



Sandra Lee Hammonds

February 10, 1947 - July 21, 2025

Sandra “Sandy” Lee Hammonds, 78, of La Plata, Maryland, passed away peacefully on July 21, 2025, at home surrounded by her family.

Born February 10, 1947, to the late John Payne and Dorothy Jones, Sandy was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Donald Hammonds, and her sister, Pamela McMinn. She is survived by her devoted daughters, Dawn Hammonds (Tommy) and Heather Rowe (Keith), and her four cherished grandsons, Brandon, Austin, Nathan, and Colton, who lovingly knew her as “Gummy.” They were her pride and joy.

Sandy, affectionately known to many as “Grandma,” spent more than 40 years working at Marie’s Diner in La Plata, where she formed countless friendships and touched many lives with her kindness and warm spirit. Beyond her work, Sandy’s greatest joy was her family. She poured her heart into raising her daughters and grandsons and took immense pride in being present for every milestone in their lives.

A caregiver at heart, Sandy’s compassion extended beyond her family to anyone in need. She especially loved her trips to Chincoteague Island, where she found peace and joy.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, July 31, 2025, from 5 to 8 p.m. at

Raymond Funeral Home in La Plata.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of the Chesapeake or the American Diabetes Association in her honor.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 31. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Raymond Funeral Chapel
5635 Washington Ave.
La Plata, MD
business.office@raymondfuneral.com
<http://www.raymondfuneralservice.com>

Funeral Service

JUL 31. 7:00 PM (ET)

Raymond Funeral Chapel
5635 Washington Ave.
La Plata, MD
business.office@raymondfuneral.com
<http://www.raymondfuneralservice.com>

Tribute Wall

DI

“ *Such a loss to the community. She was awesome. I remember once that she chased away a thief one early morning. Everyone loved Grandma. My condolences go out to her extended family.*

Diana - August 17, 2025 at 12:09 PM

PJ

“ *Beautiful thoughts and prayers to her daughters , husbands and four grandboys. I always called her ms Hammonds and have known her for years ! She would always tell me "I love you baby " and give me a hug whenever I saw her. Just a beautiful person ! And yes she loved those grandboys, so proud of them . Girls sorry I missed the service , just finding out now. I saw your mom last not too long ago at Marie's. She was just a wonderful lady and I was glad to know her Pam (Safeway)*

pam james - August 13, 2025 at 08:59 PM

SN

“ *I'm so sorry to hear this. I worked with Grandma at Marie's. She was a fireball! Kept up with her "grandkids" (fellow servers) like the amazing woman she was. Her tenacity was amazing. She will be dearly missed I know especially at Marie's. Much love and prayers*



Shannon Nolan - August 04, 2025 at 12:58 PM

GS

“ Grandma was a very sweet and pleasant lady. She always had my side hurting laughing at some of the things she would say. I will miss going in there now and not seeing her beautiful smile greeting me. Rest in Peace Grandma, you will be miss by all. ❤️💕💕💕💕💕💕💕💕



Gail Savoy

Gail Savoy - July 31, 2025 at 04:31 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sandra Lee Hammonds.



July 30, 2025 at 10:05 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sandra Lee Hammonds.

July 30, 2025 at 10:05 AM

JF

“ Jim & Paula Welsh & Family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Sandra Lee Hammonds.



Jim & Paula Welsh & Family - July 30, 2025 at 07:07 AM

JA

“ *She was a nice lady. She used to come into Burger King alot.*

Jason Allison - July 25, 2025 at 12:16 PM

AL

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Sandy's passing. She was a wonderful neighbor and I enjoyed our chats. I will really miss her laugh and fierce hugs.*

April Lahoud - July 25, 2025 at 12:04 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sandra Lee Hammonds.*



July 25, 2025 at 09:26 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sandra Lee Hammonds.*

July 25, 2025 at 09:26 AM

UN

“ *I worked at maries diner for a little over a year and I would like to say that grandma always treated me like a grand baby of her own and she might not have been always sunshine and roses but grandma loved everybody. Always made me glad to talk to her. Rest in peace.*



Unknown - July 25, 2025 at 12:16 AM

TJ

“ Is there an organization that Sandy and the family would appreciate in leu of flowers.?”

Teresa jones - July 24, 2025 at 06:20 PM

DC

Hospice of the Chesapeake or the American Diabetes Association

Debbie Campbell - July 24, 2025 at 07:18 PM

TJ

“ Sweet Sandy with that million dollar smile and infectious laugh. I never heard her say an unkind word. I came to know Sandy as a “classroom/PTA mom” when my daughters (especially my youngest daughter Cindy) went to Mitchell Elem. and we worked on several activities. However, she was just as gracious to my other daughter Mande, who was one year older. Sandy was a bright light in the lives of anyone who knew her (not to mention the thousands of patrons she served at Marie’s Diner.) After not seeing her for a few months, we thought she had retired. Truly she is has finally ‘retired in heaven’ where husband welcomed her with open arms.



Teresa Jones - July 24, 2025 at 06:15 PM

HR

Mrs. Jones – this is Heather, one of Sandy’s daughters. My heart sank (in a good way) when I saw your comment, and I wanted to share why. Over the past couple of months, my sister Dawn and I were blessed to care for Momma at home. One evening, just a few weeks ago, we were sitting in the living room talking, and out of nowhere she said, “I wonder how Teresa is doing?”

We were caught off guard and asked, “Who?” She said, “You know, the one with the two girls who lives in the brick house on the corner.” We said, “Oh, Cindy and Mande’s mom?” and she smiled and said, “Yes. I always enjoyed doing things with her at the school.”

I thought you would appreciate that, during her darkest time after all these years she thought of you. Thank you for your condolences we appreciate them more than you know. These messages are getting us girls through these dark days. Xoxo

Heather Rowe - July 24, 2025 at 07:30 PM

RM

We met your mom at Marie's. I thought she had a lot of grand children. Lol we came to love her and always waited so we could see her for breakfast. Rick and Vicky Middleton. When she was going to Disney world my husband made so to give her an extra tip fz her trip. We will miss seeing her.

Rick and Vicky Middleton - July 24, 2025 at 08:23 PM

HR

lol that’s definitely something Momma would do. She had 4 grandsons which she helped raise and absolutely adored. They are all so heartbroken as we all are. Thanks for the sweet memories, they are what is getting us through right now.

Heather Rowe - July 24, 2025 at 09:44 PM

AP

Twig and I were heartbroken to learn of "Grandma" Sandy's passing. She was a special lady, & always had a smile and a kind word for those who crossed her path. We loved her sense of humor--something that's extremely rare to find lately. Several times during the height of the Covid shutdowns, we would call each other & just chat to break up the monotony. I felt honored that she shared some of her childhood memories with me. We will sorely miss her. She was truly one of a kind.

Anna Peck - July 26, 2025 at 10:25 PM

SM

I'm truly sorry Sandy passed without me getting to see her one more time. Sandy was a wonderful person and a spit fire! Her and I went to Suitland high together, she was always trying to tease me that she was going to beat me up. I knew she didn't mean it, when I saw her later on in years at Marie's I was so happy to be reunited with her, we always waited for her only to serve us.

We live in SC now and when we came to MD on two occasions we went to Marie's we asked about her but no one would say I assumed she retired. I will miss that laugh, smile and personality of hers. God has gained an angel. Rest my dear friend until we meet again. Sandy Giovannetti Murray

Sandy Giovannetti Murray - August 28, 2025 at 01:37 PM

LG

“ She was always someone I would love too see there, she would just speak her mind and everyone would listen, Marie's will never be the same, RIP "GRANDMA "

Linda Gordon - July 24, 2025 at 05:14 PM

NM

“ My Gummy is truly one of the most genuine kind hearted person I've ever met. There is absolutely nothing she wouldn't do for me and my family, the community she lived with or anybody in general. The time me and my brother, cousins got to spend with her everyday during our summers was priceless and I will never forget it. She was the funniest person ever and never failed to make me smile, she was also one of the toughest person I've met. There was never not a time I would call her and she'd be on her way to our house to visit us. I love my Gummy with all my heart and I will never not miss her.

Nathan Mcalwee - July 24, 2025 at 05:09 PM

SP

“ Sharon P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sandra Lee Hammonds.

Sharon P. - July 24, 2025 at 04:16 PM

CP

“ On behalf of Bill Parent, a resident at The Maples, he extends his condolences to your family. Sandy often brought him chicken dinners to the Maples to brighten his evening. Prayers for her and your family.

Carrie T. Parent - July 24, 2025 at 02:42 PM

KW

“ When my family came to Marie's we made sure she was our waitress. My heart broke when she lost her husband. When I lost mine, my daughter and I still came to Marie's and life moved on. She was a bright light to Charles County.

Kathryn Wilkerson - July 24, 2025 at 02:14 PM

CR

“Gummy was the biggest part of my life. The memories of staying over night in her house while watching game shows and Harry Potter as well as taking me to the store and letting me pick out whatever I want, will stay with me forever. I don't think there could be a more compassionate and caring person like gummy. Gummy was always there for me and her other grandsons, she would go out of her way to do anything for me. Truly from the bottom of my heart I love you gummy. And until we meet again.💕💕💕💕💕💕

Colton Rowe - July 24, 2025 at 09:50 AM

KT

I'm very sorry for your loss Colton. I'm Bailey's aunt that used to talk to you at the bus stop. Please tell your mom that I'm really sorry to hear of Sandy's passing. I timber little Travis calling her Grandma Sandy. Hugs.

Kimberly Tate - July 24, 2025 at 02:52 PM

SB

Sandy was such a bright light. I first met Sandy in 1974 when she worked at the Waldorf Restaurant. We met again when I married her neighbor, Steve Bowie. She was always so kind, loving and she made you feel special. She worked hard with all of her energy giving 100%. I have missed seeing her over the past year. My deepest condolences to her beautiful family whom she loved so very much. May Precious Memories comfort you one and all.
Sharon Bowie

Sharon P Bowie - July 24, 2025 at 03:58 PM

GS

We come to Marie's occasionally to meet up with my oldest brother. I bring my 60 year old Down's Syndrome sister in a wheel chair. Sandy always came over to her and said "Give old Grandma a hug." She would hug and kiss my sister. It made my sister's day! She truly appeared to be a kindhearted, caring soul! God Bless her family! May you feel the comfort of God's love during this most difficult time. 🙏💜

Gina Shue - July 24, 2025 at 04:15 PM

BR

“Gummy has and always will leave a permanent mark on my heart. From spending every day of my summer breaks away from school with her, to spending the night at her place once a week, the time I got with her will never be enough. Gummy was the sweetest most caring and reliable person to ever walk this earth, if you needed her, she was there. Words cannot describe how it feels to not be able to have her randomly call me throughout the day to check up on my brother and I. I will never forget her and the everlasting memories that we made together while she was here on earth. Thank you for everything Gummy, and until we meet again. ❤️

Brandon Rowe - July 24, 2025 at 09:33 AM

ML

“Grandma, as I knew her, lit up my weekend mornings at Marie's Diner. Her quick wit and sassy come backs would have me laughing my head off. I so looked forward to seeing her on the weekends. She is loved and will be missed dearly. Rest in Heaven, Grandma. ❤️ Love, Marsha Lee



Marsha Lee - July 23, 2025 at 05:26 PM