



Miss Zaria Licole Brookens

August 17, 2007 - November 15, 2023

On Friday, August 17, 2007, Zaria Licole Brookens was born to the union of X'antony and Latisha Brookens in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

From birth, Zaria entered the world on her terms, late, full of energy, and inquisitive. Zaria is remembered as a spiritually centered, bright, humorous, engaging, and opinionated honor student. She took pride in advocacy, receiving her formal education at Richards Elementary School in Whitefish Bay, WI, Golda Meir in Milwaukee, WI, and North Middle School and Menomonee Falls High School in Menomonee Falls, WI.

Zaria's personality made her stand out in a crowd. She was artistic, creative, loved music and making beats beside her dad! She destroyed carpets and furniture with her slime obsession, repurposing the laundry detergent, toothpaste, and her dad's shaving cream for recipes, then reselling slime to her classmates, demonstrating her entrepreneurial spirit. She was a risk taker, getting a special thrill when her "t~ll" uncles, David and Kenwan, came to town because that meant "airtime"! She could count on being thrown in the air and carried around the room with one hand like an airplane. She demonstrated her athletic prowess early, flipping off couches and jumping down multiple stairs at a time (at the encouragement of her aunts just to stress her parents out). Wildcard Gymnastics honed her skills and energy as a toddler, which later led Zaria into the world of competitive gymnastics. Zaria was relational in nature and territorial of her family. As a toddler, she could often be heard yelling "Papa" as her grandfather preached, or "Nana" as her grandmother sang a solo, ignoring pleas for silence during service.

As a preteen, Zaria explored fashion design and focused on competitive gymnastics. She regularly cut up clothing that didn't quite reflect her aesthetic, making it hers. She loved getting up early on a Saturday morning to go to rummage sales and the Goodwill. Just like her Nana, she loved the thrill of the hunt. She discovered her own style, much to her big brother's

dismay. She found treasures
in his closet, imitating his style, a true reflection of love.

Zaria was a committed member of the Metro Milwaukee YMCA Competitive Gymnastics Team, and later worked at the Tri-County YMCA Branch. There, she learned new skills through resilience, discipline, and consistency, despite her fear. Her favorite skill was floor exercise, where the music reflected her energy and sass while she effortlessly catapulted her frame through the air.

As a teen, Zaria was focused. She was academically strong (excited to show her grades to her grandparents and Uncle Karl), and an honor student, scoring a 28 on her first practice ACT. She

was balanced, worked hard, and had a sense of achievement and age-appropriate financial independence in preparation for her future. Zaria, a lover of history, had a love of the Broadway musical

Hamilton, and could often be heard belting out the lyrics ALL DAY and ALL NIGHT! Like her big sister, Jamila, she loved makeup and matching TikTok and YouTube videos, recreating looks and stressing

her Papa out! Taking after her Nana and big sister Kierra, Zaria also loved to cook! She would always negotiate her own sweet potato ole for the holiday that Nana would hide from guests. It's these

memories that will continue to bring our family joy.

Zaria accepted the Lord as her personal Savior at a young age and found peace in his arms on November 15, 2023. She was preceded in death by her beloved father, X'antony Benoit

Brookens Sr.

To forever cherish her memory, she leaves her: mother, Latisha Spence-Brookens of Menomonee Falls, WI; two sisters, Kierra Burton-Brookens of Gaithersburg, MD and Jamila O' Dea-Brookens of

Madison, WI; one brother, X'antony Jr. of Menomonee Falls, WI; one nephew, Xavion Ulysse of Gaithersburg, MD; grandparents, Pastor Marvin and Zenobia Spence, and Ms. Theresa Brookens,

all of Milwaukee, WI; aunts, Jasmine (David) Clay and Marisha Kenwan) Roberts;

Godmother, Angela Marie (Sharvin) Whitted of Wake Forest, NC; and a host of loving relatives, dear friends, and

her Ascension Fellowship Church Family.

Cemetery Details

Graceland Cemetery

6401 N. 43rd St.
Milwaukee, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Ascension Fellowship Church
2429 W. Hampton Ave
Milwaukee, WI

Funeral Service

DEC 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

Ascension Fellowship Church
2429 W. Hampton Ave
Milwaukee, WI

Tribute Wall

LA

“ *Laniya lit a candle in memory of Miss Zaria Licole Brookens*



laniya - December 11, 2023 at 03:05 PM

LA

“ *we wasn't that close but i want you and your family to know i miss you so much and may God be with you i love you forever.*

laniya - December 11, 2023 at 03:04 PM

LJ

“ *Laura J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Miss Zaria Licole Brookens.*

Laura J. - December 04, 2023 at 10:34 AM

AL

“ *I want to offer my deepest condolences to you all she was a wonderful person and will forever be in our hearts.my daughter Alimah misses her tremendously*

Anthoneshia Lyles - December 04, 2023 at 02:24 AM

KM

“ *Kelly M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Miss Zaria Licole Brookens.*

Kelly M. - December 01, 2023 at 05:08 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Miss Zaria Licole Brookens.*



December 01, 2023 at 02:40 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Miss Zaria Licole Brookens.



December 01, 2023 at 01:03 PM

JF

“ Jeff Gruss and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Miss Zaria Licole Brookens.

Jeff Gruss and family - December 01, 2023 at 01:03 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Miss Zaria Licole Brookens.



December 01, 2023 at 06:44 AM

FF

“ My condolences to zanthany and Latisha and family it's the hardest thing to lose a child may God hold you in arms from Fa'Lesha and Aubrey Finch III and family



Fa'Lesha Finch - November 28, 2023 at 05:19 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Miss Zaria Licole Brookens.



November 26, 2023 at 12:21 AM

DD

“ Doreen and Dave planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Miss Zaria Licole Brookens.

Doreen and Dave - November 26, 2023 at 12:21 AM