



## Mrs. Joann Broadnax Dowdell

December 19, 1957 - May 14, 2026

Sister JoAnn Broadnax Dowdell was an extraordinary woman whose life was beautifully defined by love, loyalty, faith, family, and service. Her journey leaves

behind cherished memories and a legacy of devotion to God, commitment to family, and love for her community.

JoAnn Broadnax was born on December 19, 1957 in Auburn, Alabama, to the late

Joseph Robinson, Jr. and Rachel Broadnax. At a very young age, she and her mother moved to Queens, New York, where she resided until the 11th grade.

At

the age of 16, JoAnn returned to Auburn, Alabama, to live with her grandmother,

Mary Emma Durr.

JoAnn attended the public schools of New York City and later attended Auburn

High School. After earning her high school diploma, she continued her education

at Southern Union State Community College in Wadley, Alabama.

As a teenager, JoAnn accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior and united in Christian fellowship with Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church in Auburn,

Alabama. In 2020, she joined Auburn AME Zion Church under the leadership of

Rev. Dr. Stephen Faulk. She became an active and faithful member who loved worship, biblical instruction, fellowship, and outreach. JoAnn was a cheerful giver

of her tithes and offerings, faithfully attended Bible Study and Prayer Service, and

served joyfully as a lead singer in the Sanctuary Choir. Her love for God was evident in her praise, her presence, and her service.

On January 23, 1988, JoAnn was united in holy matrimony to Jimmie Lee Dowdell. Together, they built a life and family filled with love for 38 years.

JoAnn

enjoyed spending time with her family and friends at cookouts, ballgames, and gatherings. She especially loved her beloved grandchildren, who brought endless happiness,

pride, and joy to her heart.

Whether through words of encouragement, shared laughter, or quiet acts of kindness

JoAnn had a special way of making everyone around her feel valued.

She spent many years working at Mr. Gatti's Pizza in Auburn then on to work at Auburn

University. She was a loyal Auburn fan and had a passion for service. Her commitment to

others left a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of knowing and working

alongside her.

JoAnn was a woman of compassion, strength, and unwavering love. She departed

this earthly life on Thursday, May 14, 2026, from the home she knew and loved

for most of her life. Though her physical presence is no longer with us, the memories she

created and the love she shared will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by two children Calvin Dowdell and Jeremy Dowdell; one sister,

Dennice Broadnax; her parents, Rachel Durr and Joseph Robinson; her grandmother, Mary

Emma Durr; and her nephew, Kentavious Robinson.

JoAnn leaves to cherish her precious memory: her devoted husband Jimmie Lee Dowdell;

three children, Kevin Dowdell, Travis Dowdell, and Desmond Brown, all of Auburn,

Alabama; five sisters, Willie Pearl (Willie Frank) Humphrey, Crystal Johnson, Monica

Gaffney, all of Auburn, Alabama; Sandra (Maurice) Sales of Manassas, Virginia; and Lanesha

Webb of Hawaii; one brother, Joseph Robinson of Birmingham, Alabama; five grandchildren,

Jakez Dooley, Jakel Dooley, Kenzleigh Dowdell, and Kaleah Dowdell, Raymond Brown; two

great-grandchildren, Ace Dooley and Legend Dooley; one aunt, Mary Durr of Tuscaloosa,

Alabama; one great-aunt, Lottie Irby of New York City, New York; four sisters-in-law,

Darlene (Ernest) Brunson of Crestview, Florida, Vickie (Tommie) Nelms of Waverly,

Alabama, Ella (John) Gee of Stone Mountain, Georgia, and Janice Frazier of Auburn,

Alabama; three brothers-in-law, Roger Lee (Kathleen) Dowdell, Ernest Dowdell Jr., and

Edward Dowdell, all of Auburn, Alabama; a sister of another mother, Sandra Lockhart; her godson, Kane Willis; a dear cousin, Charlie Parker; and a host of other family members and friends whose lives were forever touched by her kindness, generosity, and love.

JoAnn's legacy of faith, compassion, service, unwavering love will continue to live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know her. May her life forever remind us to love deeply, serve faithfully, and cherish the precious gift of family.

# Cemetery Details

## Westview Cemetery

700 Westview Drive  
Auburn,, AL 36830

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 20.** 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Peterson and Williams Funeral Home  
1016 McCoy Street  
Opelika, AL 36801  
(334) 745-6473  
pw1016mccoy@hotmail.com

## Lie in state

**MAY 21.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Auburn A.M.E. Zion Church  
576 Martin Luther King Drive  
Auburn, AL 36830

## Service

**MAY 21.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Auburn A.M.E. Zion Church  
576 Martin Luther King Drive  
Auburn, AL 36830



# Tribute Wall



“ Peterson and Williams Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Joann Broadnax Dowdell



Peterson and Williams Funeral Home - May 20 at 02:41 PM

RB

“ Hello JoAnn:  
WE have been knowing and enjoying you since you were in your teens. WE are the Broadnax's from North Carolina. It was good seeing you and your sisters during our family reunions, along with Butch and Rachel. But time really passes. We all have our own families (those that are left) and still holding on to God's unchanging hand. It was good to speak with you over the phone a while ago. You still sounded like a teen-ager! Best wishes to your husband and family.  
from: Jesse, Mike and Judy, Ronald and Mary, and our families.

Ron Broadnax - May 20 at 10:32 PM

RD

“ Ruth Dowdell lit a candle in memory of Joann Dowdell



Ruth Dowdell - May 20 at 06:41 PM

CR

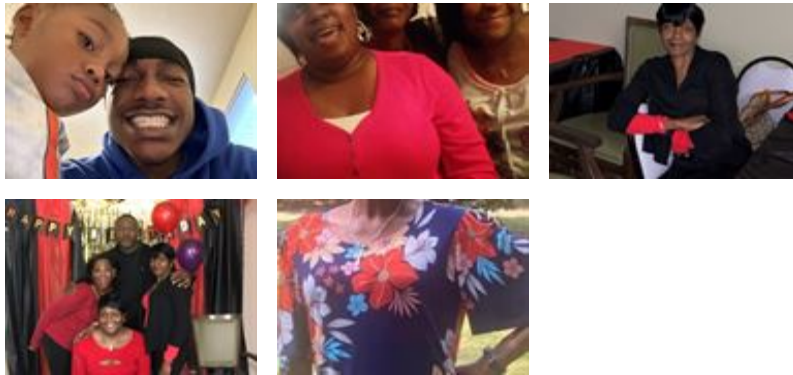
“ You will be missed dearly Anie I will hang on to the love& laughter &the memories we shared together in my heart anie! I love you-Your niece Crystin xoxo



Crystin M Robinson - May 20 at 05:52 PM



“ 35 files added to the album Life Tributes



Peterson and Williams Funeral Home - May 20 at 01:18 PM

TR

“ Sending my condolences and prayers to Ms. Joann's Family and Friends, she will be missed.



Tamikka Radford - May 20 at 12:17 PM

AP

“ Mrs. Joann will be truly missing. Praying for her family.



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**Amy Patton** - May 19 at 11:03 PM

BW

“ Aunt Bett Light This Candle In Memory Of Myself and My Family. True Words Are Coming From My Heart. Because You Know How I Love You All As My Children. God Has Been With You On Your Sweet Sweet Journey. Now You Been Called To Your Other Home. How I Know. Because You Lived A Beautiful Life With Us. Love You Joe . Aunt Bettye Williams



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**Bettye Williams** - May 19 at 04:21 PM

MS

“ Your seat was right in front of me.  
And for ever that will be your seat.  
Your laugh will be in my hear along with your song.  
You will be singing every day. You don't have to wait to Sunday morning any more. I will miss you. We said Love you every time we saw each other. Love you 🥹.  
Melody Scott & Family..

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**Melody Scott** - May 19 at 10:39 AM

VE

“ *Veasley lit a candle in memory of Joann Dowdell*



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**Veasley** - May 17 at 03:19 PM

SJ

“ *Stephanie Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Joann Dowdell*



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**Stephanie Jenkins** - May 17 at 11:04 AM

DH

“ *Joann was just sweet. I've known her most of her life. Always had a smile and good humor. She loved her Family, Friends and God. Rest on Sweet lil Sis. You are missed but we know you will live with God!* 🙏

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**Doris Torbert Hutchinson** - May 15 at 05:23 PM