

Celebration of Life for

Donita Walker-Opiyo

Sunrise

October 31, 1964

Sunset

December 28, 2013



Obituary

Donita Felisha Walker-Opiyo was born on October 31, 1964 to Willie George Butler and the late Jacqueline Walker in Newark, NJ. Although Newark remained her home, Donita resided in Hillside, NJ, Upstate NY and Maryland.

Donita graduated from Hillside High School in 1982 and went on to receive a Bachelors of Science degree in Psychology from Ramapo College in Mahwah, NJ. Along with over twenty-five years of Social Work experience, Donita was currently a student at Rutgers University studying for a Masters degree in Social Work. Donita was born a social worker and truly devoted her life to helping others. Her talents were boundless, and while employed at Ramapo College she wrote The Partnership for Progress grant to help inner city youth aspire towards obtaining a college degree. This was Donita's first grant which embodied her passion for education and community service. Her successes as a grant writer led to the establishment of her first company, NJUEC, where she successfully wrote and secured funds for several organizations throughout the state dedicated to servicing the youth of New Jersey. Donita participated in multiple community service initiatives, boards, and professional associations to include the Martin Luther King Commemorative Commission, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Ramapo College of New Jersey Alumni Board of Directors, and she was an avid volunteer at the Essex County Detention Center Youth House. Young adults and youth were her pride and joy, and Donita patiently counseled and listened to the future generation encouraging their every step toward a successful future.

To know Donita was to remember her, and without a doubt she left a strong impression on anyone she encountered. Even as a child, she loved helping and directing others with her stern yet loving guidance, and you could always sense her true sincerity. Donita was a very spiritual person who believed in others and personified the belief "if you do good in the world, it would spread to others." Her lively spirit left an impression on everyone she encountered and all were honored to be her friend. To Donita everyone was a dear friend and she called each of us her "beloved". Donita was a beloved wife, daughter, sister, aunt, cousin, and friend. Many adored her vibrant personality and infectious wit. She remains abundantly loved and will be truly missed by all who knew her and cherished the gift of having her in their lives. Donita's spirit will live on in the lives of all of those whom she touched.

Left to cherish her memory is her devoted husband Robert Opiyo, two sisters Lynn W. Idehen and La'Verne Walker, her nephew Meshech Walker, two nieces Najalyn and Shaniah Idehen; grandmother Ruth Walker, other sisters Devereau (Meko) Racasi, Kendra Wilson, brothers Anthony Bass and DeAndre Butler, and aunts Gaynell Walker Burt, Patricia Coleman, Ruth Stay, and the late Gevendolyn Strong as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who loved her assiduously and unconditionally.

"WE REST IN FAITH AND WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH DONITA."

Service

Saturday, January 11, 2014 - 10:00 a.m.

Cotton Funeral Service

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, New Jersey

Order of Service

Processional

Spiritual Remembrance Reverend Martin

Prayer Dance Prayer Dancer

Reading of Obituary Najalyn Idehen

Song Selection Najalyn Idehen

Eulogy Gioya McRae

Musical Selection Valerie Boseman

Closing Prayer Reverend Martin

Recessional "Amazing Grace"

Burial

Rosehill Cemetery
792 E. Edgar Rd.
Linden, New Jersey 07036

Repast

Immediately Following Burial 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Avenue A Club
58 Avenue A
Newark, NJ 07114

Serenity Prayer

*GOD, grant me the Serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can, and the
Wisdom to know the difference.*

Living one day at a time;

Enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.

*Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it. Trusting that He will make all things
right if I surrender to His Will;*

*That I may be reasonably happy in this life, and
supremely happy with Him forever in the next.*

Amen

-Author unknown

Acknowledgement

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.

Perhaps you sent a floral piece If so, we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.

Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.

Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You, Whatever the part.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

130 Main Street

Orange, NJ

973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street

Newark, NJ

973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME

37 Clinton Avenue

Jersey City, NJ

201-433-1000

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