



## C. Vernethia Little-Kanoyton

May 27, 1940 - June 20, 2020

Funeral Service for Verne Little-Kanoyton

LIVE STREAM SERVICE

Monday, June 29, 2020 at 12:30pm ET

[kempfuneralhome.com](http://kempfuneralhome.com) --> click on C. Vernethia Little-Kanoyton

picture --> click on her image on her tribute page

(live stream starts 10 minutes prior to service)

A private family service of less than 10 people will occur in person at Kemp Funeral Home.

No viewing or visitation will occur.

CARDS for Verne Little-Kanoyton RECEIVED AT

Kemp Funeral Home

24585 Evergreen Rd,

Southfield, MI 48075

(or please leave kind words and memories on this page)

DONATIONS INSTEAD OF FLOWERS

We are asking friends and family to make donations to the Alzheimer's Association "In Memory" of "Verne Little" at [alz.org](http://alz.org)

Her children, Graten Little, Jr and Sheniqua Little, are truly grateful for all of

the support and encouragement that so many have shared. Thank you for loving us, and thank you for having loved my mom.

C. Vernethia Little-Kanoyton, affectionately known as Verne, was born to Clarence Williams and Gusilee Williams (later Gusilee Parker) in Detroit, MI. (Both parents preceded her in death.) She was the youngest of two. (Her brother James also preceded her in death). She is survived by two children, Graten Jr. and Sheniqua, as well as two ex-husbands (Graten Little, Sr and Gaylord Kanoyton).

Verne was raised in Detroit and graduated from Central High School. As a young adult, she was very active in the NAACP youth group. Being a very determined and intelligent young woman, she earned a degree in Business from Lewis College of Business. She also earned her Master's of Business Administration Degree from The University of Detroit.

Married to Graten C. Little, Sr, their union was blessed with two children: one son, Graten Little, Jr. and one daughter, Sheniqua Little. Verne was a doting mother who was fully engaged with her children's development in social activities and education. The Littles were active members of the Tots 'n Teens organization, which exposed the children to civic and cultural activities, as well as leadership roles during regional and national conventions. As a result, she was very proud to see both of her children graduate and attain college degrees.

Faith and church life were an anchor for Verne. She and her family made Hartford Memorial Baptist Church their home church in 1986, under the leadership of Dr. Charles G. Adams. Verne attended regularly and contributed in several ways, such as sharing her business expertise on several committees and taskforces. The Prayer Band group that she formed with 3 other women at the church carried her family through many trials over the

years.

Regarding her professional life, Verne worked many years in the Human Resources Department of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM). She leveraged her role as Manager, and ultimately Director, of Human Resources to improve people's lives – to help people obtain their first internships and jobs, to advocate for fair pay and promotions, and to increase diversity within the organization where possible. Dozens of people have come up to our family over the years stating how she changed their life or helped them keep their job.

After Blue Cross, Verne started an adult foster care facility funded by the State of Michigan, which helped individuals who were successfully released from the mental hospital re-integrate into society. Again, hundreds of lives were touched and improved through the service. In the final phase of her working life, Verne was the Executive Director of a nonprofit that rehabbed homes and helped people attain affordable housing. There is a clear thread of service throughout Verne's entire career.

Verne was also involved in several civic and professional organizations. She was active with the Jim Dandy Ski Club and the Set Club where she attended and helped coordinate many functions. Verne was a member of the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Detroit 1981 Class. Also, Verne was initiated into the Detroit Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in May 1984 on the Pilot 21 line. The sisterhood of Delta filled Verne's life in so many treasured ways.

Most importantly, Verne loved her family and friends and enjoyed spending time with them. She made a big deal of family weekends on Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day. She made Easter baskets for her children every year until they graduated college. She relished decorating the house for the holidays and creating memories. Verne celebrated life and will truly be missed

by all who knew and loved her.

After experiencing the challenges of dementia, and after battling illness in the hospital for roughly two weeks, Verne transitioned peacefully in the arms of the Lord on June 20, 2020.

# Previous Events

## Family and Friends Hour

JUN **29**. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
24585 Evergreen Rd  
Southfield, MI 48075  
(248) 702-5367  
info@kempfh.com  
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

JUN **29**. 12:30 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
24585 Evergreen Rd  
Southfield, MI 48075  
(248) 702-5367  
info@kempfh.com  
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of C. Vernethia Little-Kanoyton*



**Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - June 29, 2020 at 12:11 PM



*I have wonderful memories of Aunt Vernethia. Blessings to the family.*

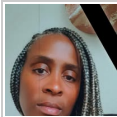
*Vince Little*

**Vince Little** - June 29, 2020 at 12:25 PM

RS

*She was such a classy and sophisticated lady. She really stood out to me growing up. She will be missed but live on through Graten and Shen who are both just as wonderful and classy. God Bless fam*

**Ron Spears** - June 29, 2020 at 12:30 PM



*Vern is when friends become family. Love you Sheniqua and Graten. Love the Gaines Family*

**Regina Gaines** - June 29, 2020 at 12:32 PM



*Love to Graten and Sheniqua during this time of loss. We loved Aunt Vern and continue to be grateful for the blessings she realized in you.*

**Andrea Archer** - June 29, 2020 at 12:36 PM

BE

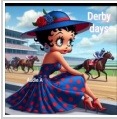
*Soror Shaniqua, blessings to you and your family. May Mum Rest In Peace. Amen.  
Soror Bola, North East Wisconsin Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.*

bee - June 29, 2020 at 12:43 PM

AL

*My prayers are with you cousins; make every memory a treasure in you heart and soul....remember-love never dies.*

Annelle Lewis - June 29, 2020 at 12:58 PM



*Love and light Graten and Shaniqua. Your Mom will be dearly missed*

Audie Atta - June 29, 2020 at 01:00 PM

EA

*I know she is talking and playing bridge along with healing and giving to others in Heaven. She joins her friends in Heaven to Include my Mom Artis Ayers.*

*Love The Little Family -- From The Ayers, Leslie and Eric.*

Eric Ayers - June 29, 2020 at 01:03 PM

MH

*I will always remember Verne's beautiful smile and the little twinkle in her eye. I met Verne when I was a young bride. I appreciate her advise and council on marriage, career, business and the National Association of Black Women Entrepreneurs. She had a servant's heart and a passion for quality and excellence. Sending my sincere condolences to the family.*

Marilyn French Hubbard - June 29, 2020 at 01:09 PM

NJ

*I will always remember Aunt Verne's spirit. Cousin Corky and cousin Sheniqua, I am sending you all the healing love and light that I can muster. Love you both!*

Njemile - June 29, 2020 at 01:16 PM

RS

*Proud alumni of Tots N Teens Detroit and remember these activities Mrs. Shepherd is talking about...such great memories*

**Ron Spears** - June 29, 2020 at 01:23 PM

MB

*To Shen and family, Beautiful memorial for a beautiful woman - Soror Marion Binion*

**Marion Binion** - June 29, 2020 at 01:35 PM

SS

*Lifting up the Little-Kanoyton Families in prayer during this time of great loss. May God continue to watch over and keep you all.*

**Soror Nikki Lewis Simon** - June 29, 2020 at 01:40 PM

TL

*A beautiful casket & flowers. You all sent off your Mom really nice. Cheers to you, Mrs. Little. Much love.*

**TIFFANY LANIER** - June 29, 2020 at 01:40 PM



*It's so very difficult to say goodbye to any of our family members. I will cherish my fond memories. Please know that your cousins love Aunt Vernethia, and we love you.*

*~Maya*

**Maya Atta** - June 29, 2020 at 01:43 PM

RS

*To my fraternity brother Graten and his beautiful sister Sheniqua I send you my blessings and love during this difficult time in the loss of your wonderful and loving mother. I always felt a true friendship with your mother. All those years we worked together in Tots and Teens and worshipping at Hartford. May God continue to bless you both of you. I will always keep you in my prayers and reach out to you in any way I can be of service to you. All my blessings, Ron Spears (Papa Spears).*

**Ron Spears Sr** - June 29, 2020 at 09:03 PM



HB

*What a beautiful service for your mothers home going. As a Tots and Teens Alumni Cleveland Chapter, I am so glad I had the opportunity to meet the Little family. So great to hear that fellow Alumni (Ron and Lori) were with you today. It really seems like yesterday were at National Teen conferences waiting to be grown. I too am grateful that our moms planned that piece so that our paths were able to cross. My prayers are with Shen and Graten. -sending Love from Hollie Bodiford-Taylor and family*

**Hollie Bodiford-Taylor** - June 29, 2020 at 09:48 PM

BA

*I will always remember Verne with this deep dimples in her cheeks embraced by her beautiful smile. I remember the fun we had as we packed the car and drove your lovely daughter to FAMU. We enjoyed Over 30 years of treasured friendship from church, the SET, and golf. My love and condolences to the family.*

*Barbara Atkins  
Dallas Texas*

**Barbara Atkins** - June 29, 2020 at 10:13 PM

VB

*My mother went to school with Ms Vernethia, and I was named after her. She ended up always sitting in the balcony at HMBC and by a fluke we discovered each other. She was a warm beautiful LADY. She will be missed. Vernithia Baylor, Mission, Texas*

**Vernithia Baylor** - June 30, 2020 at 06:05 PM



“ C. Vernethia Little-Kanoyton

September 27, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ C. Vernethia Little-Kanoyton

September 27, 2022 at 06:52 PM



“ I love Verne 😊 I met her late in my life, but we had some of the best times together. We loved to have lunch were we talked about our children, Southfield activities, and our love for Detroit. We both had a love for helping others. I know she is and heaven so we will see each other again. To Graten and Sheniqua we love you 🙏



Nadine Lollie - July 02, 2020 at 11:28 AM

SR

“ I will always remember Verne's great personality and a smile that would light up a room. Shenequa and Graten, your mom loved you and was so very proud of you. I know you will miss her but the things she taught you will last a lifetime. Please find solace in knowing she is with the Lord and forever in your heart. Blessings and Peace

S.Robinson

Sylvester M. Robinson - July 01, 2020 at 10:21 AM

TD

I will always remember Verne's smile and wonderful spirit. I was sorry to hear of her transition. I will keep Shenequa and Graten in my prayers. May God shine on you and comfort you with peace.

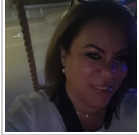
Thelma I. Davr - July 20, 2020 at 02:14 PM

DS

“ Corky and Sheniqua, I am sending love, and prayers for your comfort and peace.

Aunt Dianne

Dianne Stephenson - June 29, 2020 at 02:18 PM



“ To know your Mom was a gift she was the epitome of strength, ladylike, classic, black woman empowerment and love. Her smile and wisdom always left a positive memory and she loved me as I was here own child.

*My fondest memory I will share is the holiday parties and the happiness and joy that would fill the house.... Your Mom was a wonderful hostess....She helped me in many way throughout my life from a child, to a teenager (involvement at Hartford), to words of encouragement the day I started working at BCBSM after college. The many dinners with all the ladies at Joe Muer on Gratiot Ave....I could go on & on....Your Mom was a Jewel and I loved her for she loved me....*

*Respectfully,  
Tiffany Ervin*

---

**Tiffany Ervin** - June 29, 2020 at 01:51 PM

MH

“ Vernethia Little-Kanoyton, lovingly known as Verne was a very friendly and caring person. We extend our love and sympathy to her dear children, Graten and Shaniqua. God bless and keep you now and in the days ahead.

*~The Humphrey Family*

---

**Mamie Humphrey** - June 29, 2020 at 01:49 PM

JG

“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your dear, sweet mother. I have soo many loving memories of spending time with your family and especially the fact that she and your dad trusted me to spend time with you two. I luv you both and am always praying for you. She will be greatly missed and I miss you too. Stay strong!

---

**Juana Gissendanner** - June 29, 2020 at 12:36 PM



“ *Sending thoughts of love to my cousins Graten and Sheniqua during this time of tremendous loss. Aunt Vernethia loved her children with all of her heart. May the memories of her love soothe the pain of loss at this time. Rest well in heaven Aunt Vern - and please say hello to Mom.*

---

**Andrea Archer** - June 29, 2020 at 12:28 PM



“ *Sylvester M. purchased a sympathy card for the family of C. Vernethia Little-Kanoyton.*



---

**Sylvester M.** - June 26, 2020 at 12:53 PM