

*Celebration of Life for*  
***Charles Ellis Henley, Sr.***

SUNRISE

*November 8, 1935*

SUNSET

*April 16, 2011*



*Thursday, April 21, 2011 10:00 a.m.*

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

*Reverend Henry Lou Brown, Officiating*

## Obituary

**Charles Ellis Henley, Sr.** was born to the late Ernest and Harriet Henley on November 8, 1935 in Augusta, Georgia. He departed this life on Saturday, April 16, 2011 following a lingering illness.

“Charlie” or “Char-less” as he was fondly called, attended CT Walker and Lucy Laney Schools in Augusta, Georgia. He attended Jerusalem Baptist Church and was baptized at an early age.

He was married to Shirley Jackson for nearly twenty years and to this union four children were born.

In 1987, he remarried Bonnie Donahue and another daughter was born to this union.

Charlie was employed by Somers Plastic Company in New Jersey where he worked for many years. After developing his trade in Carpentry, he then began his own contracting business named “Duratile” until his retirement.

As a child, Charlie was always fascinated by music and playing the saxophone. Once he arrived to New York, he attended The New York School of Music where he honed his skill of playing the saxophone. From his extensive training, he then organized and started a band which was called “The Landlord and Tenants”, landing notable gigs in Harlem at Smalls Paradise, The Cotton Club, The Audubon Ballroom and the Lenox Lounge, just to name a few.

Some of his most memorable engagements were being the opening act for music legend, the late great Sam Cooke, and performing with soul legend, King Curtis. Charlie also performed with Roberta Flack and blues legend, B.B. King.

One of the highlights of his band’s career was playing at the political reception for New York City’s own Mayor, John Lindsay.

Charlie was very loved and adored throughout the Harlem Community as well as in the Bronx where he lived for over forty-five years.

His love for his children was endless. Charlie was always there for his children and grandchildren and would support them unconditionally. He was a strong believer in family unity and wanting the family to be there for one another. His bond with his siblings, Ola and Ernest was immeasurable and extremely strong and admired.

He leaves to cherish his memories: his children, Valerie Henley McDonald, Bronx, NY, Deborah Ann Henley Robinson who preceded him in death, Charles E. Henley, Jr. and daughter-in-law, Shay Henley, Laurelton, NY, Dawn Henley-Warren and son-in-law, Chad Warren, Long Island, NY, Ivy Henley, Bronx, NY, Qwen Henley, Augusta GA, Michael Muse, Washington, D.C. and Tiana Fenmore and son-in-law, Dr. Brian Fenmore, Tarzana, CA; two sisters, Ola Henley Carr, Bronx, NY and brothers-in-law, Marion Carr of Augusta, GA and Manuel Pedrosa, Bronx, NY who preceded him in death; Ella Henley Evans and brother-in-law, Robert Evans who preceded him in death; one brother, Ernest “Bubbah” Henley and sister-in-law, Margaret Henley, Atlanta, GA; special cousins, Robert Henley, Bronx, NY and Frank Childs, Augusta, GA and a special and very good friend to the family, Minister (“Lucky”) Mary Wilder; twenty-one grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

God Bless you and Good-bye Dear Father, son, grandfather, brother and friend.  
Until we meet again. Rest in Peace.

~ Lovingly submitted, The Family ~

# Order of Service

ORGAN PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL .....Minister/Family

THE WORD READ.....Rev. Henry Lou Brown  
*Saint Stevens Baptist Church  
New York, NY*

OLD TESTAMENT – Psalm 23

NEW TESTAMENT – John 14: 1-7

PRAYER OF COMFORT ..... (*Nephew*) Minister Darren Carr

SOLO.....(*Sister*) Ola Carr

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

& CONDOLENCES ..... (*Niece*) Nicole Burrell

OBITUARY.....(*Grandson*) Jordan Henley

SAXOPHONE SOLO ..... Saxophonist Keith Marriett

THE FAMILY TRIBUTE ..... (*Daughter-in-law*) Shay Henley

SOLO.....(*Son*) Michael Muse

EULOGY ..... Rev. Henry Lou Brown  
*Saint Stevens Baptist Church  
New York, NY*

BENEDICTION ..... Morticians in Charge

THE RECESSIONAL

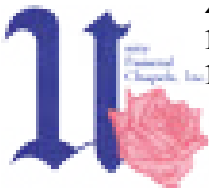
**Interment**  
Nassau Knolls Cemetery  
Port Washington, New York



### *Acknowledgement*

With graceful hearts the family of the late **Charles E. Henley, Sr.** wishes to express their sincere gratitude and thanks to their many relatives and friends for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.

*May God bless and keep each and every one of you.*



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*Clifford V. James, V.P. & Gen. Mgr.*

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