



Home Going Celebration for

Willa Jean Little

Sunrise

October 13, 1940

Sunset

May 3, 2013

Service

Thursday, May 9, 2013 - 6:00 p.m.

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH

515 West 125th Street • New York, NY

Obituary

Willa Jean Little, affectionately called “Willa” or “Jean” by family and friends who loved her, was born to the late Artie and Willie Rainey on October 13, 1940 in Cordele, Georgia, where she was educated, and began her beautiful family. She later moved to New York City where she met, and fell in love with her soul mate, James William Little. They were united in Holy Matrimony at Antioch Baptist Church, where they are both members. Willa served in the capacity of a choir member until her health began to fail.

Willa was gainfully employed by The New York City Police Department until her retirement. All who knew and loved Willa can honestly say that she was blessed with a gift. These are in fact, her exact words: I am not the weeping Willa!!!! And she definitely was NOT!!!! Willa’s personality should’ve landed her on many stages. Her wit was second to none. Anyone in her presence longer than 30 minutes would leave laughing, sometimes until they cried. Willa loved to cook, and was an extremely good cook. She cooked for her family and their friends constantly. Willa would get out of her sick bed to cook for those in need. Willa kept an impeccable home, and she had great style and creativity for interior design.

Willa was a loving mother, wife, sister and friend. She was a mother who loved all of her children with all of her heart. However, John Lowe, her baby, held a special place in her heart. No matter what, she loved him to the 10th power... and I quote, say it with me if you know it: Because John Lowe, would never do what you do!!!! Willa also loved Bobby Womack, and if by chance you got off of the elevator on the 16th floor, you could hear Willa singing with Bobby many a days. Willa’s ability to make you laugh in the midst of any storm was God-given. She could make you laugh without even trying, and she passed this gift on to all of her children. They too possess the gift of wit. She was a woman who turned frowns into smiles. She was encouraging and empowering. She would lend an ear to anyone who needed to talk.

Willa had a Christian heart that was caring and concerned. Willa was the epitome of strength. Her faith allowed her to weather storms without complaining. Now let’s talk about her. Willa gave advice to many people around that kitchen table in 16I... Many people! Her casual and meek way of minimizing challenges and obstacles of others, enabling them to overcome and/or forge on, proved to be one of her many unique qualities. We will all remember her colorful stories, her laughter, her quick wit and her smile. She is probably looking down on all of us right now, smiling and saying look at Ruthie always crying, look at Pokey, just rocking, and Peanut shaking his head, Trinda just smiling, and look at my John Lowe, you will be fine my youngest son. To all of my children, I love you all endlessly, and remember I am always in your heart.

Willa leaves to cherish her memory: her devoted and loving husband, James William Little; her children, Trinda, Robert (Peanut), Jennifer (Pokey), Ruthie, John, Theresa, William and Eric; her grandchildren, Wakiya, Keith, John, Jr. Tyesha, Brittany, Tyneg, Tyree, J’Nean and Joshua; her great-grandchildren, Keira, Keith, III, Lameir and Ameirr; her sisters, Oassie Louise Ivanson from Brooklyn, NY, Betty Rainey from New York City and Dotheria Hopkins, of Jacksonville, Florida; her brothers, Thomas and James from Cordele, Georgia; two sons-in-law, Maurice D. James (Jennifer) and Gerard Tuitt (Ruthie); her sister-in-law, Patricia Ann; and two brothers-in-law, Richard and Rufus Little of North Carolina; her great aunt, Louise from Detroit, Michigan; and a host of cousins, family and friends who love her and will surely miss her.

Order of Service

Processional

Prelude

Prayer of Comfort Rev. Dr. LaKeesha Walrond

Scripture ReadingDeacon Laverne Williams

Old Testament: Psalms 23

New Testament: John 14: 1-6

Musical Selection..... J'Neen Tuitt

Reflections

Obituary Sabrina Dore

Musical SelectionDante Hawkins

EulogyRev. Hiram Ratliff

Benediction and Recessional

Interment

Friday, May 10, 2013

Leaving from Antioch Baptist Church at 10:00 A.M.

Maple Grove Cemetery

Hackensack, New Jersey

Repast:

Friday, May 10, 2013

Immediately after Burial

1309 Fifth Avenue – Community Room

110th on Fifth Avenue

You, My Wife, My Treasure

I had walked through life with nothing until you, until you I knew no pleasure. And then one day God sent you to me, to the eye so beautiful, you, my wife, my treasure. A gift from God, a gift so fine that you can never be measured. A love so fine, so sweet, so kind, it's you my love, you, my wife, my treasure. I promise to hug and kiss and hold you each day. I promise a love with devotion that will never ever fade away. I promise and swear to God above To show you nothing but my pure love. I will admire the blessing of your boundless love, Because I know that you are a true gift from Heaven Above. I will not hurt you with my frustrations, I will hold you close and kiss you with loving admiration. I will always appreciate your commitment to me, Give me a chance for can't you see. This is not a game of chance that we play It is true love that I swear is committed to stay. You say that at times you are afraid This one I can find no rhyme so let me be clear, I will, Love you endlessly Devote my life to making you happy Admire you each day for the person you are Take interest in the things that you like to do Admire your beauty daily in awe and reflect it back to you Be attentive to you and you needs Be forgiving Listen to you with never a harsh word in return (I swear it and pray for it in Gods name) Show you by my actions that I love you Be more open and fun to you, your family & friends Never go to bed without you Rub you, kiss you, bathe you, lift you up or what ever it takes when you are feeling down. I will Kiss you and love you all that I possibly can, And don't be embarrassed to be seen holding my hand. I will treasure each day as if it were our last, And at the end of your life you won't regret me being your past. You are the sunshine in my morning and like a the bird I will sing you a song I know that in this life when I am troubled through God it's you who keeps me strong. You are the mother of my children and the air that gives me life. My truest friend of all, my heart, my soul, my wife. I love you very much, you are all that is good in this world

You will always be alive to me, Your Husband Jimmy

Acknowledgement

The family of **Madame Willa Jean Little** wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness during their time of bereavement. May God abundantly bless and keep you. We are grateful.

Please join us immediately after service for dinner in the Dining Hall.

2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300

1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY • (718) 774-1023

1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833

Clifford V. James, President & CEO

www.unityfuneralchapels.com

email: unityfc@aol.com

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