

*First Lady*  
*Judy A. Pickens*

MARCH 10, 1947 - FEBRUARY 23, 2025



*A Celebration of Life*

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025  
AT 11:00 AM

Winwood Presbyterian Church  
10555 Spring Cypress Road  
Houston, TX 77070

*In Loving Memory of*



## Obituary

Judy Ann Pickens, 77, of Houston Texas passed away at her home on February 23rd 2025. Born on March 10, 1947 in Salinas, California, she grew up in Port Arthur, Texas and graduated from Port Arthur Lincoln High School in 1965. Soon after, she moved to Houston, where she built a life filled with love, faith, and dedication to family and community.

On April 25, 1970, Judy married the love of her life, Herman Pickens, and together they raised three children: Sonya LaTraise, Rajolei Dejah, and Jahrel Herman. Judy had a generous heart and many talents - she was skilled in accounting, sewing, knitting, crocheting and baking. She found joy in dancing, fellowship, and solving puzzles; always bringing warmth and energy into every room she entered.

Faith was at the core of Judy's life. She was deeply involved in the church, serving in various capacities over the years from teaching Sunday School and instructing at Bella Vista Christian Academy, to her dedication to GraceWay Baptist Church's ministries, and most recently, her role as First Lady of Pilgrim Branch Missionary Baptist Church. She was a steadfast servant of God. Her passion for ministry led her to further her education, and in 2005, she earned her degree from the College of Biblical Studies, a testament to her lifelong commitment to learning and teaching the Word of God.

Judy's greatest passion was her family. She was an ever-present supporter at her children's and grandchildren's sporting events, concerts, awards ceremonies, graduations, and birthday celebrations. She cherished tradition, most notably hosting the annual Christmas Eve Gumbo Open House - a beloved gathering of family and friends that will be deeply missed.

She built a successful career in accounting and accounts payable, working for Sears, General Electric, and CB&I. She also played an integral role in supporting her husband in various small business ventures, always eager to help those around her.

Judy is preceded in death by her parents Daisy and Harrison Hill, Sr. and her beloved son Rajolei. She is survived by her devoted husband Herman, her daughter Sonya (Michael Clark, II), her son Jahrel Pickens, her brothers Clinton Hill, Harrison Hill Jr. and Timothy Hill; her sisters Teresa Hill and Jasline Jackson; her cherished grandchildren: Davidia Mims II, Ruben Mims, Ariana Mims, Lauryn Mims, William Pickens, Diego Pickens, Elijah Pickens, Judah Pickens, Arun Pickens, Charlotte Pickens, and Hazel Pickens; her five great-grandchildren, and a host of extended family and friends. Judy's presence brought joy, wisdom, and love to all who knew her. Her laughter, dancing, and the warmth of her love will remain in our hearts forever.



# *A Lifetime of Memories*



## **The First Lady Indeed!**



The first to be born to Harrison and Daisy Hill.

The first grandchild to Louis and Virginia Hill.

The first after Mom & Dad to teach and lead the younger siblings.

The first to graduate from high school.

The first to graduate from Port Arthur Business School.

The first to go to college, and the first to graduate from the College of Biblical Studies.

Yes, the first in many things. Now you are first to get your wings.

Now, you are with Mom & Dad and the ancestors.

Heavenly rest, First Lady!

**Love, The Hill Family, Your Sisters & Brothers**



## *My Famous Wife!*

My wife was famous to me, kind of like a movie star, you see.  
Regal, Lovely, like a Queen, her best qualities were unseen.  
You could see the beauty; you could hear her laugh.  
But you couldn't know about her past.  
The scholarship that she turned down.  
The move she made to a bigger town.

To meet somebody just like me, to be a part of my history.  
She brought great love and faith and trust, for you to know her was a must.  
She had exotic roles to play,  
As wife and mother, she found a way to be a friend and be herself.  
You wouldn't want anybody else to be there by your side.  
She had the style, the grace, the form; a silver screen she could adorn  
But she rather chose to be, a wife and friend and live with me  
Here in this neighborhood.  
She loved her church. She loved to dance.  
And any time she had a chance to show you pictures  
You can be sure that you would see grandchildren galore.

A calming smile, some humor too.  
That's what Judy would share with you.  
My heart is broken. My days are sad.  
But hope eternal will get me past this challenge that has come.  
I love you Hon, and the role you played will keep me grateful  
All my days that I was sitting in your seat, on that night that we did meet.  
I never thought a city bus, was better than a car.  
I never thought a city bus would bring a movie star!

Into my life to stay, and now the screen has gone dark.  
The credits start to roll, I'm thankful to so many.  
Your story has been told.  
Goodbye for now, you made a stop.  
My stop is further down.  
I will always have the memories  
And you will have the crown!

*From Your Loving Husband, Herman*



# Order of Service

Final Viewing.....10:00 am to 11:00 am



Officiant.....Rev. Dr. Timothy K. Price, Sr.

Processional.....Clergy and Family

Musical Selection.....Choir

Old Testament Scripture.....Reverend Will Inman

New Testament Scripture.....Reverend Brian Williams

Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Michelle Leaphart

Musical Selection.....

A Tribute to Mom.....Jahrel Pickens

A Tribute to Grandma.....Ariana Mims

Resolutions.....

Musical Selection(s).....

Expressions of Love.....(2 Minutes Please)

Eulogy .....Elder Freddie Solomon

Carverdale Community Church of God in Christ

Recessional.....

Repast Immediately Following the Service at

Winwood Presbyterian Church

Private Internment

Amos West Cemetery

16813 Hufsmith-Kohrville Rd

Houston, TX 77070






## Dear Mom...

Thank you for being an incredible woman. Thank you for teaching me the value of family, education, and faith. Thank you for pouring into me—celebrating me, correcting me, and always reminding me of my worth. You made sure I knew that I am valued and valuable—not just to you, but to myself, to God, and to the world.

Thank you for showing me what it means to stand firm in my convictions and faith. Thank you for teaching me to laugh often, love deeply, and dance like no one is watching. You stood up for me when I didn't know how to stand up for myself, then taught me how to do it, and finally applauded me when I could do it on my own. I learned so much just by watching you move through life with style and grace. While I never sat still long enough to learn how to knit, crochet, or sew, I did learn how to communicate, cook, raise children, be a good steward of God's blessings, show up for loved ones—because sometimes, presence is the greatest gift—give heartfelt hugs, and never let anyone believe they are better than me. Though we didn't always see eye to eye, we always saw heart to heart.

I love you. I miss you. Please give Raj, Grandpa Hill, Grandma Pickens, Grandma Hill, Grandpa Pickens, and Uncle Marvin hugs for me. My guardian angel troupe has expanded. Keep watching over us, even from on high. With all my love...your favorite daughter...  Sonya



# Dear Grandma...

We, your grandchildren, wanted to share our deepest love and gratitude. Though our hearts ache with your absence, we know you're dancing among the stars with our Heavenly Father. Your radiant spirit forever illuminating our lives.

You were truly one-of-a-kind, leaving an indelible mark on each of us. We cherish the fun moments, the captivating stories, and the invaluable life lessons you bestowed upon us.

Your energy was infectious. There was never a dull moment with you around; you were always the life of the party, bringing joy to all who were blessed to know your beautiful spirit. Even now, the memories we hold dear bring us comfort.

Your beauty, your wit, your silliness, and your dance moves will live on forever. We see your strength and beauty reflected in your daughter, your unwavering will in your sons, and your boundless love in each of us. You set an unattainable standard that inspires us all to greatness. And yes, Grandma, we will forever treasure your gumbo recipe!

Your love for the Lord was unwavering, a beacon of light that shone brightly, especially during the mandatory attendance of Vacation Bible School. We cherish memories of time spent listening to your stories and helping around the house. Most importantly, we will always cherish your final words to all of us, "I love you."

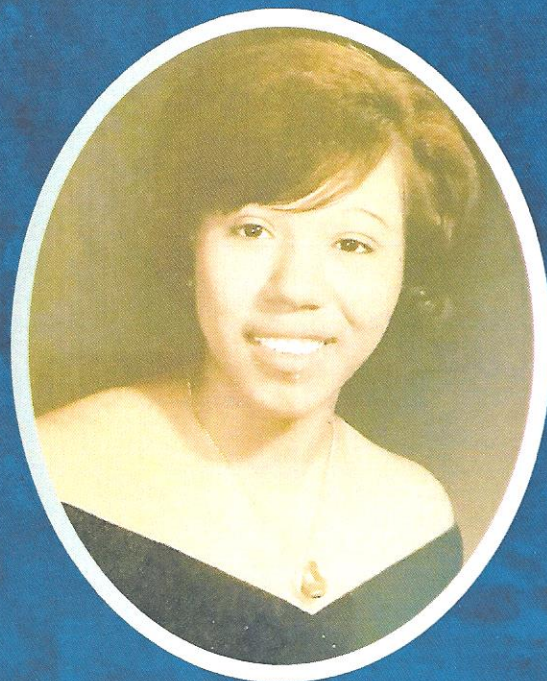
Those Christmas Eve dances lit up the room with pure joy, and we will never forget all of the special moments like you attending every possible event from graduations, awards ceremonies, sporting events, and even 4th-grade choir concerts.

Your smile could brighten any mood, and your laugh could fill any room. For the lifetime of memories you've given us, we could never thank you enough. Heaven has truly gained a beautiful angel. You were someone we could talk to during our toughest times, offering advice that reassured us: "No one really has it together. We all are taking it one day at a time." We are grateful for the never-ending hugs we shared, holding on until you were "fed up," and feeling that we received our fill of your loving embrace.

We love you, Grandma. It will take time to overcome the sadness of your physical absence, but you will always be here in everything we do. In the meantime, we will wish for your presence, pray for change, and mend our hearts, remembering your words: "There's no testimony without a test of faith." We are all so thankful for the time we shared with you. You were an icon, an inspiration, and a source of unwavering love. Your spirit will live on in our hearts forever.

With all our love, Your Grandchildren





**Active Pallbearers:**

Davidia Mims II  
Ruben Mims  
William Pickens  
Diego Pickens  
Elijah Pickens  
Judah Pickens

**Your Love and Laughter  
Echo in Our Hearts**

**Honorary Pallbearers:**

Clinton Hill  
Timothy Hill  
Harrison Hill, Jr.  
MacArthur Pickens  
Larry Pickens  
Luke Pickens, Jr.  
Arun Pickens  
Jeffery Pickens  
and Nephews

**Acknowledgments & Special Thanks:**

We the family wish to express our deepest gratitude for the love, support, and kindness shown to us during this difficult time. Your heartfelt messages, prayers, visits, and gestures of sympathy have brought us great comfort.

Thank you to Pilgrim Branch Missionary Baptist Church, Windwood Presbyterian, clergymen, musicians, and everyone who played a part in honoring Judy's life. We also extend our appreciation to Pruitt in the Heights for their care and guidance.

Your love and support remind us that we are not alone in our grief, and for that, we are truly grateful. May the cherished memories we share bring us all peace and comfort in the days ahead.

*~ With love and appreciation, The Family ~*