



Sandra M Blake

July 1, 1947 - August 6, 2019

Sandra Jeanette Miller Blake, known as Sandy to her family and friends, was a beautiful soul, a loving wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, educator and friend. She was a down-to-earth, creative woman who revered the truth and honesty in all things. Born in Columbia, SC. in 1947, Sandra was the first child of six born to Vivian and James L. Miller, Jr.

Sandra met the love of her life at CA Johnson High School. She and James V. Blake, Jr. were married for 52 years. They have two wonderful children and seven grandchildren: Deirdre B. (Scott) Sayers and her two daughters, Cheyenne and Kaya, and Erik Blake and his children ,Maana, Makena, Jelani, Adara, and Noah. Sandra has five siblings: Cora Davis (deceased), Cynthia Eddie) Robinson, Wanda (Robbie) Glenn, Timothy Miller, and Lisa (Rufus) McDaniel. She was loved by a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Sandra, a designer and creator all her life, started with a talent and love of needle art at her mother's knee. She began designing and sewing clothes for her dolls when she was very young. Her passion for all things "dollightful" began after winning the Blue Ribbon for handmade doll clothing at the age of twelve. She went on to design fashion and works of art that can be found in discerning collections around the country.

Sandra attended Howard University in Washington, DC, where she earned a

B.A. Degree in Clothing and Textiles and minored in Fine Arts; she graduated in the Class of 1973. She became immersed in the unfettered expressions of African and African American culture, history, beauty and art. It was a defining moment in her artistic development.

As a new mother, Sandra found few acceptable dolls or toys to serve as positive depictions of the Black child. In 1978, she began Sanjean Originals™ to showcase her originally designed cloth dolls, “The Dollightful Family.”™ Her work also includes meticulously sculpted porcelain works and portrait dolls.

Sandra’s dolls can be found in the personal collections of such notables as Roberta Flack and Oprah Winfrey, and in the permanent collection of the SC State Museum. In 1994, she was selected to create the Commemorative Doll for the National Black Arts Festival titled “Ascension.” Sandra was commissioned to design and create a doll incorporating a patented device used to teach patients about Sickle Cell Anemia. A featured artist in the book *Black Dolls: Proud, Bold and Beautiful*, Sandra’s work has been exhibited at The American Jazz Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, the African American Museum of Philadelphia, and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of South Carolina in Columbia.

Sandra was a member of Rahab Court #15 Heroines of Jericho, where she served as Grand Lecturer of Rahab Grand Court.

Sandra’s favorite saying that “There is something in the universe,” is a recognition of the connection among us all. Namaste. Shalom. Peace be Unto You. Salaam.

Memorial gifts may be directed in lieu of flowers to the MUSC Foundation/Hollings Cancer Center, 18 Bee St., MSC 450, Charleston, SC

29425. Please make note that gifts in memory of Sandra Blake will be directed to benefit the HCC Hematology/Oncology program.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 13. 3:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia
1200 Fontaine Place
Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 786-6300
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Sandra M Blake*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *Jerome and Cynthia Boykin and Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Sandra M Blake.*



Jerome and Cynthia Boykin and Family - August 13, 2019 at 09:43 AM



“ *Phyllis lit a candle in memory of Sandra M Blake*



Phyllis - August 13, 2019 at 02:07 AM



“ *To the Blake family, please accept my condolences. I will keep you in prayer during these difficult times. May God continue to strengthen you and bless you. ~Phyllis Perkins*

Phyllis - August 13, 2019 at 02:06 AM

BG

“ *Deepest condolences. The world has lost a beautiful and gentle spirit. May the Blessed Ancestors welcome her into their circle. Our prayers are with you.*

Burnett Gallman - August 12, 2019 at 09:46 PM

GW

“ *Glendora Pratt Williams lit a candle in memory of Sandra M Blake*



Glendora Pratt Williams - August 12, 2019 at 08:35 AM

JG

“ *To The Blake Family, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I pray for your Strength during this difficult time. You two have shared a wonderful life together and I know God will grant You wonderful memories to last a lifetime. Take Care and I send my Condolences to Dr. Blake and his Family.*

*Sincerely,
Jeanette Gilchrist, RPh
PMDPA / CMDPA*

Jeanette Gilchrist - August 11, 2019 at 11:32 PM

RJ

“ Keeping the Blake family in prayer.



Roosevelt Coleman, Jr. - August 10, 2019 at 07:19 PM

EW

“ Keeping the Blake family in our thoughts & prayer. Truly a virtuous Woman, was always so kind & gentle & soft spoken. Sandra will be truly missed.



Edward & Vicki Walker - August 10, 2019 at 03:51 PM

VW

“ Vicki Walker lit a candle in memory of Sandra M Blake



Vicki Walker - August 10, 2019 at 03:48 PM

LS

“ JB, my heart goes out to you and your family. Neither you or Sandy ever aged and you seemed to have the perfect balance in your marriage. When you think about her - Remember her wonderful smile, her creative brain, her loving nature and all of the wonderful moments you shared with her.

Thinking of you. Prayers and Hugs --Lynn Silvey, co-worker at VA

Lynn Silvey - August 10, 2019 at 01:05 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Sandra M Blake.*



August 10, 2019 at 12:38 PM



“ *SCDSS Office of Human Resources purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Sandra M Blake.*



SCDSS Office of Human Resources - August 09, 2019 at 02:06 PM