



Debra Baskett

January 19, 1956 - August 11, 2025

On August 11th, our beloved Debra Ann Baskett, maiden name Davis, entered her eternal rest at the age of 69. She passed peacefully at home, surrounded by love and her daughters, just as she lived, held close by her girls.

Debra was born at home on January 1, 1956, in Brooklyn, New York. She later learned that a big snowstorm had swept through that day, and her birth certificate was filed on January 19th. Still, she joyfully celebrated January 1st as her birthday for her entire life, honoring her tradition of bringing in the New Year with a birthday. She was the treasured daughter of Fannie Mae and Willie "Pappy" Davis.

Debra grew up in Brooklyn, where she attended Erasmus High School. In her youth, she was very athletic. In middle school, she was a great basketball player, competing for a church organization known as "Dutch Reform." In high school, she swam on the school team, loved playing handball in the schoolyard, and even took karate classes, always

with her younger sister, cheering her on as they were inseparable. Her passion for martial arts continued into adulthood, and she achieved the remarkable accomplishment of earning her black belt.

Debra's heart was as generous as her smile. She opened her home to countless friends and family, offering them not only a place to stay but also comfort, guidance, and love without judgment. Those who were blessed with her hospitality called it their sanctuary. She had a quiet confidence that put everyone at ease and made people want to be around her. She loved peace and tranquility and could be with any group, loved and admired.

Later in her life, health problems overcame her body, but watching her great-granddaughters and welcoming her great-grandson as her newest legacy was a joy that could not be extinguished by illness or pain. She also found a deep love for animals, cherishing the comfort and companionship they brought. Her daughters and her granddaughter continue that bond, caring for a beloved family pet in her memory.

She cherished family gatherings, whether vacationing together, hosting barbecues, or enjoying a quiet evening watching her favorite shows with her children. She delighted in the simple pleasures, good food, meaningful conversation, and a game of spades or gin

rummy. Her beauty, both inside and out, never needed makeup, and her presence could light up a room.

Debra is survived by her children: Salinda Davis, Lucky Ross, and Melta Baskett; her granddaughter, Danielle Greene; and her great-grandchildren, Haislee Ann Nix, Adaleigh Nix, and Kohen Burger. She also leaves behind her siblings Wilhemina "Mina" Davis, Jackie Davis, Charlotte Davis, Yvonne "Eddie" Davis, Renee Davis Leathers, Michael "Mikey" Davis, Willie Davis, Russell Davis, Denise "Niecy" Davis, and Eugene "Jean" Davis, along with a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Fannie Mae and Willie "Pappy" Davis; siblings, Nathaniel "Nat" Pless, John Willie Davis, and James "Pop" Pless; and her nephews, Van Heffner, Jr. and Jackie Davis, Jr.

A celebration of Debra's life will be held on August 22, 2025, at her eldest daughter's home. In keeping with her wishes, she was cremated on August 13, 2025. Her family will also hold a celebration of her life in her birthplace of New York City at a later date.

"To love with kindness and without judgment is to truly live."

Previous Events

Celebration

AUG 22.

her eldest daughter's home