



## Mrs. Josephine "Josie" (House) Blackshear

August 7, 1947 - November 15, 2023

UTICA - Mrs. Josephine "Josie" (House) Blackshear, age 76, went home to the Lord on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 with her family surrounding her with attentiveness and love.

Born in Belle Glade, FL on August 7, 1947, Josephine was the daughter of the late Walter and Alma (Boles) House. The family moved to Westmoreland during her childhood to be closer to loved ones who had settled here. She attended Westmoreland Central School, Potter Elementary, Kernan Elementary, and Utica Free Academy. She proudly earned her GED and later graduated from St. Elizabeth School of Nursing as an LPN. The nursing profession was well suited for her because she had the calling for this ministry and she served her patients with compassion and great care.

The father of Josie's eldest child Nicole R. Dorsey is Earl Richard, Jr., and their bond was their beloved daughter. Her heart belonged to her husband, Robert L. Blackshear, Sr., and they made a home in 1971 and were married in 1978. They admired and stood by each other because of their love. They watched over each other as the years passed, and they became so sensitive to each other's needs. Robert was by Josie's side until her last moments and will honor her memory forever.

Josie began her nursing career at Hunter House, then worked in the Pediatric Ward and later the Psychiatric Department at St. Elizabeth Medical Center. She was old school in the way of her profession. She held high regard for Sister Rose Vincent and Sister Johanna of the Sisters of St. Francis. She

loved that institution and when she retired she parted with many rewarding memories and friendships. Josie also found the energy and compassionate heart to provide private duty nursing to many, inclusive of families who were part of her “St. Elizabeth family.” She gave gentle and respectful care. The Rescue Mission was her last calling where she saw their needs and once again made the commitment to help others as a member of the Crisis Management Team.

Josie was one of the best. She was mature, genuine, gentle, knew compassion, and spoke peace. She was wise and often sought out for her counsel. She gave love unconditionally, was non-judgmental, and was a light in the darkness for so many. She learned these core values from her parents, who loved her husband as their own son. She also was a tender combination of a good mom who loved and adored her children but also gave a “soothing talk” when needed, mainly to her son! She had a contagious laugh, and it was evidence of her true happiness. Her laughter was often prompted by her daughter, the “good child.” She put her heart and soul into all her endeavors and maintained her home well. The Home Shopping Network was a source of entertainment for her and she was very generous with what she purchased, even when her husband found an extra box or two laying about.

Through the House of the Good Shepherd, Josie and Robert were blessed to become foster parents. They treated each child as their own and they only had boys. It worked out well, and they taught them respect and a sense of love and order.

Josie enjoyed playing Candy Crush, watching New York Yankees games with her husband, studying history, speaking of the past, and much of her knowledge came from reading. The Turner Classic Movie channel could often be found on her TV, but "A Christmas Story" remained her all-time favorite along with I Love Lucy and The Golden Girls. Josie was politically astute and wise in her conversations, much of which she stood upon came from the respectful news channels that she followed. She cherished holidays with her grandchildren, who were their Nana's greatest joy and the source of her

boundless energy. She was their salvation in times of trouble and held a close bond with each of them. She loved the entire tribe. She gave her all to those kids and they loved her back so much. There's nothing like being a grandmother, and you could see the pride in her eyes.

Josie's greatest accomplishments in life were having become a caregiver, raising her children, and knowing who they became as adults. The grandchildren and great-grandchildren were a huge bonus. Her life was filled with great moments.

Her mother taught her the presence of the Lord and she lived the life He chose for her.

Josie journeyed life with her best friend and husband, Robert. She had such a special bond with her daughter and son-in-law, Nicole and Jody Dorsey, and she adored her son and his love, Robert L. Blackshear, Jr. and Karen Swisloski. She was preceded by her husband's son, Andre Ward Blackshear in 2014. She also leaves to cherish her memory her beloved grandchildren, Jasmine, Kayla and her husband Nokio, twins Brian (Holly), and Brandon; Elexus, Alexandra and her fiancé, Milton, Evan, and Breyonna; and her great-grandchildren, Marquavis, Prince, Brian, Jr., Quell, Kayden, Kayson, Kaylynn, Jániah, Kingsley, Ja'Mere, and Lei'Onna. She treasured the memory of her great-granddaughter, Arionna Nicole Richard, who became an angel on November 9, 2018. Also mourning her passing are her siblings, Charlene Miller and Ed, Willie and Dolores House, James "Henry" and Earlene House, and Emmanuel House and Chanda. She was preceded by her brother, Walter "Jr." House. She leaves a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews; cousins, especially Evon Green; and aunts, Annie Clyde Watson, and Thelma Ellis. Because of Josie's outgoing personality, she made friends that lasted a lifetime, some of them came from her professional life and some from every day life, Rosalind Harris, Mary Ann Marshall and Stephen, Dr. Fred Talarico, Pat Rosati, NP, Sandra Linen, Annabelle Dorsey, and Pat McQuigin, her best friend who preceded her. She also leaves her in-laws, Thelma Porter,

Bernice and Theodore Brown, Walter and Faith Blackshear, Mary Blackshear and Steve, Edward Blackshear, and Julius and Kathie Blackshear. She was additionally predeceased by her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Willie "Bill," Sr. and Bernice (Martin) Blackshear; sisters-in-law, Mildred "Sister" Blackshear, and Louise Blackshear; and brothers-in-law, Bill Blackshear Jr., James Blackshear, Richard Blackshear and Matthew Blackshear and her goddaughter, Tiffany Linen.

The family extends sincere thanks to the staff of the Upstate Medical Oncology Unit and the Grand of Utica 7th floor staff for their care and attention.

Visitors may call upon the family on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South Street, corner of Hammond Ave. Josephine's Home Going Service and Celebration of Life will commence at 12:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Josephine will be honored by the Mohawk Valley Nurse Honor Guard. If you are unable to attend visitation or services, please connect to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83299440641>.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **21**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.  
932 South Street  
corner of Hammond Ave.  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 724-6714  
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

## Funeral Service

NOV **21**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.  
932 South Street  
corner of Hammond Ave.  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 724-6714  
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *LONNIE BROWN lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Josephine "Josie" (House) Blackshear*



LONNIE BROWN - November 22, 2023 at 10:35 AM



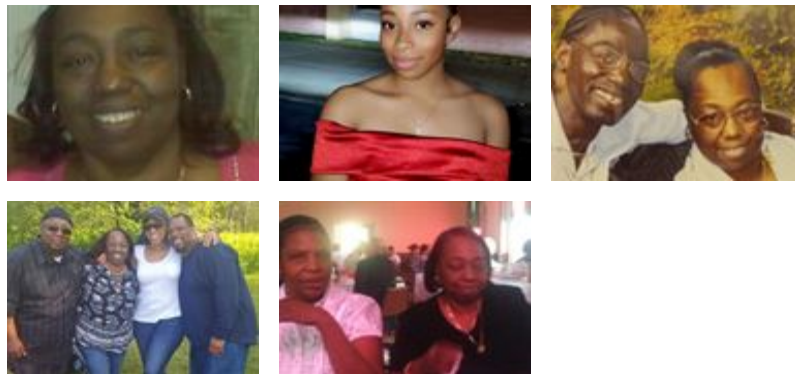
“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Josephine "Josie" (House) Blackshear.*



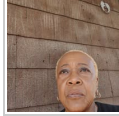
November 20, 2023 at 03:39 PM



“ *33 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - November 20, 2023 at 11:37 AM



*I know the house family from blandina st. From yrs. Ago... Sending 🙏 to the entire family*

**Ruthie Liggins** - November 20, 2023 at 02:55 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Josephine "Josie" (House) Blackshear.*



November 19, 2023 at 09:30 PM



“ *My cousin Josephine will truly be missed. She was a nurse but she was also my nurse who took care of me when I had a car accident. I wasn't able to open my eyes and I heard my cousin voice " tell me that I was gonna be alright " She gave me so much courage to fight and I will always remember my cousin for being there for me. I love you Cousin Josephine Rest In Peace.*

**Gary** - November 19, 2023 at 02:51 PM

MO

“ On behalf of The National Nurse Honor Guard Coalition we wish to acknowledge the nursing career of nurse Jo Blackshear. We honor her for the difference that she made in the lives of so many patients and colleagues. Our sincere condolences to you, her family. May the love of family and friends give you comfort. May the love of God give you peace. Sincerely,  
Mohawk Valley Nurse Honor Guard (MVNHG)  
Mohawkvalleynursehonorguard@gmail.com



MOHAWKVALLEYNURSEHONORGUARD@GMAIL.COM - November 18, 2023 at 09:01 PM

MO

“ On behalf of The National Nurse Honor Guard Coalition we wish to acknowledge the nursing career of nurse June Yager Jenkins. We honor her for the difference that she made in the lives of so many patients and colleagues. Our sincere condolences to you, her family. May the love of family and friends give you comfort. May the love of God give you peace. Sincerely,  
Mohawk Valley Nurse Honor Guard (MVNHG)  
Mohawkvalleynursehonorguard@gmail.com



MOHAWKVALLEYNURSEHONORGUARD@GMAIL.COM - November 18, 2023 at 08:59 PM

RS

“ Roseann Simmons lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Josephine "Josie" (House) Blackshear



Roseann Simmons - November 18, 2023 at 07:54 PM

ML

“ Please accept my heartfelt condolence. I pray God will be a comfort to each of you. May the wonderful memories of Josephine live in your hearts forever. RIH cousin. Robert, I love you and I am praying for you.

Mary Landry - November 18, 2023 at 05:27 PM

AE

“ I worked so many years with Jo on 2A. She was a great nurse and loved her patients. I will be with the Nurses Tribute Tuesday to recognize her. Much sympathy to her whole family. Amy Elinskas

Amy Elinskas - November 18, 2023 at 03:42 PM

ND

Thank you Amy! My mother loved her St. E.'s family❤️

Nicole R Dorsey - November 18, 2023 at 05:47 PM

DR

“ Darlene Robinson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Josephine "Josie" (House) Blackshear



Darlene Robinson - November 18, 2023 at 12:03 PM

PM

“ So sad to hear of Ms Josephine’s passing.  
Please know absent from the body is to be present with The Lord.  
She is at peace..  
Pray Gods comfort and peace upon the entire family.

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**Pamela Maddox** - November 18, 2023 at 11:40 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Josephine "Josie" (House) Blackshear.



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November 18, 2023 at 12:10 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Josephine "Josie" (House) Blackshear.



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November 17, 2023 at 09:04 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Josephine "Josie" (House) Blackshear.



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November 17, 2023 at 04:35 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Josephine "Josie" (House) Blackshear.*



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November 17, 2023 at 02:04 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Josephine "Josie" (House) Blackshear.*



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November 17, 2023 at 12:51 PM



“ *Our Sincere Condolence to the Blackshare & House Family for your loss Joephine will be missed by many Good Night SIP*



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**Salimah A Rahman** - November 17, 2023 at 12:50 PM



“ *James Earlene House planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Josephine "Josie" (House) Blackshear.*

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**James Earlene House** - November 17, 2023 at 12:18 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Josephine "Josie" (House) Blackshear.*



November 17, 2023 at 12:18 PM



“ *Nicole R Dorsey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Josephine "Josie" (House) Blackshear*



Nicole R Dorsey - November 17, 2023 at 11:58 AM



“ *My dear Ju Ju B, to say I miss you is an understatement. There is a hole in my heart that can never be refilled. How can I go on knowing I will no longer hear that beautiful laugh of yours or have our daily, mommy, daughter chats! The silly things I did to make you laugh warmed my heart and I did it, knowing it made you happy, even during the times you were in pain. That is no longer... you are now free of all the pain and hurt. Sleep well my sweetheart and please give Onna a huge hug and kiss for me! I love you to infinity and beyond. Your princess, Nicki 🥹🕊️💜*

Nicole R Dorsey - November 17, 2023 at 11:57 AM

KH

“ Kimberly Hill purchased the Strength & Solace S pray for the family of Mrs. Josephine "Josie" (House) Blackshear.



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**Kimberly Hill** - November 17, 2023 at 11:36 AM

RB

“ LOVE YOU MOTHER DEAR NO MORE PAIN YOUR AT PEACE NOW, LOVE YOUR SON

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**Robert Blackshear** - November 17, 2023 at 11:34 AM

HC

“ Nicole and Jody...I had the privilege of being one the recipient of your Mother's generosity. She was very kind also..it makes me smile still. Please know that you all are in my thoughts and prayers.  
Henrietta Cubbage.

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**Henrietta Cubbage** - November 17, 2023 at 11:03 AM

JD

“ We've lost a Beautiful Beautiful Soul, words cannot express the Love that my Mother In Law has for and has for me on our first time meeting each other. Her voice would always soothe whatever particular issue I had going on at the time .  
My many memories of her will carry the day, nights , months and years .  
My Beautiful Queen Nicole Dorsey epitomizes her Mom so I won't have far to look for remembrance.  
Sleep well Mother in Law Sleep Well.  
No more pain and suffering, we will see you again .  
Jody Dorsey

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**Jody Dorsey** - November 17, 2023 at 11:01 AM

WS

“ *Our sincere condolences to the Blackshear family for their loss..Josephine will surely be missed by all that knew her and loved her..RIP..Josephine*

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**Wayne and Barbara Swisloski** - November 17, 2023 at 09:40 AM