

In Loving Memory of



Mrs. Cassandra Eileen Loftin-West

Sunrise

December 17, 1959

Sunset

April 6, 2014

Service

Thursday, April 10, 2014 - 10:00 a.m.

ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH

132 Odell Clark Place • New York, NY

Obituary

Cassandra Eileen Loftin-West, was born prematurely on December 17, 1959 to Mable and Floyd Loftin at Harlem Hospital. Cassandra grew up right across the street from Abyssinian Baptist Church at 125 West 138th Street. You can say she was born and raised in the church because it's true. Cassandra sang in the choir, was a member and president of the youth council and many members of Abyssinian loved, accepted and trusted her with whatever they needed to get done. She was reliable and loved this church dearly, especially her favorite Minister Rev. Calvin O. Butts III. Cassandra was born to the church, baptized here, married here and had her husband and children baptized here.

Cassandra attended P.S. 100, I.S. 136 and Louis D. Brandeis High School from which she graduated. Cassandra enrolled in Collegiate Business Institute and received an Associate's Degree in Accounting. Cassandra worked at Community Life Headstart as a teacher for several years and then later moved on to Harlem Hospital Center where she worked for many years as a clerical associate and then later as an Executive Assistant.

Cassandra met the love of her life, Melrose West at Louis D. Brandeis High School. They began a courtship and love affair that lasted forever. They were married December 11, 1982 here at Abyssinian by Rev. Butts. This marriage lasted for thirty-one years and they were side by side for thirty-seven years. In 1985, Cassandra and her husband welcomed their first child, a daughter, Nzingha Zuhura West and in 1991, they welcomed a son, Bashiri Melrose West.

Cassandra traveled the world. She went to Africa, Europe, Greece, Egypt, Israel and the Caribbean. On her trip, she even met heads of state.

Cassandra was full of life and ideas. She loved to sing, draw, paint and crochet. She loved designing and creating jewelry. She played the piano. She loved all things artistic. She was a true bohemian. Cassandra was also a self-made expert on computers, mastering the complexities of computer programming all by herself.

Most of all, Cassandra liked to style herself. She was known to be adorned in gold, silver and diamonds and dressed well all the time. She was always evolving and trying to improve herself and those around her.

Cassandra was called home and given to the care of the Lord on March 30th 2014.

She leaves behind: her loving and devoted husband of thirty-one years, Melrose West; her daughter, Nzingha West; son, Bashiri West; two sisters, Margana Loftin Skeeter and Ruth Loftin Brown; brother-in-law, Burke Skeeter; niece and nephews, Brittany, William and Troy Walker who she raised as her own and they called her mother; nephews, Omari Wilson and Joshua Skeeter; as well as a godson, Trayvon Jones all of NYC. She leaves a host of cousins, aunts and uncles who she loved and cared about with all her heart.

Cassandra was a devoted wife, mother, aunt, daughter, sister, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, cousin, niece and friend.

Cassandra my love, you will always be missed and my love for you will never end.

Your loving friends and family.

Order of Service

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

Ministers • Officers • Family

INVOCATION

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

#430 "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old testament - Psalm 23

New Testament - John 14:1-6

PRAYER OF COMFORT

SOLO

Claudine Rucker

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, TRIBUTES AND RESOLUTIONS

THE OBITUARY

Read Silently

SOLO

Claudine Rucker

EULOGY

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

Interment

Forest Green Memorial Park Cemetery
Morganville, New Jersey

I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day.
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks undone must stay that way,
I found that peace at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it up with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much.
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free!*

-author unknown

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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