



Deborah Ann Hicks

December 20, 1946 - March 22, 2025

In the twinkle of an eye, our beloved Mother, Sister, Grandmother, Aunt, and Friend departed this world to her eternal home. Her days on Earth had ended – a new life was beginning as she received her crown and is now flying with the angels.

Deborah Ann Hicks was born in Mobile, Alabama on December 20, 1946, to the union of Thelma Ree Martin and Emanuel Madison Cockrell, Senior. Both preceded her in death.

Baptized at Union Baptist Church, Deborah confessed her love and devotion to Christ at an early age.

In 1965, Deborah graduated from Central High School in Mobile, Alabama. She went on to enroll in Alabama A&M majoring in Education, graduating in three years with a Bachelor of Science in Education. She began her road to educating children in Cleveland, Ohio. Deborah then moved to Detroit, MI in 1970, becoming a High School Biology teacher and lastly a High School Guidance Counselor for Detroit Public Schools. She retired in 2000 after 29+ years of educating students. Throughout this time, she obtained her Master's in Education from Eastern Michigan University and was only 1 course away from earning a PhD. Retiring didn't stop Deborah from continuing to serve as a "life counselor" to her family and friends.

While at Alabama A&M Deborah met the love of her life Rosenau Hicks. They were married in 1970. Their union blessed them with two children – Nakia and Travaris. Rosenau preceded her in death.

As a mother and educator, Deborah strongly advocated continuing education while ensuring her children attended and graduated college. In 1979 she opened The Children's Palace, Inc., a childcare center in Detroit, MI. At its peak, Children's Palace grew to five childcare centers that served thousands of metro Detroit area families. Children were educated, made safe, and fed freshly cooked meals, daily. Deborah consistently did her part to ensure that the early childhood community was "not left behind."

Deborah loved to eat food made with love and have fellowship. She loved to travel, and she loved to engage others. Deborah loved people and greeted them all with a smile. She genuinely loved and enjoyed her family, her friends, her church, and life. She considered herself extremely blessed and understood the importance of selfless service and how it can serve as an example to those seeking guidance and motivation. She was an extraordinary mother, a devoted friend, and a strong confidante. She left a great legacy... a part of her is in each of us.

Memories of Deborah will be cherished forever by her two children – Nakia Hicks Robinson (Jonathan) of West Bloomfield, MI, and Travaris Hicks (Michelle) of Dumfries, VA; Preceded in death by her brother Adam Cockrell; three brothers – Emanuel Cockrell, Jr. (Shirley) of Desoto, TX, Jerry Cockrell (Lula) of Garland, TX, George Cockrell (Mary) of McDonough, GA, and Mignon Footman of Warren, MI; four grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Rest in peace sweet, loving and kind Deborah. Your work has been fulfilled on Earth, and God has taken an angel unto Heaven.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

Cemetery Details

Elmwood Cemetery

1200 Elmwood Street
Detroit, MI 48207

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 27. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Family and Friends Gathering

MAR 28. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd
Southfield, MI 48075
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Celebration of Life

MAR **28**. 12:30 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of Deborah Ann Hicks*



Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services - March 28, 2025 at 12:34 PM

LW

“ *Please accept my heartfelt sympathy and know that all who loved you are wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead, and loving memories to hold in your hearts forever. Her devotion and love shown to me will be deeply missed.*

Lauren Walker - March 28, 2025 at 11:04 AM

TR

“ *Theresa Royster-Stephens lit a candle in memory of Deborah Ann Hicks*



Theresa Royster-Stephens - March 27, 2025 at 09:38 PM

TR

Please accept my heartfelt condolences during this difficult time. I am so sorry for your loss, and I am thinking of you and your family. My prayers and thoughts are always with the family and friends.

Theresa Royster-Stephens - March 27, 2025 at 09:40 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Deborah Ann Hicks.*



March 27, 2025 at 07:59 PM



“ *Mrs. Hicks was a very caring person. She always looked out for my family. It was a pleasure working for you as the cook of Children’s Palace. My condolences to the family. Love Mrs. Davis (Henry Davis the bus driver and Bobby Davis), Melissa, Chris, Tony.*

Jeraldean Davis - March 27, 2025 at 06:44 PM



“ *The Jenkins Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Ann Hicks.*

The Jenkins Family - March 27, 2025 at 03:31 PM



“ *The Jenkins Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Deborah Ann Hicks.*



The Jenkins Family - March 27, 2025 at 03:31 PM

CI

“ Deborah was one of the most loving and giving people I've ever known. She opened her home to me and five other siblings who she didn't know and treated us like family. A bond of friendship was made that weekend that lasted a lifetime. Rest in peace dear friend, we will miss you.
Cecelia Royster Irby

Cecelia R Irby - March 27, 2025 at 10:20 AM

LJ

“ Lula, Kesha, Michelle, Nicole and Jen purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Deborah Ann Hicks.



Lula, Kesha, Michelle, Nicole and Jen - March 26, 2025 at 06:40 PM

MF

“ Mrs. Mable Player and Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Deborah Ann Hicks.



Mrs. Mable Player and Family - March 26, 2025 at 12:14 PM

MF

“ Mrs. Mable Player and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Ann Hicks.

Mrs. Mable Player and Family - March 26, 2025 at 12:14 PM

TG

“ Ms. Hicks, it has been a joy getting to grow up around you and the family. You were an inspiration and I'm sorry your words didn't convince me to stay at Clark. 😊 However, I am thankful that you never gave up on encouraging me to keep going. I will cherish the memories, laughs and milestones that we have shared throughout the years. Thank you for being such a blessing! Rest in peace dear. You will be missed. ❤️

Toya Gilmore - March 26, 2025 at 12:04 PM

MF

“ My sister, my 2nd mother and my friend. Never saw, in my mind, that you would not be here. Know that I love you to infinity. Rest well

Mignon Footman - March 26, 2025 at 11:27 AM

FF

“ Footman family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deborah Ann Hicks.

Footman family - March 26, 2025 at 11:14 AM

FF

“ Footman family purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Deborah Ann Hicks.



Footman family - March 26, 2025 at 11:14 AM