



Imma Bentley

July 3, 1935 - August 20, 2020

Imma Lorene Hawkins Daniels York Bentley

Born 3 July 1935 at Mammy and Pappy's home in Rickman TN

Died 20 August 2020 at her condo in Madison TN

Imma (Lorene) was preceded in death by her father, Oliver Payton Hawkins, and her mother, Eliza Jane Smith Hawkins, as well as her older brother Charles G. Hawkins, and her daughter, Mary Kathleena Daniels. Her husbands, James L. York and Ronald Bentley, also preceded her.

She is survived by daughter Carrie (Barbara) Stapleton of St. Petersburg FL; daughter Aurora (Chris) Daniels of Madison TN; son Michael (Heather) Martin-Daniels of Cookeville TN; and daughter Danielle (David) Bentley Veazey of Spring Hope NC. Also surviving her is younger brother William Hawkins, and niece Kim, of Brentwood TN. Known to her step-children as

Meemaw and to her grandchildren and great grandchildren as “Gran’ma Dodo,” a nickname that would NOT surprise you if you knew her.

Imma graduated high school in Rickman, served in the US Air Force, and attended St. Thomas for her nursing training, later becoming a mental health nurse practitioner. She worked at Central State Mental Hospital and DeBerry Correctional Institute. As a Red Cross volunteer, she was at Ground Zero for 9/11 (passing out death certificates), and assisted survivors of numerous hurricanes and tornados, even working during Hurricane Wilma which “ate” her condo in Florida.

Lorene loved to travel and was a traveling nurse in New Orleans (for Mardi Gras) and Oahu (for a view of Chinaman’s Hat). Thanks to her brother, Bill, she got to spend many winters “snowbirding” in Boynton Beach, FL, with her brother Charles and dear family friend, Roland Richter. The beach was definitely her happy place.

The family wishes to thank those that cared for her during the final years, providing 24/7 coverage. Steve North was very kind to cover so many nights with her. Most especially the family wishes to acknowledge gratefully long-time friend, Jeffrey Ellis, for the love and care he showed Lorene during her declining health. For over a year, he lived in with her and her rescue Shih Tzu, Charlie, and his dog, Jessie. There is no way she could have stayed home until the very end without Jef’s sacrifices.

A service will not be held at this time due to COVID, but the family hopes to have a celebration of life on Sunday, 22 August 2021, when hugging is, once again, the norm. Please put it on your calendar! For all the kin in the Overton County area and her sisters from Soroptimists, please know that your love and prayers are most graciously accepted.

Should you wish to send a memorial, donations can be sent to the Lunch for Girls program:

Soroptimist International of Music City

Priscilla Tatarsky, Treasurer

153 Lakeside Park Drive

Hendersonville TN 37075

Tribute Wall



“ *Imma Bentley*

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ *Hey Aurora & Michael*

Just found this!! I have so many memories of Blue Ridge Drive, the Thanksgiving & Christmas dinners and the trips we took. Your mum was a large part of my life in Tennessee - she was also a force of nature, but very welcoming too. I remember the margaritas (I think)! Hope you are all doing ok

Christine - September 05, 2020 at 12:42 PM



So very kind of you to remember Mom, Christine! Mom always welcomed in "visiting orphans" from all over the globe. Definitely a force of nature!

Aurora Daniels - September 23, 2020 at 04:26 PM



“ *I only met your Mom a few times, Aurora*, and she was an absolute delight each time. She certainly had an interesting life. I hope wonderful memories of her give you lasting comfort. I am so very sorry for your loss. May she rest in peace. Love you long time, Carol*

Carol Rice - August 28, 2020 at 09:34 PM



Carol, thank you, very much, for your kind words. Love you long time, too, G!

Aurora Daniels - September 02, 2020 at 12:49 PM

LD

“ We know you loved the fireworks ♡



Lea D'Alessandro - August 26, 2020 at 03:31 PM

AD

Mom DID love the fireworks! Thanks for sharing this, Lea. It is so wonderful to have you in our lives. And thank you for taking the beautiful photo we used in this obituary at her favorite Chinese restaurant!

Aurora Daniels - August 27, 2020 at 07:10 PM

LD

“ *She always stays in our hearts. A lovable woman, always with a smile on her face.
There are so many great and lovable Storys about her. So many memorys while you visited us in Germany. Such q great time. We know you love the "Ritter Sport chocolate" and the Uno Play Nights.
We will miss you. Rest in peace.
Lots of love from Germany*

Lea D'Alessandro - August 26, 2020 at 03:23 PM

AD

Remember Mom eating that chocolate in the middle of the night and trying to pretend it was critters outside the window?!? :) Happy times in your beautiful homeland.

Aurora Daniels - August 27, 2020 at 07:12 PM

KP

“ There are way too many memories to share as I have known her since I was 5 years old. She was funny, spunky and always the life of the party. My thoughts and prayers are with her family now.

Karen

Karen Paris - August 26, 2020 at 09:49 AM

AD

*Karen, it's been a long journey and she was so happy you were with her during it. I love you always! Aurora**

Aurora Daniels - August 26, 2020 at 12:24 PM

GP

“ So sad to learn of her passing. I loved the stories Aurora would share about her travels, and adventures. She lived life to the fullest. She loved and was loved by many!

Greg Peebles - August 26, 2020 at 08:13 AM

AD

*Thanks, Barney! She was always a good story! Love, Aurora**

Aurora Daniels - August 26, 2020 at 12:25 PM

CS

“ Oh my sweet, beautiful Lorene! You were a Southern Belle of fortitude. You were a hot mess in the most beautiful of ways. I adored our talks about Brown Dog Foundation. And, I loved that when you were able you came out to support us. I will miss your silliness and your kindness. Thank you for raising up the best friend a girl could ask for. I love you to the moon and back and hope you've found all of my doggies to keep you company. Sending you my love Aurora.



Carol Ann Smock - August 25, 2020 at 10:35 PM

AD

Carol, I bet she was thrilled and that Ringo rushed to meet her at the Rainbow Bridge! Love you, Aurora*

Aurora Daniels - August 26, 2020 at 12:26 PM

MB

“ Lorene's house was the first place I lived in upon moving to Nashville in 1988. I was only supposed to be passing through on my way to CA, stopping to visit Aurora and Lorene then ended up making Nashville my home. Her house was always open and welcoming. I remember the lovely rose bush in the backyard, dogs everywhere (chasing my cat) and many conversations about life. Lorene was a wonderful soul. I'm sure she was welcomed with open arms into the light. God bless. Martha "Buzz" Buzzard

Martha Buzzard - August 25, 2020 at 12:47 PM

AD

Buzz, thank you, so very much, for your kind words! Aurora*

Aurora Daniels - August 25, 2020 at 01:25 PM

PR

“ *She was a friend to cherish, her funny laugh, playing dominoes till you’d have to say no more, her famous Margaritues, her delicious dinners but most of all her sincere friendship, RIP my friend, I love you, Peggy and Troy*



peggy Rippetoe - August 24, 2020 at 02:40 PM

AD

Among her happiest memories were great times in Boynton Beach. Thank you for being a huge part of those!

Aurora Daniels - August 25, 2020 at 01:27 PM

BB

She was such a fun and funny lady. We so looked forward to seeing her every chance we got. From the hours of playing Uno to the cookouts or just sitting around chatting, she always brightened our day. She will be greatly missed by our family. We were truly blessed to have known her.

BASIL BISHOP - August 25, 2020 at 02:39 PM

AD

Thank you, Basil. Mom loved visiting with your family whenever we traveled to our "second home" at Westgate Lakes. She enjoyed coffee on the balcony and wine in the evenings as the fireworks went off at Disney. Many joyous memories with you all...thanks for making us part of the family.

Aurora Daniels - August 25, 2020 at 07:01 PM

TK

I spent so many hours at Mom and Aurora’s house growing up. She was so much fun and did not get mad at us when we came up with crazy ideas. I am thankful that she was a part of my life and she will be missed. Loved you bunches sweet lady!!!

Terri Knox - August 25, 2020 at 07:40 PM

AD

*MANY hours! Mom was always there for my friends with "medical" queries. I am so happy she had you around. Love, Aurora**

Aurora Daniels - August 26, 2020 at 12:27 PM