

Obituary

Ms. Melody Diane Edwards was born on December 9, 1956, in Brooklyn, NY to the late Andrew Howard and Lucille Rose. Melody departed her earthly life on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, peacefully at home surrounded by her family. Melody grew up in Belport, NY, and lived there in her early years before moving to Durham, NC in 1985.

After moving to Durham, Melody accomplished many professional and educational achievements, all while supporting a family consisting of her husband, two sons, and one daughter. She earned a bachelor's degree in English from North Carolina Central University, in Durham, NC, where she graduated at the top of her class Summa Cum Laude. While pursuing her education, she thrived as a technical writer for many years while employed by Glaxo Wellcome, a pharmaceutical company, and Duke University. Having had a heart for teens and adolescents, she later worked in the public school system for years showing troubled teens how to use their gifts and talents by being the unique version of themselves. In 2019, Melody retired as a Senior Program Coordinator from Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

Melody was a very strong and determined woman who did not back down from any challenge. She had a stern faith and inspired many by her daily walk and service to others. Though she was quiet at times, when she spoke, she spoke with intention and power. She looked to God and trusted Him in all her endeavors.

Melody had many gifts and talents. Some of her most notable ones were her abilities as a writer, songstress, certified life coach, and mentor. Countless people have expressed how much they have been touched and inspired by her ability to help them navigate through challenging times. Her skills as a life coach encouraged them to pursue their true purpose and passion in life.

One of Melody's life goals was to travel the world and change people's lives through her coaching. She loved to travel and after retirement, she spent two years living in the South American region. She spent most of her time in Costa Rica, where she lived out her dreams, made many friends, and gained extended family members.

In January 2023, Melody returned to the United States to visit and be with family in Columbia, SC, which would be her final resting place.

Ms. Melody Diane Edwards leaves to cherish her memory: two sons, Tariq Mix, of Columbia, SC and Kashif Edwards, of Durham, NC; one daughter, Najma Edwards, of Durham, NC; two brothers, Gene Howard (Kathy) of Belport NY and Andrew Howard, Jr., of Atlanta, GA; five grandchildren, Kailey Mix, Rachel Mix, Lauren Mix, all of Charlotte, NC, Nakia Bullock, and Zakai Edwards, both of Durham, NC; one aunt, Edna Williams; a host of nieces, nephews, family, and good friends.

Memories



Order of Service

Saturday, December 2, 2023 – 3:00 p.m.
Leevy's Funeral Home Chapel
1831 Taylor Street, Columbia, South Carolina

Prelude

Processional

Invocation.....Pastor Jamal Brown
Holly Springs United Church of Christ, Holly Springs, NC

Old and New Testaments.....Pastor Jamal Brown

Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Bill Wormley

Song of Praise.....Pastor James Haythe
Safe Haven Christian Fellowship, Monroe, NC

Remarks.....A Family Member
A Friend

Song of Praise.....Pastor Lj Haythe

Words of Comfort.....Reverend Vincent King
Freedom Temple Church, Raleigh, NC

Committal

Benediction

Recessional

Postlude



A Mother's Love

*A Mother's love is something
that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish
and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
or take that love away . . .
It is patient and forgiving
when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters
even though the heart is breaking . . .
It believes beyond believing
when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
of the rarest, brightest gems . . .
It is far beyond defining,
it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret
like the mysteries of creation . . .
A many splendored miracle
man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
of God's tender guiding hand.*

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Ms. Melody Diane Edwards, would like to thank each of you for your prayers and support shown to us during the passing of our loved one. It is our prayer that each of you will be blessed in a very special way.

Services Entrusted To:

Taylor Street Chapel 1831 Taylor Street Columbia, SC 29201 (803)771-7799 I. S. Leevy Johnson <i>Owner & Director</i>	Leevy's FUNERAL HOME Chris Leevy Johnson <i>President & Managing Director</i>	Lower Richland Chapel 9120 Garners Ferry Road Hopkins, SC 29061 (803) 776-6922 Leverette A. Williams, II <i>General Manager</i>
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