

A L O V I N G F A R E W E L L T O



*PUANA*  
*Hunt-Branch*

*From Labor*  
OCTOBER 19, 1967



*To Reward*  
AUGUST 14, 2024

Saturday, August 31, 2024 | 11 o'clock in the morning

Zion Bethel United Church of Christ  
1617 Des Moines Avenue  
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704

*Dr. Craig Avents, Sr., Officiant*



# Obituary

Duana Kathleen Hunt-Branch peacefully stepped from time into eternity on Wednesday, August 14, 2024. Duana, also affectionately known as "Catz Baby" to those who knew and loved her, was the youngest of 7 children born to the union of Edward W. Hunt, Sr. and Ethel Catherine Hunt on October 19, 1967 in Norfolk, VA.

Raised and baptized in Zion Bethel United Church of Christ; Duana had a beautiful voice, and sang with the Young Adult Choir, and even played piano for holiday programs and recitals (only because Momma made her do it of course). She attended Portsmouth Public Schools, and was a graduate of Manor High School. While there, Duana's infectious spirit and Mustang pride was on full display as a member of the marching band. She graduated from Norfolk State University with a B.S. degree in Computer Science, later earning her Master's degree from Strayer University. Duana was married to Gregory D. Branch; and to this union was born her only child, DaSherra Sheriae Branch; who was the apple of her eye and the beat of her heart.

Duana enjoyed a very successful career, spanning over 30 years, in the Healthcare and Information Management arenas with organizations such as Value Options, CACI, Amerigroup Corporation, and most recently as a Business Information Consultant with Elevance Health. Stepping out on faith, and challenging her business acumen and entrepreneurial spirit; Duana was the proud Co-owner of Scoreboards Sports Lounge until her health declined. We were all so proud of how she wove the true Duana-brand of food, fun, and family into her business with tremendous accolades and a loyal customer base.

However, if Sherra was Duana's heart, her only grandchild, Rio, was her entire being (and she made sure you and everybody else knew it)! She was the ultimate Ya-Ya any child could ever ask for; spoiling, loving, and cheering on her favorite superstar. . . her "Rio Love"! Undoubtedly, she broke the mold as the best and often favorite sister, aunt, cousin, niece, companion, and loyal friend to many that we may ever know. Duana was indeed the joy on any holiday, the fun at any family function, and the glue that held us each together in her own special way. Though our family chain is broken, the bonds of love will live forever. Lord, we thank You for giving Duana to us! In addition to her parents, Duana was preceded in death by her sisters; Evora Hunt, Denise Pugh, and Millicent Harding; and nephews Brandon Turner and Norman Griffin, Jr.

Left to forever cherish her legacy and memories are her daughter, DaSherra Branch-Lott (Volario); grandson, Rio Lott; brothers, Edward W. Hunt, Jr. (Helen), Marvin D. Hunt, and Dion G. Hunt, I. Her aunts, Georgia Barnes and Juanita Redman; uncles, Herman Grant and Glenn Grant; nieces, Janine, Janina, Sheriae, Elishia, and Britney; nephews, Edrick, Vashawn, Preston, Edward, Dennard, Colby, Corey, Gerard, and Jordan; especially close cousins, Taundra Hayes-Turner and Dana Ali; god-son, Reginald Holland; god-brother, LeRonnie Mason; god-sister, Beverly Stephenson; 14 great-nieces; 10 great-nephews; 8 great-great nieces and nephews; special companion; and countless extended family members and friends.

# Order of Services

## Celebration of Life Honoring DUANA K. HUNT-BRANCH

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2024 | 11 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING  
ZION BETHEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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### Musical Prelude

Processional . . . . .	The Family and Clergy
Officiant . . . . .	Dr. Craig Avents, Sr.
Song of Praise . . . . .	Bro. Keith Ball
Song of Worship . . . . .	Sis. Gina Stukes
Old Testament Scripture Reading . . . . .	Rev. Ralph Richardson, III
New Testament Scripture Reading . . . . .	Dr. Craig Avents, Sr.
Prayer of Comfort . . . . .	Clergy
Song of Declaration . . . . .	Sis. Chirceta Ownes
Acknowledgements . . . . .	Mrs. Sheræ Harding-Griffin



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### ~ SPECIAL EXPRESSIONS ~

Please Respectfully Limit to Two Minutes or Less

Business Colleague ~ Mrs. Regina Sommerville

Long-time Friends ~ Mrs. Monta Fennel

Great-Nieces and Great-Nephews ~ Student Dr. Raven C. Harding

Siblings ~ Mr. Edward W. Hunt, Jr. | Mr. Marvin D. Hunt | Mr. Dion G. Hunt, I

Video Tribute . . . . .

Song of Triumph . . . . . The Family Ensemble

Eulogy . . . . . Rev. Ralph Richardson, III

Recessional and Butterfly Release Senior Pastor, Little Grove Baptist Church - Suffolk, VA

*Immediately following the service, the family and guests will gather for a reception at the Renaissance  
Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel - Portsmouth Ballroom - 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704*

# HER LIFE AND LEGACY

## Submits to

Dear Mom,

As your only child, I had the privilege of receiving all the love, care, and wisdom you poured into me. It's hard to put into words how deeply I miss you, but I want to honor your life and the impact you've had on me with this letter.

From the moment I entered this world, you were my everything ~ my first teacher, my best friend, and my greatest supporter. I'll never forget the countless life lessons you taught me; lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. You were the one who taught me how to be strong, how to be kind, and how to navigate life. Everything I am today, I owe to you.

As your daughter, I felt your unique and special love in every part of our relationship; and will forever cherish every moment we shared together. There were times when it was just you and me against the world. Whether we were sharing quiet moments, or laughing over the smallest things, you made every day brighter and better.



You showed me how to love others unconditionally, how to be compassionate, and how to never give up on myself. Even in your absence, I feel your presence guiding me and reminding me to be the best version of myself.

I remember all the little things ~ the way you would smile at me, the sound of your voice, the comfort of your embrace. It's those moments that now bring me peace. I find comfort in knowing you will forever be a part of who I am, and I will continue to honor you by living with the love and strength you instilled in me.

Thank you Mom for being my everything, thank you for all the sacrifices you've made, and thank you for being the most incredible mother a daughter could ever ask for. I will always love you! I will carry you with me in my heart, in everything I do, and I hope I can make you proud. Until we meet again. . . please continue to watch over me.

With all my love, your one and only ~ DaSherra

Mem



To: My Yaya From: Rio

Though Heaven called you far away,  
You're in my heart everyday.  
And though I cannot see you here,  
I know your love is always near.

YaYa, you're my angel now.  
I know you're watching from above,  
sending me all your kisses and endless love.  
I had the best YaYa in the crowd,  
and I promise I'll strive to make you proud.  
For every step I take and grow,  
your love is with me... this I know.

I miss you and will never forget  
all the fun times we shared and wishes.  
I know when I say my prayers each night,  
you'll still tuck me in with your YaYa  
kisses.

Sincerely, Your Rio Love

To: My Mother-in-Law

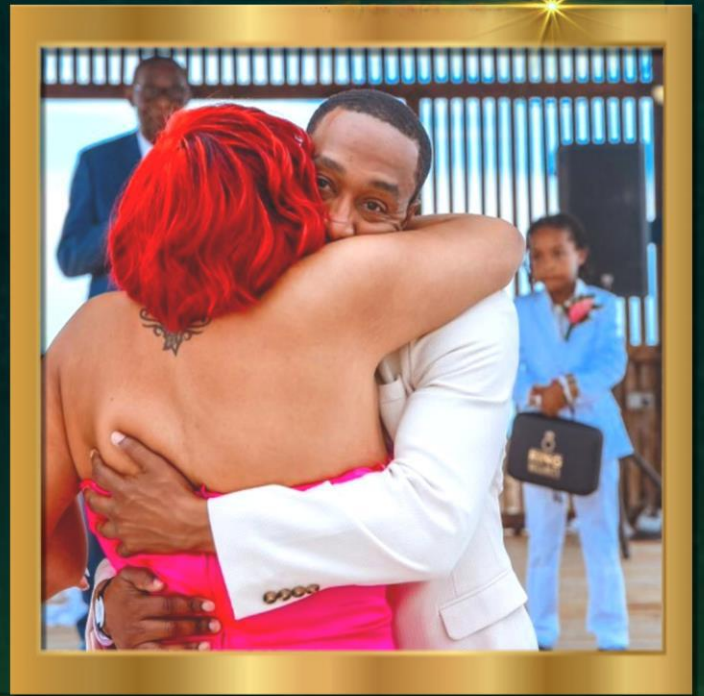
Ma, I want to express my deepest gratitude and love. Thank you for raising such an extraordinary woman who I am blessed to call my wife. The love, compassion, and strength she shows daily is a reflection of the values you instilled within her. All of her kindness and grace is a testament to your influence, and I am forever grateful that she had you as a guide and example.

I promise to honor your legacy by loving DaSherra and Rio with the same depth and care that you showed.

We miss you deeply, but your impact will never fade.

With eternal gratitude and love,

Your son, Volario



"Unconditional and Unbreakable Love"

Baby, we always used to say "D and G Forever". We both have proven time and time again that our bond and love is unconditional and unbreakable. Even though Heaven could not wait for you, we fought this together as hard as we could. Just know, I will always hold onto what we have. You were my soulmate. I love you, and our love will always shine like diamonds. It's hard to see you leave me, but until we are together again, rest in peace baby.

Love you forever! ~ Gerald

"Footprints in The Sand"  
by: John Fredericks

One night I dreamed I was walking  
along the beach with the Lord.  
Many scenes from my life flashed  
across the sky. In each scene,  
I noticed footprints in the sand.  
Sometimes there were two sets  
of footprints, other times  
there was one only.

This bothered me because I noticed  
that during the low periods of my life,  
when I was suffering from anguish,  
sorrow, or defeat; I could only see  
one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord,  
"You promised me Lord,  
that if I followed you, you would walk  
with me always. But I noticed that  
during the most trying periods of my life,  
there has only been one set of  
footprints in the sand.

Why, when I needed you most,  
have you not been there for me?"

The Lord replied,

"The times when you have seen only one  
set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you."

Love you baby sister forever ~ Jr.

To My Beautiful Sister,

I often shared these exact words to you.  
You are my Baby, My confidant, My  
inspiration, My Bridge when I was unable  
to connect with my children, and My Hero!  
STILL. . .

Until, Donnie



A Letter to My Baby Sister:

We knew little of the morning that GOD  
called your name. In life we loved you  
dearly, in death we'll do the same. It broke  
our hearts to lose you, but you did not go  
alone; a part of us went with you, the day  
GOD called you home. You left us peaceful  
memories; your love is still our guide, and  
though we can not see you; you're always at  
our side. Our family chain is broken, and  
nothing seems the same; but as GOD calls  
us one by one, the chain will link again. My  
heart is full of memories of a sister laid to  
rest, and every single one of them is filled  
with happiness. That's why this special  
message is sent to Heaven above, for the  
angels to take care of you, and give you all  
my love. I miss you very much, and my  
tears I can not hide; yet within my heart I  
feel you're always by my side.

I will never forget you, and know that I've  
been blessed to have you as my baby sis,  
because you are the BEST.

With All of My LOVE,  
Dion





If roses grow in Heaven Lord,  
 Please pick a bunch for me,  
 Place them in my Auntie's arms  
 And tell her they're from me.  
 Tell her that I love and miss her  
 And when she turns around to smile,  
 Place a kiss upon her cheek,  
 and hold it for a while.  
 Because remembering her is easy,  
 I do it everyday; but missing her  
 is a heartache, that doesn't go away.

Love you always, Janine & Janina

"An Aunt Like Mine. . ."

An aunt like mine is one of a kind.  
 She was fine like aged wine or a dime.

Times 100 grand; a true one in a million.  
 Brilliant and resilience was her robe.

Though many of you know just how close we were  
 (if you don't know by now,  
 I was her true favorite)  
 but y'all knew that LOL!

So honored to be a part of her journey,  
 her true blood legacy.  
 Her family and best friend,  
 to the end and back in every world.

You'll always be in my heart.  
 I'll never stop missing my girl!  
 Fly free beautiful, rest well.  
 I love you forevermore. ~ Britney

To my Auntie/Sis,

So I know you are thrilled to be back with your mom and sisters, but I still haven't quite wrapped my mind around the finality of everything. You were supposed to be the new Matriarch (although you kept saying it was only on a trial basis because you didn't want the job LOL), but wow... this seems surreal that you too now have your wings. So many memories: you saving my life when I was little from getting hit by the school bus riding my big wheel when I snuck out of the house; you (and Pop) saving my life from getting hit by my mom afterwards because I was in trouble; to first apartments and learning to drive a stick shift; to me finally giving up and accepting the fact that my kid was Sherra's "twin cousin" and indeed your baby and not mine LOL; to life lessons, milestones, and everything in between. Wow, yeah, all my best memories include you! Thank you for loving me unconditionally. Thank you for being the best auntie to your Woodah and Ziggy. And thank you for saving a place for me up in Heaven next door to you (that way I can bug you forever LOL)! I love you and will miss you always. #LovelsEternal ~ Rae



A bond that's never broken  
 A love that's always spoken  
 Through the laughter, smiles, and tears  
 We've been doing this for years.

My secret keeper,  
 My blow dryer sleeper.  
 But my heart is aching  
 Since the day you were taken.  
 The pain I can't sustain,  
 Since the wings I know you've gained.  
 A true friend when you need,  
 That is my aunt indeed.  
 A love I'm blessed my children  
 grew to know,  
 Now we'll see you later,  
 but we didn't want you to go.

Forever we will miss you, Lesha



In Loving Memory of our Wonderful Aunt

Of all the special gifts in life  
however great or small,  
to have you as our Aunt  
was the greatest gift of all.

May the winds of love blow softly  
and whisper in your ear  
"We love and miss you  
and wish that you were here."

Deep in our hearts, your life is kept  
to love and cherish, not forget.  
No more tomorrows we can share  
but yesterdays are always there.

A silent thought, a secret tear  
keeps your memory ever near  
in our hearts forever.

Love, Your Nephews

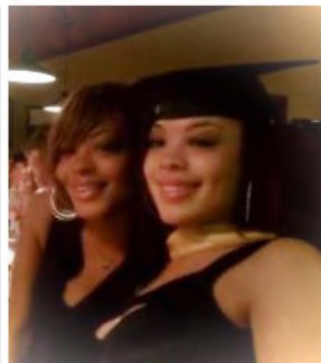
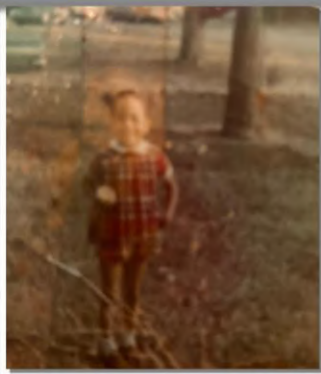
Shawn, Tee, Edrick, Edward,  
Dennard, Colby, Corey,  
Jordan, and Gerard



To My "Sister Sister"

I'll always remember the good times we shared.

Love forever ~ Helen





# Pallbearers

Mr. Vashawn Hunt  
Mr. Preston Harding, Jr.  
Mr. Edrick Hunt  
Mr. Edward Hunt, III  
Mr. Dennard Kee

Mr. Colby Bowser  
Mr. Corey Smith-Hunt  
Mr. Jordan Davis  
Mr. Dion Hunt, II  
Mr. Reginald Holland

# Honorary Pallbearers

Mr. Edward W. Hunt, Jr.  
Mr. Marvin D. Hunt  
Mr. Dion G. Hunt, I

Retired SCPO, Volario Lott  
Master Rio Lott  
Mr. LeRonnie Mason, Esq.

# Floral Bearers

Great-Nieces and Cousins



# Acknowledgements

Words are inadequate to express our profound appreciation and gratitude for the many expressions of sympathy and comforting acts of kindness received during our time of immense grief. Your prayers, tributes, messages, and words of encouragement have been a source of strength and resounding hope. May God forever bless you.

Lovingly,

*The Hunt Family*



*Hargrove* LIFE GROUP