



Iris Dawn Parker

September 11, 1964 - January 23, 2021

Iris Dawn Parker, age 56, of Painesville, died January 23, 2021 at University Hospital in Cleveland. She was born September 11, 1964 in Washington, North Carolina.

Iris worked as an international photographer, artist, and educator who spent ten years living and working in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Her hobbies included photo journalism, documentary photography and youth mentorship. She enjoyed conducting photography and life skills workshops in communities all over South Africa and the United States. Along with being a curator of photography, Iris also worked in the Cultural Studies Program at Columbia College in Chicago, Illinois. Iris was a Fulbright Memorial Fellow Scholar (Japan).

Survivors include her siblings, Lee (Sandra) Coffee, Sam (Ann) Parker Jr., Darnell (Bud) Woods, Omar Parker, Donna (Sly) Link, Mary V. Parker, Frank Parker, Alveno (Tammy) Parker, Nicole Manning, and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Sam and Mary Parker, siblings, Eleanor Parker, Alvin "JuJu" Parker, and Dora Lee Parker.

A memorial service in memory of Iris will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, January

31, 2021 at the Lake Erie Church of God, 3050 Antioch Rd., Perry, OH 44081. The family will receive friends from 3 p.m. until the time of the service on Sunday. Private family inurnment will be in Riverside Cemetery, Painesville, at a later date.

Arrangements entrusted to the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to the Sisters in Cinema (Chicago, Illinois) GoFund Me Account.

Please offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 31. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Lake Erie Church of Christ
3050 Antioch Rd,
Perry, OH 44081

Memorial Service

JAN 31. 4:00 PM (ET)

Lake Erie Church of Christ
3050 Antioch Rd,
Perry, OH 44081

Tribute Wall



“ *Pat Favors lit a candle in memory of Iris Dawn Parker*



Pat Favors - March 28, 2021 at 04:16 PM

EH

“ *For a few years, I worked with Iris at St. Edmund's Academy. The students loved Iris! I am saddened to learn that this beautiful woman, who was kind, humble and so very talented, has passed. My deepest condolences to her family and friends. May Iris rest in peace; may her memory be eternal.*

Elizabeth Harbist

Elizabeth Harbist - February 12, 2021 at 08:34 AM

SS

“ *Rest in peace Iris Dawn Parker. You will live on through us. Your teaching of love will manifest in our deeds as you envisioned. You touched many lives in South Africa and we will never forget you. I in particular will be forever grateful for having met you back in 1998. You became my sister for one score and two years. Farewell Iris. May your soul rest in peace. My condolences to family that remain behind both in the United States and in South Africa.*

Sydney Seshibedi - January 31, 2021 at 02:05 PM



“ Her favorite verse” *Babygirl.*”She had a way with making you feel like you could go out and conquer anything when she started her sentence off with that. 😊 I have so many beautiful memories. My love and condolences to the family. 🙏🌺



Alana Snowden - January 31, 2021 at 01:48 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Tracye - January 31, 2021 at 12:51 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Iris Dawn Parker.



January 31, 2021 at 10:11 AM

“ I haven't been able to hold back my tears since hearing the news. I can hear you saying "Baby girl stop with em tears don't you know you got work to do". Iris you played such an important role in my life. I am shattered that you are gone. It really doesn't seem to want to sink in, I've never imagined my life without you in it. You were more than my mentor but my big sister too. for 8years you showed me so much love and took me under your wing and moulded me into the woman I am today. I will forever appreciate your presence in my life, I could honestly use one more hug from you though. You took such great care of me and were so proud of my achievements and it was all because of your guidance. I will continue to make you proud, I promise. Right now I'm hurting and I don't know how I am going to do this without you. I will miss you so much but I know deep in my heart your are going to be by my side as my gaurdian angel.

I love you Iris.

Peace.

"Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I will meet you there." Rumi



Fulufhelo Mobadi - January 31, 2021 at 01:51 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Iris Dawn Parker.*



January 30, 2021 at 10:51 PM



“ *Lisa Brock Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Iris Dawn Parker.*



Lisa Brock Family - January 30, 2021 at 08:26 PM



“ *Iris was pure light; her presence, a blessing. Losing her earthly form is truly devastating, but in my mind I can hear her saying, "Baby girl, I am good!" And I know she is. Thankful to her family for making her the person she was. My deepest condolences to all who love her.*

Shauna - January 30, 2021 at 08:07 PM



“ *The Polk Family sends their deepest sympathy to the Parker Family.*



Ray Polk - January 29, 2021 at 11:01 AM

HF

“ There are no words that can describe how much of an impact Iris had on everyone that she came in contact with. This is a great loss to the world and to our community.
Hannah Fairbanks.

Hannah Fairbanks - January 29, 2021 at 01:12 AM

OP

“ Sweetie, Sweetie I'm going to miss you more than words could possibly say.
Our loving ways of arguing when we meet.
Me, you, Than and Alex always horseplay.



Sweetie, Sweetie since you've been gone darkness been my best friend.
Laying and crying in it; hoping this pain inside would end.

Sweetie, Sweetie say my name, say my name. I'd give anything to hear you just say my name.
My fortune and fame, my game whether it's women, basketball, boxing or in the karate ring.
Sweetie I'd give anything to hear you say my name again.

Omar

Omar Parker - January 28, 2021 at 10:12 PM

BM

“ Brittany Mbaye lit a candle in memory of Iris
Dawn Parker



Brittany Mbaye - January 28, 2021 at 09:36 PM

BM

“ I love you so much and will miss you tremendously. You were the epitome of a strong, black, educated woman. Through your life you inspired so many, including me. My Aunt Sweetie the photographer, the activist, the educator, the philanthropist, and now the angel. You encouraged us all to be our best, you expected nothing less. I love you so much. I will make you proud as I was always so proud to be your niece.

❤️Brittany

Brittany Mbaye - January 28, 2021 at 09:35 PM