



Faya Ife' Paul

March 16, 1977 - June 14, 2021

Faya Ifê Major Paul was born in historic Selma, Alabama, on March 16, 1977. She was the daughter of Raymond Major and Fannie (Major) McKenzie. She departed this life on June 14, 2021, while performing work-related duties in her home office in McDonough, GA.

Ifê, as she was affectionately known by her family, was reared in a godly family and gave her life to Christ at an early age. She was christened and became a member of Northern Heights Presbyterian Church in Selma, Alabama. She attended several churches in McDonough, GA, including McDonough Presbyterian Church and Shiloh Baptist Church. Ifê remained true to her faith as she continuously demonstrated compassion, love, respect, and generosity to all who crossed her path. Her ministry was serving and supporting others. She had a special place in her heart for children in need. Through her ministry, she gave some of the best, most honest advice, and counsel to those who sought it from her.

Ifê wore many hats and was cherished by so many. She had a way of making everyone feel important, special, and loved. Ifê, which means love, was her family's special gift from God. Fannie, her mother, describes her as always being a happy child, and shares that "as a baby, she would always wake up smiling." To Raymond, her father, she was always "the apple" of his eye and was truly a "daddy's girl". To Mosi, her brother, she was confidante and second mother. One of her aunt's affectionately referred to her as, "our fixer". She was also her cousins go-to person. Her mother-in-law, Marjorie, called her, "my girl".

Ifê met the love of her life, Andrew Paul, a native of Spanish Town, Jamaica, during the Spring of 2007. They fell in love and were married in Jonesboro, Georgia. They shared a genuine and unique bond of love and respect and were devoted to each other for fourteen years. Additionally, when she and Andrew married, his family became her family. Ifê was blessed to become a mother for the first time when her first daughter, Navilla, came into her life. One of her proudest moments was witnessing Navilla's commencement from Ifê's

beloved alma mater, Tuskegee University. Her second blessing of motherhood was the birth of her second daughter, Neema. Ifê told her mother that Neema was her special gift from God as she was born prematurely and faced medical challenges. Despite these challenges early on, Neema thrived and Ifê reveled in watching her grow and spending time with her. Her first priority was always her family. She was committed to her children and nurtured, loved, and bonded with them until her earthly departure.

Ifê received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Mathematics Education from Tuskegee University, Master's Degree in Secondary Mathematics Education from Alabama State University, and an Educational Specialist and a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Argosy University. She earned numerous additional certifications across several disciplines. Some of those include Administration and Supervision, Gifted in Field, and Teacher Support Specialist. She also conducted numerous national, state, and local trainings in the areas of Coordinating School Support, Instructional Leadership, Accountability, Digital Classroom, Marzano, Data Teams, Rigor, Electronic Evaluation Software, etc. Ifê was a Diamond Life member of Delta Sigma Theta.

After graduating from Tuskegee University with a B.S. in Mathematics Education in 2004, Ifê was employed as a mathematics teacher at Selma High School (her alma mater) in her hometown of Selma, Alabama. After working at Selma High School for four years as a math teacher, she made the decision to move to Georgia where she was employed by the Clayton County School System. During her tenure there, she taught math for three years at Mundy's Mill High School and served for two years as Mathematics Instructional Coach and Testing Coordinator at Lovejoy Middle School. It was in 2007, in the Clayton County School System, when she began her deep dive into school improvement work. Her work led to a new assignment, District Level K-12 Instructional Facilitator for School Improvement, for the remainder of her tenure with the Clayton County School System.

In 2012, Ifê was recruited by the Atlanta Public Schools. She served in several capacities at Maynard Jackson High School until 2017. Specifically, during her employment, she worked as a mathematics coach, principal of a small school, and as an assistant principal. Her work involved facilitating activities and trainings for site-based stakeholders that led to increases in mathematics scores, the School Graduation Rate, and the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI). She was also especially proud of being instrumental in successfully facilitating Atlanta Public Schools' first cohort of students who earned an Associate Degree in Pre-Engineering. At the time of her untimely departure, Ifê worked on behalf of children in her post as the Director of School and District Effectiveness Division of the Office of School Improvement for the Georgia State

Department of Education, where she led School Improvement, Professional Development, and Alternative Education Programs.

Ifê's educational career was influenced by the work that she did to help low-income students at McRae Learning Center in Selma, Alabama. To that end, during summer breaks when she was a student at Tuskegee University, she tutored and taught math to struggling elementary students. Her focus on serving children continued throughout her educational career.

Ifê was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, James and Hattie Inez Major; her maternal grandparents, Sam and Ola Mae Sanders; and her father-in-love, William Coleman. Although departed, Ifê lives in the heart and memory of her loved ones: Ifê's legacy of love includes her husband, Andrew Paul, McDonough, GA; two daughters, Navilla Paul and Fanikia Neema Paul, McDonough, GA; father, Raymond Major, McDonough, GA; mother, Fannie (Bobby) McKenzie, McDonough, GA; one brother, Mosi Omar Major, Mableton, GA; two step-brothers, Brandon McKenzie, Colorado Springs, CO, and Doug McKenzie, Montgomery, AL; mother-in-love, Marjorie Lawrence, Fort Lauderdale, FL; three brothers-in-law, Randy Coleman, McDonough, GA; Junior Coleman, Spanish Town, Jamaica; and Howard Lawes, Los Angeles, CA; three sisters-in-law, Collen (Steve) Miller and Terrian Coleman (Khani Bell), Kingston, Jamaica; and Rosie Marie Sores, Hamilton, Bermuda; a village of 20 aunts and uncles, over 50 cousins, one god-daughter, Amber Courtland, and a host of other extended relatives and friends. Ifê shared a special relationship with her cousins Malika, Kindaka, Ainka, James Jr. (J.J.), Willie (Boo), Angie, Thomas, Greg, Gleevia, Kareem, Mesfyn, Phaer, Kioka (Kiki), Tameka (Pumpkin), Tashira, Melvin, Vernon, Charles (Boomer), Quinnette, Afton, Seneca, Tiffine, Shaunterria, Charles, C.J., Gloria, Kim, Tony, Chris, Anthony, JC, William (Pee-Wee), and Lance. Though she did not have any sisters by birth, we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge her special sisters of over 35 years, Marisa (Carvell) Steele Murphy and Rasheeda (Carlos) Salaam Tolbert, as well as, special friends and co-workers Erica DeVaughn, Kimberley Latchman, Arlena Edmunds and her sisters and brothers in love in the Clayton County School System, Maynard Jackson High School, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

To those who knew her and loved her, Ifê was and will always be our special gift from God. We thank God for the privilege of being able to call her "wife", "mother", "daughter", "sister", "family", "soror", and "friend". We are thankful for the privilege of having had Ifê in our lives.

Events

JUN **Floral Deliveries (NO PUBLIC VIEWING)** 11:00AM - 04:00PM

18

W.D. Lemon & Sons Funeral Home - McDonough Chapel
300 Griffin Street, McDonough, GA, US, 30253

JUN **Memorial Service** 01:00PM

19

Maynard Jackson High School
801 Glenwood Ave., SE, Atlanta, GA, US, 30316

Comments



“ Kim Rogers lit a candle in memory of Faya Ife' Paul



Kim Rogers - July 30, 2021 at 01:45 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Program



W.D. Lemon & Sons Funeral Home - June 20, 2021 at 07:35 PM



“ Ife'...Boy you really have left me at a lost for words. Oh the Memories I will forever hold near and dear to my heart. From the very moment we met we were friends then we became family. May You Take Your Rest. Your Work down here is done. Until We Meet Again . 🙏🙏

Pamela - June 21, 2021 at 04:24 PM



“ When I first transitioned to become a district Instructional Facilitator, Faya was my “trainer”. She took me under her wing, welcomed me to the team, and provided me with guidance. She was a lovely soul and a very smart lady. I know she will be missed, but I also know that she has impacted so many in such a way that her influence will continue to be felt. My condolences and prayers to the family.



Tony Clarke - June 20, 2021 at 02:59 PM



“ I was blessed to have experienced her essence. Dr. Faya was a beautiful, intelligent woman whom I'm grateful to have known. My prayers extend to the family.

Karen Flowers - June 20, 2021 at 02:36 PM



“ Such a smart, gifted, savvy and professional woman. Black girl magic personified. You will be missed Dr. Paul. RIP. Prayers for your family and friends.

Denise Peterson - June 20, 2021 at 01:05 PM



“ Audrea Bankston lit a candle in memory of Faya Ife' Paul



Audrea Bankston - June 20, 2021 at 03:19 AM



“ Althelstein Johnson lit a candle in memory of Faya lfe' Paul



Althelstein Johnson - June 19, 2021 at 01:51 PM



“ As a former teacher of lfe', I share vivid memories of her motivation, "fire" and influence as a student and eventually an educator in her own accomplishment. Proud of her achievement and advancement in life, saddened by her early entry to eternity.

Althelstein Johnson - June 19, 2021 at 01:49 PM



“ To my beloved Raymond, and the Major and Paul Families,

It is with my sincere and heartfelt condolences that I send this message to all of you:

May the joy that lived in lfe, continue to live in your hearts, and shine down upon you, from her angel above.

Prayers, peace, strength, and hope to everyone,

DDivine



Denise D Henry - June 19, 2021 at 01:23 PM



“ My deepest condolences to the family. Faya was loving person and an outstanding Math Coach at Lovejoy Middle School. I will cherish the memories of working together and the many laughs we share among each other. RIP my friend.
Georgia Hayes

Georgia Hayes - June 19, 2021 at 01:22 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the Major/Paul family. May God's grace and mercy be visited upon you during this difficult time. Love and prayer.



Rena Kiel - June 19, 2021 at 11:38 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Faya Ife' Paul.



June 19, 2021 at 06:36 AM



“ Phyllis Richardson lit a candle in memory of Faya Ife' Paul



Phyllis Richardson - June 18, 2021 at 07:25 PM



“ In this difficult time, I pray that God surrounds you with His peace and love. P. Richardson

Phyllis Richardson - June 18, 2021 at 07:24 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Faya Ife' Paul.



June 18, 2021 at 04:23 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Faya Ife' Paul.



June 18, 2021 at 04:02 PM



“ Ebony And Zakiya purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Faya Ife' Paul.



Ebony Gaines-Reid - June 18, 2021 at 02:23 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Faya Ife' Paul.



June 18, 2021 at 10:06 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Faya Ife' Paul.



June 18, 2021 at 07:13 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Faya Ife' Paul.



June 18, 2021 at 12:36 AM



“ From Don and Janet Willingham purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Faya Ife' Paul.



From Don and Janet Willingham - June 17, 2021 at 12:44 PM



“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Faya Ife' Paul.



June 17, 2021 at 11:46 AM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Faya Ife' Paul.



June 17, 2021 at 09:12 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Faya Ife' Paul.



June 16, 2021 at 11:19 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Faya Ife' Paul.



June 16, 2021 at 09:01 PM