



Bonita Manard

April 23, 1954 - March 3, 2025

Bonita Clementine Manard was born April 23, 1954, in Chicago, IL, on her mom, Faye Christine Manard's birthday. Her sheer will to live and personal strength helped her survive 22 years living as a nonverbal quadriplegic with ALS in St. Anne, IL. Bonita transitioned to her home in Chicago, IL, on March 3, 2025. We celebrate her extraordinary journey and profound impact on her family and caregivers.

Bonita earned her Bachelor's Degree in Business Management at Northern Illinois University in 1978. She became a top insurance agent at United Insurance while landlord and owner of 6 properties in Chicago, IL. Bonita could install a furnace, remodel a bathroom, and change a vehicle's oil. In the 1990s, she became a FEMA Inspector under former President Bill Clinton's administration. She traveled from Louisiana to North Dakota and Puerto Rico, where she resided during the winter months.

She leaves to cherish her memories, her mother, Faye Christine Manard of Chicago, IL; siblings, Terri L. Manard-Mitchell of Kankakee, IL, Regina Christine Kitching-Williams of Glenwood, IL, James D. Manard of Chicago, IL and William S. Manard of Spencer, Iowa; brother-in-law, Eric J. Mitchell Sr. of Kankakee, IL; Rasheedah Abdullah and Jasmine Cockle Manard are her sisters-in-love; cousin, Jerome Daniels; nephews, Fabian C. Mitchell of Kankakee, IL, Clarence Williams of Killeen, TX, William S. Manard Jr. of

Evanston, IL, Jashawn Manard and Keshawn Manard of Spencer, Iowa; nieces, Alicia B. Mitchell of Nashua, NH, Jamilah Manard of Dallas, TX, Jada Manard of Chicago, IL; great-nephew, Isaiah M. Higgins; great-nieces, Brianna Marie Williams and Neveah Christine Williams, and a host of cousins.

Bonita was preceded in death by her grandfather, William Calloway; grandmothers, Florence Manard and Clementine Calloway; her father, Whurley John Manard; a sister, Normia L. Manard; uncle, Earl Calloway; aunt, Drucilla Daniels; cousins, Earl Daniels and Carl P. Daniels.

Special friends include Tonya Williams, Riverdale, IL, Rico B. Corley, Chicago, IL; neighbor, Cricket Scott Smith, St. Anne, IL, and landlords of 20 years, Bea and Larry Nolan, Sun River Commons Apartments.

Of note, Bonita's many different personal assistants whom she loved and cared for for more than half of her years journey include Roderic Hodge, Ernest Lumpkins, Susan Nordine, Craig Nordine, Jewell Davis, Odell Collins, Lakisha Tucker, Pamela Hamilton Ella Isom, and her two private duty RNs, Cheryl Street and Bobette Tammen; a special thanks to her caregiver Polly Hardaway for allowing us to use her church for the repast.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 15. 12:00 PM (CT)

Lax Mortuary
187 S. Greenwood Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 935-0090
laxmortuary@laxmortuary.com
<http://laxmortuary.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *I had wanted this on her obituary but couldn't get it cleaned up. Thanks to my daughter Alicia for doing this for me!* ”



Terri Manard - March 14, 2025 at 01:56 PM



“ *I'm so used to her texting or calling me with something to do, every day! The silence, is deafening! Bonita will be missed! Bonita always had some hours, if you needed work! A true void!* ”



Terri Manard - March 14, 2025 at 01:50 PM



“ 13 files added to the album Memories Album



Lax Mortuary - March 14, 2025 at 12:50 PM



“ MICHEL RIVERS lit a candle in memory of Bonita Manard



MICHEL RIVERS - March 12, 2025 at 11:17 PM



“ To the family of Bonita, may God give you comfort, strength and understanding as you grieve the loss of your loved one. We will pray these things in Jesus name.

Harold & Michel Smith (friends of Reginna)

MICHEL RIVERS - March 12, 2025 at 11:16 PM



Thanks

Terri Manard - March 16, 2025 at 09:28 AM

RJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



R.T. Hodge, Jr. - March 12, 2025 at 12:09 AM

PJ

“ Patricia Jamison lit a candle in memory of Bonita Manard



Patricia Jamison - March 09, 2025 at 06:00 PM

JF

“ joann FORD-BOX lit a candle in memory of Bonita Manard



joann FORD-BOX - March 07, 2025 at 04:28 PM

CW

“ Cheryl Wilson lit a candle in memory of Bonita Manard



Cheryl Wilson - March 07, 2025 at 09:56 AM