we will reunite. I never could have ask for a better aunt God gave me the best. Someone that loved me unconditionally, I don't care if I was wrong or right she was there to set me down and let me know what she thought about whatever. That was my Aunt I Love you so much. When my Mom was in the hospital and they brought her up to see her and it was a empty bed in the room. And when it was time to go, she told everybody that, that bed was for her and she was not going no were she is getting in that bed because she is staying with her sister. Well 11 month later she joined her sister. And I feel deep down in my soul they are happy now that they are together

Lolita - January 05, 2017 at 10:32 AM

PO

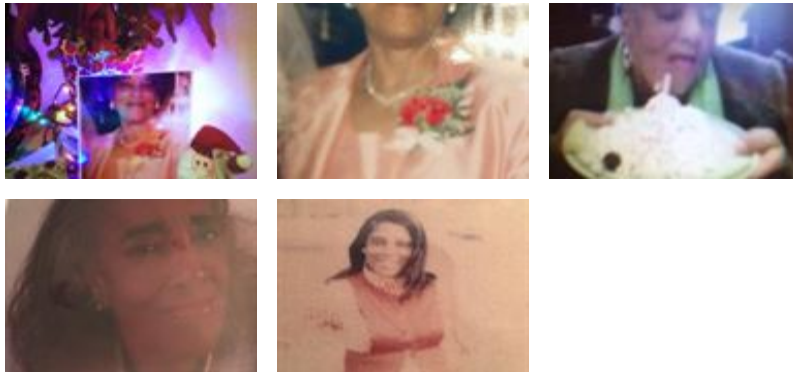
“ To my sunshine, there's so much I want to say about my sunshine, so much joy and so much laughter she has given me. I just keep hearing what she said on Thanksgiving Day, (I'M JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO GIVE ME SOME MACARONI & CHEESE. WHILE Y'ALL LAUGH & TALK, I'M HUNGRY TOO.) She also say to me, you'll never get another GRANNDY like her.
Love Poochie!!!



Poochie - December 31, 2016 at 01:54 AM



“ 67 files added to the album Life Tributes



Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrissette- - December 30, 2016 at 09:58 PM

SH

“ *To Uncle Donald and my Cousins*

I send my love and condolences to all of you.

Love Sherron

Sherron - December 29, 2016 at 07:45 PM