



Maxine Kimble
Baxter

My Story

Maxine Kimble Baxter



My Story



ORDER OF SERVICE

Saturday, March 6, 2021, 11:00am

Crenshaw United Methodist Church
3740 Don Felipe Drive
Los Angeles, Ca 90008

Officiant: Reverend Royce Porter

Prelude-Musical Selection

Procession

Musical Selection

Greeting

Words of Encouragement and Grace

Scripture Reading

Musical Selection

Special Words

Poems

Praise Dancer

Piano Solo

Reading of "My Life Story"

Slide Presentation

Eulogy

Music Selection

Open Remarks

Musical Selection

Closing Prayer

Recessional

Richard Turner Jr.

The Family

Richard Turner Jr.

Jamila Baxter

Dr. Ticey M. Brown

Dr. Ticey M. Brown

Ricki Byers

Christian Morton

Jacob and Kaila Morton

Danae Young

Richard Turner Jr.

Silent Reading

Starring Maxine Baxter

Reverend Royce Porter

Jeff Majors

*Please limit to 2 minutes

Guest

Gregory Baxter

Richard Turner Jr.

Active Pallbearers

Christian Morton, Bobby Kimble, Deelyn Bass, Dexter Wilson,
Jacob Morton, Larry Franklin Jr, Maxwell Essang and Gavin Essang

Honorary Pallbearers

Joseph Kimble, Eugene Wilson, Henry Triplett, Alessandro Morton, Micheal Norwood,
Jerry Stafford, Amir Norwood, Micheal Wilson, Kevin Kimble,
Loary Kimble Jr., Darren Willaims, and Darnell Glass

Internment: Inglewood Park Cemetery

Life to the Max!

Maxine Baxter broke new ground as a young Black female entrepreneur. In 1962, she opened *Maxine's Lamps and Lampshades* with her husband and business partner, George. This prestigious shop was one of the first Black-owned businesses in the area. The shop located at 4160 Beverly Boulevard Los Angeles California was in business for over 50 years. Maxine and George knew they were on to something amazing. Together, they laid the foundation for a respected, successful profession of manufacturing custom lamps and lampshades. The company produced over 500,000 lampshades specializing in imported silks, linens, taffetas, velvets, and designer textiles.

Maxine worked with set decorators, prop houses, studios, and an exclusive clientele, including some of the biggest studios in Hollywood; CBS, Sony Pictures, Disney Studios, Paramount Pictures, DreamWorks, Warner Bros, and a host of decorators, designers, and independent filmmakers.

Adam DiGregorio of the "LA Times" wrote that "Maxine, has an eye for shape and proportion equal to that of any couturier. What made Maxine's so unique was that each shade was custom-sized and crafted by hand. In the decorating community, Maxine's was known as "The place to go." *Maxine's Lampshades* received many awards and accolades including being recognized in the "National directory Who's Who with Executives and Professionals".

Maxine and George settled and raised their family in View Park. Maxine and George were hard workers for their community and in their church, Crenshaw United Methodist. They received high recognition in 1999 by being awarded as "Black Trailblazers". Maxine had a passion for traveling, collecting vintage fabrics, antiques, and collecting art. She was an avid reader, a gourmet cook, and a fashionista. Maxine was born in McGhee, Arkansas.

She was proceeded in death by her husband, George, and her son, Larry. She is survived by her children, Betty, Gregory, Ronetta, George Jr. grandchildren, greatgrandchildren, and a host of family and friends. Maxine made her transition on February 6, 2021

Maxine
11/19/32 - 2/6/21



<https://www.Maxine-Baxter.ForeverMissed.com>

My Story

To my family and friends, today I share with you my personal life journey.

This is a story about love, perseverance, and family. My story begins in Arkansas, my hometown. The place where life was created from two magnificent people, Harold, and Naomi Kimble.



From this union, 13 children were born. I am the fourth sibling born. Back home in Arkansas, being a part of a large family made for some very adventurous days. The Kimble family hardly had any dull moments. Oh boy! I can remember those fall days waiting for the town fair. All in town attended the event. Daddy would gather us all up and we would spend all day at the fair. My big sister Evelyn, and I would prepare for months leading up to the event.

You see, we were the best at making embroidered pillows.



Every year we would get ready to enter the contest for the most beautiful embroidery. Sometimes we even were able to snatch up first prize but, we were not the only lucky people to win prizes. My big brother Dubb entered his hog. He won first prize for the largest hog. My brother Loary won for the tallest stalk of cotton. Hogs, chickens, roosters, and cattle were something we all became familiar with. Not only did we have animals we raised, but we also had all kinds of fruits and vegetables. We planted corn, butter beans, white potatoes, soybeans, string beans, sweet potatoes, okra, strawberries, beets, and even cotton. We had plenty of food to eat because we grew it ourselves. I did a lot of cooking and spent time in the kitchen with Mama. I learned a lot from Mama. Mama was such a good cook that she would enter cooking contest. We all worked the land together. We owned our land, and we took very good care of it. Our land had been in the family for over 100 years. We took care of the land from generation to generation.



The world was changing around me. The people in California seemed so prosperous, I was excited because I knew I could be prosperous too! After a little while, my sister Ruthie came to live in Los Angeles with me. Ruthie and I became inseparable. When people saw me, they saw her. I remember the day my cousin Frankie came down to visit from Fresno. We would take her around to all the different shops and to the beach. We had so much fun. I met new friends. Of course, I was an extremely attractive woman, many men wanted to date me, but I would only date a few. It was not until I met the most handsome, wonderful man of them all.

My darling husband, George Edward Baxter.

I met George in one of the local clubs. That was the luckiest night of his life. As I sat on the stool, twirling my hair with my finger, he sent over a request to buy me a drink. I sat there casually, but nervous inside. As you see, I had never ordered a drink, but I did, remember hearing someone order a "Tom Collins". I requested that drink. We spent that entire evening talking. At the end of the night, he asked how he can contact me. Since we did not have a phone, I gave him my address. To my surprise, he showed up the next morning at 9:00 am. I really do believe it was love at first sight for both of us. From that day forward, we never left each other's side. We were married in 1954.

At this time, segregation still existed in Arkansas. Colored and Whites living together, but separate. The Whites seemed to welcome us. Now, that I think back, it was probably because Uncle John was the first colored to own a car in that town. That made him stand out. Also, my Uncle Jim owned his own store. Colored and Whites would shop there. This made us a reputable family. I remember Uncle Jim took us on car rides. Going for a ride, was the highlight of my day. I could ride around all day in that car and never get bored.



Another childhood memory that I will always cherish, is the year I spent in Bakersfield with my Aunt Alma and Mama Lucy. They really spoiled me. I really enjoyed being with them. After some time, Daddy sent for me to come back home. Everyone missed me, so I went back to Arkansas. I looked forward to going back to school and being with my sisters and brothers. We would all get dressed and walk to school together. We ended up going to different schools as we grew up. In McGehee, the schools only went up to the 8th grade. We had to go to Dumas to finish out our high school years. I am proud to say I was an A student. Reading was one of my favorite subjects. I could spend hours reading! After finishing high school, I had a baby named Larry. Mama helped to raise him. We were a big family and supported each other. Family ties was important to us, especially me. Then I got married and had Betty. Shortly after, I divorced.



After spending my childhood and youth in Arkansas, it was time to move on! Time to move on from those days sitting on the porch, sitting between the legs of either mama or sister getting my hair combed. Time to move on and find out who is Maxine? What kind of potential does this little Colored girl have? So, the day came, I packed up my little bag and took a bus to California. Here I come to the Land of opportunity! At least that is what Mama and Papa told me. During that time, I made choices, the best choices a 19-year-old girl from McGehee, Arkansas could make. During this time, I started to learn valuable city life lessons

Being married to George was wonderful!

We loved and lived and loved and lived some more. Out of this union, God blessed us with our children Gregory, Ronetta, and George Jr. During that time George was working for RTD, and I was working for a lampshade company. We decided to take a leap of faith and opened our own business. "Maxine's Lamps and Shades", at 4160 Beverly Boulevard. We worked hard to be successful. Sometimes working until 11:00 or 12:00 at night. Even after working those long hours, I would always prepare dinner for my family. "Maxine's Lamps and Shades" would mean nothing without my family. Our faith really paid off, and our business was a success for over 50 years. Years later, I would become known as the "famous woman on Beverly



The business was good and we were able to purchase our first house. The first house we purchased was on 73rd street in Los Angeles. The next house was on 75th place in Inglewood. It was a beautiful house. My favorite part of the house was the large stained glass picture window. Thinking back, I cannot believe we bought that house without looking over the back fence. We were totally unaware that there was a cemetery less than 100 yards away. Gregory hated the house. Whenever he would play in the backyard, he would peek over the fence. What he saw would frighten him. He told me he was afraid that one day, someone or something from the cemetery would come knocking at our door. My husband also started to dislike the house, after a couple of strange things happened. One day he came home and said, "let's find a new house", and very soon after we moved. We were in that house for less than a year. We did not even wait to sell it before we moved.



The Realtor we were working with told us about a beautiful area named View Park. George and I were unfamiliar with the area. As we drove up into the hills, we were both mesmerized at the beauty of the homes. I remember looking at the view and thinking "oh my God". I knew at that moment this was the area, I wanted for my family. I was told that the area was about 20% Colored (in later years it would become 90%). After looking at several properties, I finally found my dream home, at 3739 Northland Drive.

Around the neighborhood kids were seen playing, and neighbors looked friendly. I just had a good feeling about it. It felt like the right decision. It felt like home. The kids were excited. They would later spend countless hours outside in the California sunshine.



"Maxine's Lamp and Shades" was doing well, and the family was happy. George and I decided to purchase an apartment building. We wanted to make passive income. Unfortunately, that income was not so passive, and it required lots of maintenance. We had to do everything at the building. We had to manage, maintain, and collect rent. We were working so hard at the time, running the shop, and maintaining the apartment building, that we realized we needed to start taking vacations. So, we began to travel. I loved to travel and enjoyed every minute of it. What made the experience even more memorable is that I had the most handsome man on my arm. George and I traveled all over the world. We took cruises, those cruises made us look and feel 10 years younger. Let me not forget to mention the Vegas trips.




George and I would love to drive to Vegas for the weekend. He would spend his time playing blackjack and craps. While I spent my time playing the slot machines. I was known to go wild in Vegas playing all night long. Boy, did we have fun. Fun continued throughout the year. In the summer we would drive or catch the train to Mississippi to visit George's Mama Willie Mae and Aunt Florie. Traveling was one of my passions, when we finally went overseas Greece and Italy took my breath away. It was nothing like America. In Italy, the Amalfi Coast was one of the most beautiful places I had ever seen! My husband's eyes when he looked at me made the place so much more special. In my travels I got to shop at the most exotic places on earth. I also got to meet many people from different cultures.



What a wonderful, blessed life. Everything was falling into place. Business was good, children were doing good. Our family began to expand. We had grandchildren. My greatest joy was always family gatherings. I attended birthday parties, dinners, family reunions, holiday parties, banquets, baptisms, church picnics, and house gatherings. I love the holidays. On Easter, I would buy the kids and grandkids their Easter outfits.



Christmas is my favorite holiday of all. I looked forward to Christmas all year long. I would start Christmas shopping in April hopefully to find the perfect gift by Christmas. I would always buy extra gifts. I wanted to make sure that if anyone dropped in on Christmas, they would not be left out. I could run upstairs and find them a gift that was exactly right. Now, shopping was not the only thing I looked forward to during the holidays. Cooking and baking for my family and friends was my greatest joy. Everyone would always say, "Maxine this is so good". I would say, "It's ok", but in my heart, I knew it was darn delicious. I was the main cook, but I always had my little helper granddaughters to assist. I looked forward to those days.



We always went to church on Sundays as a family. For George and I, going to church on Sundays was an important part of our life. We were proud members of Crenshaw United Methodist Church. We were also part of a very elite social club called "The CC Club ". I was the club secretary. I was awarded as an "African American trailblazer" and honored at the gala reception.



My darling husband was my center, my rock, my best friend. He was such a good husband and father. My Life would not have been the same without him. When he passed away, life was never the same. I am so grateful to have my children; Betty, Gregaboy, Sissy, and Georgie. My Grandchildren; Lillian, Butterfly, Lammajh, Chris, Alex, Ralphie, and Allie. Also, my sweet great-grandchildren; Gav, Alma, Jacob, Kaila, Maxy, and Aurielle. I love them all so much, and I am so proud of them. I know wonderful things will happen for them. I believe in them.

Some people think of death as the end, but my strong belief in the Lord allows me to see it as a new beginning.

My heart is full. My heart is filled with memories, laughter, and some pain. The hurt and pain of losing loved ones never leave your soul, but the love never fades, and it remains forever. The love of my brother Dubb, Ruthie, my husband George, Mama and Daddy, Evelyn, Larry, Yvorn, and Loary...



How precious you all are to me. Knowing and loving each one of you is the success story of my life. I am a blessed woman, who led a blessed life, and I cherish my family who has been by my side every step of the way. For that I am grateful. My heart is at peace.



*With Love,
Maxine*



Mother dear,

My heart is bursting with love for you. I can't come to the realization of you being gone. Our Mother/son bond is so strong, nothing can ever break it not even death. I can see you in my mind's eye so clearly. So beautiful, so real. I know the veil between this life and life on the other side is so thin I can almost reach out and touch you. So I know in my heart you are never far away. Mother dear I cannot even form the words to say how much you mean to me, only my soul can express the pureness of love for you brought into our lives. Kindness, strength, devotion to family, selflessness, always ready to help. Mother, you worked so hard for us, I saw you. I pray that I can take on just a fraction of your qualities. You dedicated your life to giving in every way conceivable way and for that, I am in gratitude. I will never take anything for granted ever. We are so blessed to have you as a Mother. I thank God for you. I Love you through time and space

Gregaboy and Georgie



Dearest Mom,

How can I count the life lessons you have taught me? Your plan was to rise to the top and do the best you could do. Your patience and understanding, knowing life is what you make it. You taught us; you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. Dear Mom, I have too many memories to count. I can still remember how you smelled when you dropped Georgie and I to the babysitter. You wore this beautiful light fragrance that smelled so good, I looked forward to that hug and kiss every time. So many days and nights at the shop you and dad were always happy. You made everything so comfortable for us as you worked. I have never seen a more perfect partnership than you and daddy. Mom I cannot ever thank you enough for what you have done for me. You dressed me pretty for school and church, I had cute hats and gloves and a purse like you. You taught me to look my best and do my best like you. Thank you being the best mother I could ever have. I thank God he chose the perfect mother for me. Thank you for the life you showed me. Thank you for the unconditional love you had for Gregory, George and I. Your family meant everything to you. Your love was a blessing, you took such good care of us, cooked wonderful meals no matter how tired you were after working all day. All our holidays were always the best. You brought unity and harmony. You and dad went out your way to find me the perfect doll for Christmas, Thank you. I have been to the Bahamas and Florida one time and that was with you. A wonderful trip just you and I. You always looked and dressed beautiful, classy with unique impeccable taste. Forgive me Mom for being a brat whenever I was one, which was often. All my life you have been there for me. I would not change anything for the years I worked with you and daddy at the shop. Thank you for being a remarkable and influential Mother, and for all you taught me. I am going to miss you Mom. All these years I've been by your side is all I know. Working, going to church, shopping, cooking, traveling and just kicking back chilling together. I am going to miss you so much. Seeing your face is like breathing every day. I'm trying to be strong because that is what you taught me. But it's so hard, I look for you and you're not here. I miss your sweet comforting voice calling me sissy in person or on the phone. I'm so sad and lonely without you. But I do feel the comfort of our Lord and Savior Jesus. Because I cannot lean to my own understanding at this time. My heart is so heavy, but the Lord is my refuge in him I will trust. So, I will continue to pray like you, be strong, inspired, and listen to my heart, which is where you live now. Your legacy is everything I will abide by it. My mentor, my nurturer, my inspirer. My beautiful Mother. Being your daughter has been my joy. I will continue to Thank God for blessing our family with you. Your unwavering faith in God which you taught us at an early age. His power and mercy enabled you to achieve blessings and inner peace throughout your wonderful life. I will treasure the memories I hold so dear. My gratitude is forever. My peace is that I will see my precious jewel of a Mother and Father again in heaven one day.

All My Love
your Daughter, Sissy

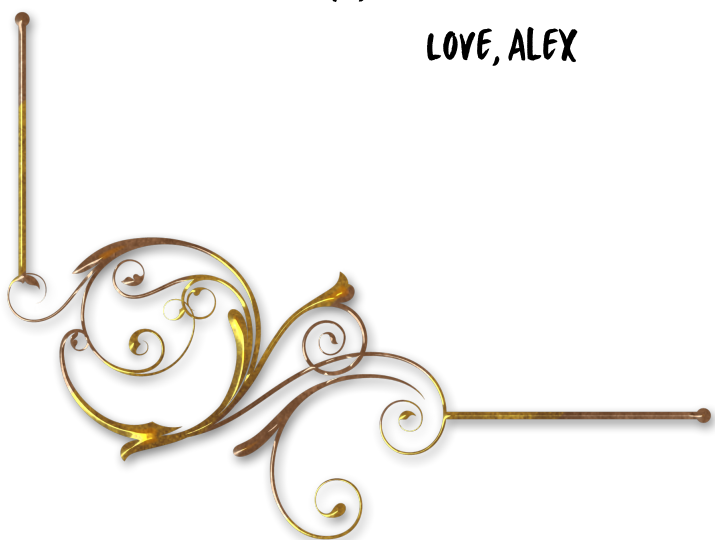




MORE THAN A MOTHER MELLOW AND MAGNANIMOUS MANUFACTURING
 MESSENGER OF THE MESSIAH MASTERFULLY MERRILY MOVING MASSIVELY
 MAGNIFICENT MAINSTAY MOBILIZING OUR MOTIVATION UNRELENTING
 IN MAXIMIZING MAGNETIC MINDFULNESS MUCH MATTERS FOR THE
 MOM, THE MA, THE MOTHER DEAR.....THE MEMORIES, MESSAGES,
 MERITORIOUS MENTORA MUNIFICENT MEMBER OF
 METTLEMERCY....MAKER OF MARVEL MEDITATING MAJESTY THAT NEVER
 MISSED THE WORD MISSED MATE MESMERIZED BY MEETING THEIR LOVE
 MUTUALLY MONUMENTAL MATRIARCH MUCH MORE THAN A MOTHER OUR
 MOTHER MISSED
 LOVE, CHRISTIAN

THEY SAY THAT MEMORIES ARE GOLDEN, WELL MAYBE
 THAT IS TRUE, BUT WE NEVER WANTED MEMORIES, WE
 ONLY WANTED YOU. YOUR LIFE WAS LOVE AND LABOUR. YOUR
 LOVE FOR YOUR FAMILY IS TRUE. YOU DID YOUR BEST FOR ALL
 OF US. WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU. WITH TEARFUL
 EYES WE WATCHED YOU AND SAW YOU PASS AWAY AND
 ALTHOUGH WE LOVE YOU DEARLY WE COULD NOT MAKE YOU
 STAY. SO THE LORD PUT HIS ARMS AROUND YOU AND
 WHISPERED COME TO ME. NOW YOU'RE IN PARADISE WITH
 NO PAIN OR MISERY. A GOLDEN HEART STOPPED BEATING.
 HARD WORKING HANDS AT REST. IT BROKE OUR HEARTS TO
 SEE YOU GO, BUT GOD ONLY TAKES THE BEST.

LOVE, ALEX



To my Granny, I love you, I love everything about you. You are my beautiful angel. Every time I look at your face I see a real beauty. I recall on many occasions I would sit and admire how beautiful your face is. You are my sunshine and always will be. You helped raise me and made me feel so loved. You made sure I did not want for anything. It is incredible how a person can be so selfless. You always put others' needs before your own. Granny, the only words I can describe for how I feel, are confused and broken. I just don't understand why it was so soon Granny. We were not finished yet. You were always so healthy and robust. We prayed for your healing every day, but you were still called home. After a while, my prayer changed and I prayed that your room would be filled with angelic angels that sang to you day and night nonstop. I prayed that the holy spirit would comfort you. I prayed that our father would whisper in your ear and let you know that everything was going to be ok. Even though you were alone, you were not alone in spirit. Your family was thinking and praying for you around the clock. I never imagined that when I left you at the hospital, that would be the last time, I would see my beautiful Granny. I can sit and daydream for days about all the fun we had through the years. All the traveling, the good meals, shopping sprees, fun family times. I was so blessed to have a grandmother like you. A grandmother that I could call my own. You are so special to me. You are my sunshine, my star, my rock, and now you are my guardian angel. I adore you now and forever..

Butterfly



Grandma, such a loving soul who embodies peace. I am so grateful to have been in your presence and around you. You taught me how to crave home in so many ways. Like those times when we shopped for hours, got a little snack, then excitedly arrived back to the house... those home cooked dinners were always worth the wait. That's always the house: warm, smelling delicious, beautiful light cascading down on that golden room sparkling through the glass table. You're such a blessing throughout our family, to the family we call neighbors, and beyond our community. This is our family and you are the glue flowing through all the cracks. We know God has you wrapped in all his Glory. I love you with all my heart. No matter what you have always had hope in me, and I will continue to have hope through you, and for all of us.

Love, Ralphie



Angel of Mine

Of Peace and love, you were formed angel in the eye of the storm. Angel with a heart of gold with forever a blessed soul. You are the shining stars and the sun. Upon your golden wings, you are one. You may sing your sweet song of sorrow. But hopes on the winds of tomorrow. You are a bearer of the holy light. you are my angel both day and night. You represent peace and love for all hope you will catch me should I fall. Now and always my inner light will shine I give my heart to that angel of mine. You are a golden star shining high above may you forever shine in peace and.

Love, Jacob

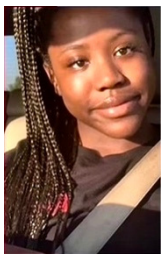
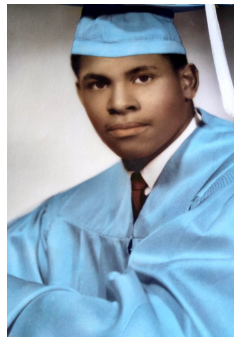
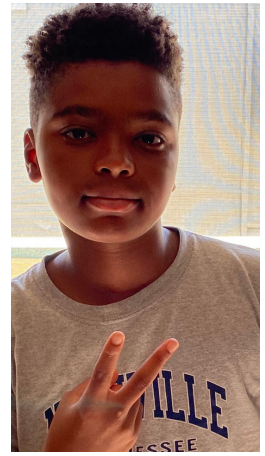


LEGACY OF LOVE

A WIFE, A MOTHER A GRANDMA TOO. THIS IS THE LEGACY WE HAVE FROM YOU. YOU TAUGHT US LOVE AND HOW TO FIGHT, YOU GAVE US STRENGTH, YOU GAVE US MIGHT. A STRONGER PERSON WOULD BE HARD TO FIND, AND IN YOUR HEART, YOU WERE ALWAYS KIND. YOU FOUGHT FOR US ALL IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. NOT JUST AS A WIFE, NOT JUST AS A MOTHER. FOR ALL OF US YOU GAVE YOUR BEST. NOW THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO REST. SO GO IN PEACE, YOU'VE EARNED YOUR SLEEP. YOUR LOVE IN OUR HEARTS, WE'LL ETERNALLY KEEP LOVE, KAILA, AND BABY AURI



*Beautiful family
and Friends*



My Precious Loved Ones





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE FAMILY OF MAXINE BAXTER
WISHES TO EXTEND THEIR GRATITUDE FOR THE MANY ACTS OF KINDNESS, ON-
GOING SUPPORT, AND THE COUNTLESS EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE THAT WAS SHOWN
DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. WE ARE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL FOR EVERY
PRAYER, WARM THOUGHT, AND GESTURE OF LOVE MADE. WE ASK THAT YOU
CONTINUE TO PRAY WITH US AND KEEP US LIFTED IN GOD'S GREAT NAME.
OUR PRAYER IS THAT GOD WILL BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU.