



## Joyce Delvees

October 8, 1923 - February 25, 2017

Joyce Henrietta Delvees passed away on Saturday, February 25, 2017 while under the watchful care of her beloved only child Marcia Delvees and her granddaughters, Kareen and Camille Jones. She departed in the manner in which she lived her 93 years-quietly and peacefully.

Known as Mrs. Delvees, Teach, Miss Joyce and Miss J., she belonged to a dying breed of Jamaican nation builders who were told by colonial overlords that teaching was all that they were permitted to do. They defiantly made teaching all that it needed to be. There are several hundred past students living today who owe their success to Joyce and her late sister Doris Leslie. In life, they were inseparable and they are together once more.

Mrs. Delvees' work took her from all Saints all Age school in Kingston where she began as a pre-trained teacher. After graduating from Bethlehem Teachers College in St. Elizabeth, she taught at the following schools: Salters Hill All Age School(acting principal); Main Ridge Elementary School (Clarendon);Hastings All Age (Trelawny); Roehampton all Age School (St. James) and Lottery All Age from which she retired in 1984.

Her accomplishments are too numerous to list but here is a sample of what this great woman contributed to her students and community: choir mistress and organist, avid and successful fundraiser, Girl Guides lieutenant, member of the Electoral Advisory Committee for West Central St. James (She went door-to-door to register voters), volunteer teacher of adult literacy with the

Jamaica Movement for the Advancement of Literacy (JAMAL) and founding member of the Montego Singers. She also worked with Don Wilson of the department of Education University of the West Indies, to develop literature for the grade one curriculum.

Teachers from Mrs. Delvees' time were expected to teach all subjects and to possess all of the skills necessary to create a beautiful home. She was no exception and made delicious wedding and Christmas cakes that she decorated herself. She also made beautiful embroidery and taught her daughter to do the same.

When she officially retired from teaching with the Ministry of Education, JAMAICA, Mrs. Delvees opened a government-sponsored basic school in Montego Bay and kept it going until she migrated from Jamaica in 2001. Her pupils were so well-prepared that most of them were able to skip the first grade and enter Primary/Elementary school at the 2nd grade level.

It is difficult to encapsulate what Joyce Delvees meant to the people nearest to her and to her students. In the words of one student, "She invested so much in other people's children", she was a disciplinarian who rarely resorted to physical punishment "but by the time you got in front of her, you were already chastised."

The truth of it is that she lived for others and among the citations and awards she received are long service awards and certificates of appreciation from the Lottery All Age School as well as the Anglican Diocese of Jamaica for her contribution to the field of education and to the Church respectively.

Joyce Delvees who hailed from Manchioneal, Portland, Jamaica, is predeceased by her parents Reuben and Lydia Stephens and her beloved big sister and fellow teacher, Doris Leslie, J.P. She is survived by her daughter,

Marcia, grand-daughters Kareen and Camille, brother Samuel Stephens, sister-in-law Carmen, niece and nephew, dear cousin Cynthia and family and numerous past students who regret her passing. She lived a good life and way beyond what was predicted by her physician who gave her but two years to live after a grim diagnosis. She lived for twenty. She is resting in peace and the light of God is upon her.

(Composed by Sylvia Dennis-Gilphilin, family friend)

# Cemetery Details

## Bailey Memorial Gardens

7801 Bailey Road  
North Lauderdale, FL 33068

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **24**. 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Grace Funeral Chapels  
5980 West Oakland Park Blvd.  
Lauderhill, FL 33313  
(954) 484-1833  
info@gracefuneralchapels.com  
<https://www.gracefuneralchapels.com>

## Visitation

MAR **25**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Atonement Episcopal Church  
4401 West Oakland Park Blvd.  
Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33313

## Funeral Service

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MAR **25**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Atonement Episcopal Church  
4401 West Oakland Park Blvd.  
Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33313

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joyce Delvees*

October 06, 2023 at 12:11 AM



“ *11 files added to the tribute wall*



**Marcia Delvees** - March 28, 2017 at 09:02 AM



“ *Hi Marcia, I don't know your mother personally but you must be a true testament of who she was. It is not easy losing a parent so I do understand. May your soul be comforted and your spirit be lifted with the great memories you both shared throughout the years. In my prayers,  
Eveth Hines Folkes.*



**Eveth Folkes** - March 24, 2017 at 02:00 PM

TG

“ Trevor Gaynor purchased the *Basket Full of Wishes* for the family of Joyce Delvees.



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**Trevor Gaynor** - March 24, 2017 at 06:03 AM

MD

“ Marlene and Molly Duff purchased the *Fairest of All* for the family of Joyce Delvees.



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**Marlene and Molly Duff** - March 24, 2017 at 05:45 AM

J(

“ Janet Perkins (Grace) purchased the *Enchanted Cottage* for the family of Joyce Delvees.



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**Janet Perkins (Grace)** - March 23, 2017 at 01:44 PM

MD

“ Marcia Delvees purchased the *Garden of Sweet Memories Casket Spray* for the family of Joyce Delvees.



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**Marcia Delvees** - March 20, 2017 at 12:33 PM

DR

“ Dawn and Harry Roberts purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Joyce Delvees.



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**Dawn and Harry Roberts** - March 20, 2017 at 12:14 PM

SB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Sefton S. Burke** - March 18, 2017 at 12:02 AM

SB

*Ms. Jay was my first teacher in Primary School. She charted my course in childhood, influenced my direction in teenage years, and ultimately is responsible in a definitive way for the man I have become today. When speaking of Ms. Jay, the conversation can never be complete without sharing thoughts about Ms. Dor. They were inseparable, and a team like none other that I have encountered in academia. Failure was excluded from their vocabulary, and the discipline to achieve they instilled in all their students. "I can't is a sluggard, too lazy to try" was a common phrase at Lottery Primary. Ms. Jay possessed a calm and reassuring way in communicating her expectation to you. Ms. Dor was gracious, and a staunch disciplinarian with a compassionate heart. You knew you were in trouble when you were summoned by first and last names simultaneously. Their accomplishments, as evidenced in the scholars they produced, were extraordinary and gave Lottery, St James, Jamaica a legacy of which we are proud. We will miss you. May God's perpetual light forever shine upon you.*

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**Sefton Burke** - March 18, 2017 at 01:20 AM

SB

*I had the opportunity to visit with Ms. Jay last year as shown in the photograph above. It was a wonderful experience to sit with her for a while, and to talk about our relationship. My blessing was being able to show my appreciation while she was alive, and to say how grateful I am for her investment of time and faith in me. We talked about many things, and I knew that she was satisfied with my performance, and she was happy.*

Sefton Burke - March 18, 2017 at 01:40 AM

DM

*“ Miss Jay is one of a handful of persons along the way whose teaching and advice have helped to shape the person I am today. She will be forever in my thoughts. Rest in eternal peace Miss Jay! Delroy M. Murray*

DELROY MURRAY - March 17, 2017 at 11:06 PM

TF

*“ The Murray and Burke Families purchased the Mosaic of Memories Square Easel Wreath for the family of Joyce Delvees.*



The Murray and Burke Families - March 15, 2017 at 01:35 PM

SD

*“ You lived a long life of grace, thoughtfulness, dignity and kindness. The fruit of your labor will last into many generations. Rest in peace Mrs. Delvees.*

Sylvia Dennis-Gilfillian - March 15, 2017 at 11:10 AM

MS

“ 1 file added to the album Past Student of Miss Jay's



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**Mervin Stoddart** - March 14, 2017 at 09:41 PM

MS

“ *To: Marcia, Kareen, Camille, and all relatives of Miss Jay  
From: Keithy, Lottery All-Age School past student of Miss Jay's  
My sincerest condolences at the passing of our beloved teacher,  
headmistress, youth choir leader/pianist, Sunday school  
superintendent, and much more. Her passing is another of the  
saddest experiences in my life. Miss Jay is responsible for every  
success I have had in my lifetime from the day I became her student  
at school and in church. I am happy to have told her thanks in her  
lifetime and I take this privilege to thank her on her transition to  
Glory. Miss Jay gave me a solid 6th grade education, used her own  
money to buy me books and other gifts and encouraged me in my  
endeavors throughout my life. The times she and I spent  
reminiscing during which she continued to encourage me will  
continue to bless and inspire me until the day I die. Thanks, again,  
Miss Jay. May your soul rest in peace from your labors as Almighty  
God crowns you for your wonderful works. In my heart, you will  
never die.*

*-Rev. Mervin Stoddart, PhD.*

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**Mervin Stoddart** - March 14, 2017 at 09:37 PM

DE

“ *My Beloved MS.J.*

*You have left an indelible mark upon my life. Your love for young people is second to none. The care and love for young people are what have kept you so young at heart through the years. I am truly grateful and honored to have had you as my teacher and good friend.*

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**dejour** - March 13, 2017 at 11:55 AM

JW

*The above message is from Elaine Wilmot and family*

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**Joya Wilmot** - March 13, 2017 at 01:35 PM

SH

“ *Aunt Joyce*

*Remembering your values of humanity, devotion and your always sunny disposition. Your enduring spirit will continue to inspire me to live my life with passion and abundant joy. I pray for comfort for the Delvees Family.*



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**Shernett** - March 11, 2017 at 09:22 AM