

In Loving Memory of



Thalia Esther Harris

Sunrise
October 10, 1930

Sunset
May 11, 2014

Sunday, May 18, 2014 -6:00 p.m.

WOODY "HOME FOR SERVICES"

163 Oakwood Avenue
Orange, New Jersey 07050

Cheryll Heggins, Officiating
Robert McBride, Organist

Obituary

Thalia was born October 10, 1930 in Newark, New Jersey to the late Thomas and Eva Benbow. She was the eldest of three girls.

Thalia was raised in Nutley, NJ, where she was part a of a small, cohesive and supportive African-American community.

As a teenager, she attended Bordentown Manual Training High School in Bordentown, NJ. During her academic years while attending this all Black boarding school, Thalia studied Personal Development. She was also introduced to African-American history, a subject totally remiss in the 1940's. Upon high school graduation, the quiet tree lined streets of Nutley did not provide enough excitement for Thalia's adventurous spirit, so she headed for the bright lights of New York City.

Thalia affectionately known as "Tee", embraced the history, culture and nightlife of Harlem. Family and friends always knew Tee had an open door policy and they all shared many good times in her home.

Thalia engaged in wedded bliss four times and her marriages resulted in the birth of six adorable and talented children. Her friends lovingly called her "Liz Taylor".

Cancer did not cease this special lady's spirit. She was a warrior and won the battle of cancer for fifty years. She was also known as MS. Timex, "Take a Licking and Keeps on Ticking".

Thalia remained flip and fly, wearing high heels to clean her house and cruising in her Caddy, Benz or Sporty PT Cruiser. Nothing stopped this superwoman! When many were planning retirement, she returned to work at sixty years old as an employment specialist, at the State of Jersey 55 Work Force, assisting seniors fifty-five and over in gaining employment.

In recent years, she enjoyed relaxing at home watching her 60" flat screen TV or listening to gospel music. Two of her favorite artists were The William Brothers and Shirley Caesar. Her favorite gospel song was "No Charge".

Thalia was a kind and caring person, sharing her love and sense of humor. She was like a mother to many of her children's friends. She was always giving something to someone whether it were encouraging words or her next to last \$20.

Mama Tee's signature potato salad with olives was always expected at all the family gatherings as was her scrumptious yams and famous oxtails. We will miss Thalia's fixins, but more so her Loving Spirit.

Thalia is preceded in death by two of her children, Leroy Sears and Kim Harris; her sister, Beulah Wiggins. She leaves to cherish her memories: daughters, Sandra Bartlett and Patricia Ballew (Ron); sons, Earl and Eric Harris (Leslie); sister, Elsie McCray; sister-in-law, Ethel Bartlett; grandchildren, Scott DeWees, Chamell Shomo, Thalia Marie Harris, Bryce and Ambur Ballew; great grandchildren, Sania, Ja-Merie and Alonzo Shomo, Emiya Patrecio and Scott Aquiala DeWees. Also affectionately known as family nieces, Judith Revis and Cheryl Heggins and a host of Loving Family and Friends.

Order of Service

Musical Selection *Charisa*
The Violin Diva

Scripture - Psalm 23 *Cheryll Heggins*

Prayer of Comfort *Spencer Heggins*

Musical Selection *Eric Harris*

Reflections

Obituary *Muzette Charles*

Musical Selection *Earl Harris*

Eulogy *Corey Heggins*



Thalia's Tribute



Cremation
Private

Miss Me, But Let Me Go

When I come to the end of the road and the sun has set for me, I want no rites in a gloom filled room, why cry for a soul set free? Miss me a little-but not too long, and not with your head bowed low. Remember the love that we once shared, Miss me-but let me go. For this is a journey that we all must take, and each must go alone. It's all part of the Master's plan, A step on the road to home. When you are lonely and sick at heart, Go to the friends we know. Laugh at the things we use to do Miss me-but let me go.

-author unknown

She fought a good battle, tried with all her might, But sadly it was her time to go toward the light, Tenderly and with all his love, God took her by the hand, Gently guiding her footsteps steps off to a new land, God knows your hearts are heavy, you are filled with sorrow, But She is with the Master now, embarking on a new tomorrow. Be grateful for all the good times you had together, Through the bright sunshine and the storms you had to weather, Do not cry, Loved Ones, wipe away those wrenching tears Cherish and remember what you had all those wonderful years Remember her laughter, her smile remember all the love she shared Think about how much she loved her family, yes she really cared When God tiptoed in her room, sat down on her bed With the voices of the angles he smiled at her and said, ' I know they love you Thalia but right now God knows best Come home with me, beloved, It's time to take your rest.' So when we step outside today glance up at the sky, Remember we will all be together again, in that great by and by.

~Hilda Mendes Williams

Acknowledgements

The family wishes to thank all who have extended loving support, spoken a kind word, or expressed an act of kindness during their time of bereavement. May God bless you all for your thoughtfulness and concern.

Professional Services Provided By

Woody "Home For Services"

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