



MICHELLE MARIA COATES

July 22, 1943 - November 27, 2025

My name is Michelle M. Coates, and my life's journey began on July 22, 1943, when I was born to the late Lawrence and Geraldine (Matthews) Hogan in Washington, D.C. I was raised in a time when family, faith, and determination shaped the very foundation of who we were. I attended D.C. Public Schools, and though life responsibilities came early for me, I refused to let anything stand in the way of my growth. On April 18, 1973, I proudly earned my High School Equivalency Certificate—a milestone that represented perseverance, commitment, and hope.

On Thursday, November 27, 2025, a day many know as Thanksgiving, I quietly chose to give thanks in my own way as I stepped peacefully into my eternal rest. God, in His perfect timing, carried me home in love.

My story as a mother began in 1959, when God blessed me with my first daughter, Anita, my angel and the first great joy of my life. In 1964, I married William Augustus Jackson, a talented and renowned drummer and musician. With William, I welcomed my son, Thomas T. "Bootsie" Jackson, whose laughter and energy brought life to every room.

In July 1982, I entered a new season when I married gospel singer Ralph Carroll Coates. Through that union, I welcomed my youngest daughter, Cheryta, my bright songbird who carried music and joy in her spirit. My

children were my heartbeat, my motivation, and my most cherished treasures. Everything I worked for, prayed for, and hoped for was rooted in the love I had for them.

My nurturing spirit extended beyond my household. What began as being lovingly known as "Aunt Shelly" blossomed into a full calling. I entered the world of early childhood education, where I spent more than 40 years teaching and caring for children at St. Margaret's, New Macedonia Daycare, Easter Seals, and other centers. Each child I encountered carried a piece of my heart. Teaching was not just what I did-it was who I was. It was ministry, purpose, and love in action.

I lived a life filled with passion-passion for God, family, the arts, and education. I loved to sing, to perform, and to embrace creativity in all its forms. I believed deeply in giving back. Whether through charitable and volunteer work, spiritual service, or simply offering kindness, I made it my mission to touch lives with gentleness, warmth, and intention. Those who knew me describe me as vibrant, loving, strong, curious, spirited, and full of joy. I carried sunshine in my smile and strength in my presence.

My faith anchored every season of my life. In the 1950s I attended the Holy Commandment 7th Day Pentecostal Church under Bishop Gamble. In 1970, I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit under Bishop Conway at the Holy Commandment Church of God 7th Day. In the 1980s, I attended the Holy Commandment Temple of God under Bishop Jones. On November 4, 2000, I joined Bethel Deliverance Outreach Ministries (BDOM) under Bishop Alonzo M. Walker Sr. There, I found purpose and family. I served as an Usher, a Children's Church Instructor, a member of the choir, a participant in theater productions, and ultimately as a member of the Mother's Board. Every role was an opportunity to love, serve, and walk out my faith. Anyone who knew me in church knew this-I was a praiser. I didn't

need music, a crowd, or a moment. If the Spirit moved, I would cut a step anywhere, anytime. Praising God was my joy, my release, and my testimony, and I carried that praise with me everywhere I went.

Today, I join my loved ones who transitioned before me-my parents, Lawrence and Geraldine, and my beloved husbands, William Jackson and Ralph Carroll Coates.

And yet, my story continues in the hearts of those I leave behind.

I am survived by my children Anita, Thomas, and Cheryta; my brother Timothy (Betty) Hogan; my grandchildren Zackary, Felisha, TJ, Imani, and Yaraan; my great-grandchildren Calieb and Marva; my great-great-grandchild, Emmerie; and a loving extended family of nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, relatives, and friends who shaped every chapter of my life.

If you remember anything about me, let it be this:

I loved deeply.

I served faithfully.

I lived with purpose. I believed in kindness, creativity, and the power of joy.

And I never stopped trusting God.

Though I have transitioned from labor to reward, my legacy remains in every life I touched, every child I taught, every song I sang, and every prayer I whispered.

Love, Michelle aka.. "Aunt Shelly"

Cemetery Details

Heritage Memorial

13472 Poplar Hill Rd
Waldorf, MD 20601

Previous Events

Wake

DEC 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Pope Funeral Home Forestville Chapel
5538 MARLBORO PIKE
FORESTVILLE, MD 20747

Funeral Service

DEC 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Pope Funeral Home Forestville Chapel
5538 MARLBORO PIKE
FORESTVILLE, MD 20747

Tribute Wall



“ *Pope Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of MICHELLE MARIA COATES*



Pope Funeral Homes - December 18, 2025 at 11:06 AM

NC

“ *Thomas aka Bootsie and Family. Our Deepest Sympathies, May your mother rest peacefully in the arms of God, and may your heart be lifted by the strength of your faith. Her spirit lives on. From Natalie and Chris Childs*

Natalie and Chris Childs - December 17, 2025 at 02:55 PM

LO

One beautiful soul. There is a cat in the entry of our front door that she feed everyday, and he refuses to move or accept food from anyone, still awaiting "Ms. Michelle's presence. This speaks volumes of her soul to reach out. Family we will miss dearly her earthly presents here, but our love until we all meet again will never pass. Love you always Mrs. Coates. Neighbor!

Lorretta - December 19, 2025 at 10:50 PM

FM

“ From 8th and I Young Marines purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of MICHELLE MARIA COATES.



From 8th and I Young Marines - December 16, 2025 at 06:51 PM

YO

“ Your friends at OGC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of MICHELLE MARIA COATES.

Your friends at OGC - December 15, 2025 at 06:56 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of MICHELLE MARIA COATES.



December 15, 2025 at 06:56 PM