

*In Loving Memory  
of*



*Pamela A. Bates*

*August 13, 1942 - March 14, 2014*

Service

Tuesday, March 25, 2014 - 6:00 p.m.

**LAGREE BAPTIST CHURCH**

362 West 125th Street • New York, NY

*Minister James Clemens*

## *Obituary*

**Pamela Adrina Childs-Bates**, was born on August 13, 1942, at the Sydenham Hospital. Her parents were Deacon Samuel and Deaconess Marion Childs, of the Mount Olivet Baptist Church, on Lenox Avenue.

Pam, as she was fondly called by her family was to have three sisters and a brother. Geraldine and Phyllis were older, Leslie was her younger brother and younger sister, Dawn. The family lived at 540-Manhattan Avenue when she was born. Pam lived for a period of time in Detroit, Michigan until she was around fifteen years old because of chronic childhood asthma. When she returned she declared she was now an Episcopalian.

Pamela attended the William Howard Taft Senior High School, Bronx NY. She was a cheerleader, a Girl Scout, and a promising violinist. To her, her real talents were singing, dancing, making friends and having fun! Upon graduating high school, she had a job working for Schraffts Restaurant and then she worked as a Floor Lady at Blumstein on 125th Street. In May of 1961, Pamela was joined in marriage at the Mount Olivet Baptist Church to Robert Moses Bates. From this union three children were born: Devon R. Bates, Chaundra M. Bates-Milner and Benjamin R. Bates. Pamela became a noted and popular mixologist at the former Club Baby Grand on 125th Street in Harlem and the Spotlight on 8th Avenue. She enjoyed this career for over eighteen years and when she could no longer walk without the aid of two canes or a walker, she looked in another direction. Pamela enrolled in a college program for home bound students. Getting her Associates degree from Queensborough Community College. She continued on maintaining her 3.0 average, and achieved her Bachelors degree in Political Science and membership in Alpha Beta Gamma upon graduation from Queens College. She was now in a wheelchair and fifty-nine years old.

Pamela suffered from an inherited degenerative muscle and bone disease and various other ailments. Throughout her life, Pamela was always a generous person, it seemed that since she had so much trouble getting her landlord to install a wheelchair ramp at the entrance of her building, places she enjoyed going as a mobile person at that time were now off limits. The struggle was on. Pamela fought for her own independence and mobility at her building, and won. Next stop for her...the world! That is Pamela's story. Pamela became an advocate and fighter for fellow-disabled Americans. No distance was ever too far, no weather was ever too cold or hot, no matter the circumstances, Pamela was out making it happen.

Pamela Bates was called home Friday, March 14, 2014 after a two month struggle at the Mount Sinai Hospital, NYC. She was sedated, but when she would awaken, she wanted to know when she could go home she had meetings that she was missing, and people were relying on her. However, she was so sick it was not to be. Pam was a fighter to the end, and while the doctors said one thing, her fighting heart said another. It took our heavenly Father to make the decision... come home Pam, come home good and faithful servant, they love you Pam, but! God loves you best!

Pamela is survived by: her Fiance, Aurturo Hoyt; a son, Devon Bates; daughter, Chaundra Bates-Milner; youngest son, Benjamin (deceased); sister, Dawn Childs-Cullum. She also has eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, six nephews and nieces; and a host of extended family and friends.

# *Order of Service*

*Rev. Shamba S. Elijah*

Prelude

Invocation

Congregational Hymn  
*"Amazing Grace"*

Scripture Readings  
Old Testament  
New Testament  
*Elder Donald Coleman*

Prayer of Comfort

Solo  
*Rita Allen Coleman*

Acknowledgements

Reflections (3 minutes)

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Final Glance

Benediction

## **Interment**

Sand Hill Cemetery  
Bushkill, PA

*Grieve not...  
nor speak of me  
with tears...  
but laugh  
and talk of me  
as though I were  
beside you.  
I loved you so...  
'twas Heaven  
here with you.*

### *Acknowledgement*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

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*Clifford V. James, President & CEO*

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