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3901 N. Mississippi Ave.
Portland, OR 97227
P: 503.281.0453
Fax 503.281.3408

Web:
www.sunlanlighting.com

E-mail:
kay@sunlanlighting.com



“Little Campers” Celebrated NICU Reunion

Tiny superheroes overcoming their challenges and thriving

Kaiser Permanente Sunnyside Medical Center will celebrated its annual NICU Reunion event, "Little Campers, Big Adventures" on Sept. 8, 2024, outside the Labor & Delivery department. This heartwarming event is a celebration of strength, resilience, and the incredible journey of hundreds of families and children who received life-saving care in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

This fall also marks the 10th anniversary of the Sunnyside NICU, making it an extra special occasion for the entire community. Families, friends, and healthcare workers will be able



Last year's NICU reunion celebrated tiny superheroes overcoming their challenges and thriving.

to reconnect and celebrate the progress and growth of these remarkable NICU graduates.

NICU mom Cynthia Hernandez, whose son, Saint, was born at 25 weeks and 6 days gesta-

tional age and weighing just 2 pounds 1/2 oz, said "Our journey with Saint in the NICU was one of the most challenging times

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Obituary

Benton, Annette Marven passed away peacefully on July 18, 2024 from a stroke, while living independently at the Porthaven HealthCare Center. Annette was born November 1, 1938, in Crossett, Arkansas to Brooksie Sims and Eugene Benton. Her mother, Brooksie, worked for the Benson Hotel and her father, Eugene, found work during the construction of the Boulder (now Hoover) Dam. Her older brother, James Benton, also known as "Sweet Baby James" was a famous local jazz musician.

She graduated from Girls Polytechnic High School, completed some college courses, and then worked for Goodwill Industries. She is preceded in death by both parents and her brother James, and nieces Charlotte and Cynthia Benton. Annette and Dr. Merlin Harvey Johnson had a son, Dr. Benjamin Christensen (Twan-da), whose birth name was Darin Gregory Benton, and has two grandchildren, Benjamin William and Jasmine Sofia Christensen. She leaves behind nieces Aaliyah Azeem, and Toni Lincoln, and a host of great nieces and nephews.

Sadly, many of our family members lost contact with Annette after the death of her mother Brooksie (Sims) Benton. Annette is remembered as a happy, bright, and engaging soul who loved singing at the family church, AME Zion, playing and entertaining the children during weekends and holidays. Her son Ben Christensen, with help from Annette's extended family members Bobby Fother



and Liz Fother-Branch, found and connected with Annette after the death of her brother James.

Annette spent many years with her primary caregivers at the Porthaven Healthcare Center Assisted Living Facility. The entire family would like to extend appreciation to the many nurses, staff, and Bristol Hospice who served as extended family and caregivers. Also, special thanks to Greg Kafoury, her former personal attorney, advocate, and friend in her time of need. Additional thanks to the Johnson family (Linda Hummel Shelton & Cheryl Lewis) for their candor and inclusiveness. A huge thanks to Ancestry.com which facilitated Annette reconnecting with her son before her death. At Annette's request, she will be flown home to be buried in the Sims family gravesite at the Westview Cemetery in Crossett, Arkansas.

You can honor Annette by supporting local foster care and adoption programs.



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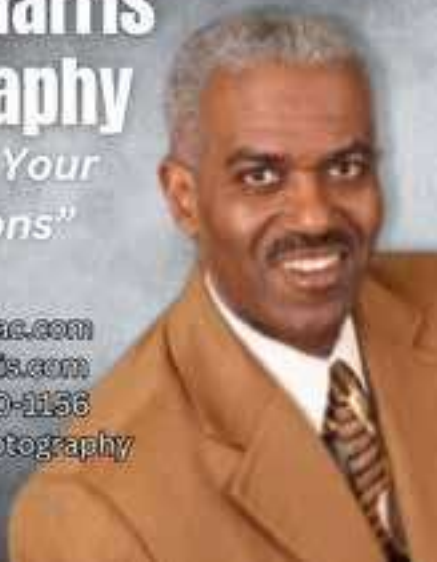
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