



Linda Berry

June 6, 1954 - December 30, 2025

Livestream link: <https://vimeo.com/event/5635399>

The Life She Lived

Mary Linda Darden, affectionately known as Linda, was born in Bartlett, Texas, to Superintendent Leroy Darden and Ardella Darden. She was raised alongside nine siblings and attended the old L.C. Anderson High School in East Austin before graduating from Reagan High School.

Linda studied cosmetology and became a licensed cosmetologist. She later worked in hospital administration at Brackenridge Hospital and St. David's Hospital, where she became affectionately known as the smile of the hospital. In 1974, Linda met Lamar Berry, and they were married on September 12, 1974. Their union spanned fifty years and produced four daughters, one of whom was born prematurely and passed shortly after birth. Linda was the devoted mother of LaTinysha, LaMencia, and LaFadrian. She shared a special bond with LaMencia Hill, her birthday twin.

For more than twenty-two years, Linda and Lamar co-founded Berry's Bright Bunch, a licensed registered family home. Together, they served as childcare providers and foster parents to hundreds of children, exemplifying love, faith, and service to the community.

Linda faithfully served within several congregations, including McKinley Heights C.O.G.I.C., Live Oak of Austin, and #1 C.O.G.I.C., where she worked in youth, choir, and women's ministries. She organized Christmas, Easter, and

Black History programs and established a scholarship program to assist students pursuing higher education.

In 2013, Bishop Lamar Berry answered the call to pastor Rivers of Joy Temple of Worship, where Linda served as First Lady. Following his passing on April 2, 2025, she became Lady Emerita.

In 2015, Linda survived a major stroke that altered her health but never her faith. She continued to serve her community, including her work on the Board of Directors for People's Clinic, advocating for individuals with disabilities. Linda was known for her tell-it-like-it-is personality, wisdom, generosity, and unwavering trust in God. After nearly nine months of separation, she was reunited with her beloved husband on December 30, 2025.

Preceded in Death

Lady Emerita Mary Linda Berry was preceded in death by her loving husband of fifty years, Bishop Lamar Berry; her parents, Superintendent Leroy Darden and Ardella Darden; and her siblings Johnnie Darden, Ira Darden, Claude Darden, Superintendent Elroy Darden, and Mattie Darden.

Leaves to Cherish Her Memory

She leaves to cherish her memory her daughters: LaTinysha Melton (Oscar "Scottie"), LaMencia Hill (Perry Jr.), and LaFadrian Dongo (Valentine); her aunt: Elizabeth Nash; her godsons, Paxton Townsend & Jake Murphy; her siblings Alice Darden Davis (Robert), Ruth Darden City (Anthony), Floria Darden, and Ardella Darden Ohueri "Punkin" (Clifford); her sisters- and brothers-in-law Almetra Robinson, Marcella Jackson, Eunice Thomas, and Tom Lee Thomas (Tasha); her grandchildren Arianna Austin, Daniel Hill, Gabriel Dongo, Jaela Townsend, Janeen Spencer, Naryah Austin, McKenzie Dongo, Mercedes Williams (Micheal), Oscar Williams, Jr., Payton Townsend, Perry "Lex" Hill, S. Joy Austin, and Vion Townsend; and seven great-grandchildren.

She also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and dear friends who loved her deeply.

Cemetery Details

Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery

11463 State Highway 195
Killeen, TX 76542-4945

Previous Events

Celebration Service

JAN 10. 1:00 PM (CT)

Deliverance Temple COGIC
1607 Dessau Ridge Lane
Austin, TX 78754

BURIAL

JAN 13. 2:00 PM (CT)

Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery
11463 State Highway 195
Killeen, TX 76542-4945

Tribute Wall

JD

“ *Julia Dobbind lit a candle in memory of Linda Berry*



Julia Dobbind - January 10 at 11:48 AM

BB

“ *Brittany B. purchased the EBN Mother - 9" Ebony Angel Figurine for the family of Linda Berry.*



Brittany B. - January 09 at 09:09 PM

MW

“ *To Linda Berry's family, I extend my deepest condolences to you for your loss. I offer each of you my heartfelt support during this difficult time. May you find strength and solace in the memories you shared together, and the legacy she leaves behind. Linda and her siblings and my siblings and I are members of the same generation of Jessie Darden, Sr.'s family tree and we spent a lot of time together during the early years of our lives. I was saddened when I learned of her transition and really shocked because we had talked just five days earlier on Christmas day. It was a joyful conversation I had with her and two of her sisters. That conversation will be one of my cherish memories of Linda. I want the family to know I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.*

Melvin D White - January 08 at 11:29 AM

CO

“ CTVHCS Director's Office purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Linda Berry.



CTVHCS Director's Office - January 08 at 10:40 AM

MF

“ Melvin White and Family purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Linda Berry.



Melvin White and Family - January 07 at 01:30 PM

MF

“ Melvin White and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Linda Berry.

Melvin White and Family - January 07 at 01:30 PM