

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."  
**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

## **An Open Letter to My Mom**

Dear Momma,

It's been almost 3 years since you were called away from us. You know how hard it was for me to say goodbye. You prepared us for that day, but no amount of reason could stop that pain.

For 40 years, I was granted the ever-bearing presence of your love. Never did you get angry with my smart whetted ways. You fostered that part of me that wanted to challenge the status quo and taught me how to use it to grow. When no one else understood why I needed to stand, you always stood with me, even though sometimes, I know you didn't even know why. You were my whispered cheer always.

I watched you give so much to people that didn't deserve your effort or energy. Never complaining even when you grew tired and empty. From you I learned to be unwavering, the values of service and dedication to a cause. I will always be thankful that I am your daughter.

Most people had no clue that you suffered daily, struggling with mental illness. You always had your faith out front of your problems. In the last days, you stayed deep in prayer and in faith. Wanting no more than just to be reminded of God's grace. You passed with a peaceful calmness.

In loving Memory your baby girl,

Zinnia Hubbard  
United Missionary Baptist Church of Kansas City  
Reverend James M. Jones, Pastor