

*In Loving Memory of*



*Joan Reese Howard*

*Sunrise*  
October 21, 1932

*Sunset*  
December 28, 2014

Service

Friday, January 9, 2015 - 10:00 a.m.

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Rev. David Jenkins, Officiating  
John Stanley, Organist

## Obituary

On Sunday, December 28, 2014, **Joan Marie Reese Howard** departed this life and entered into her eternal home. Joan was born on October 21, 1932. She was born and raised in New York City. She grew up in a vibrant household with her parents, Henry and Viola and her two younger brothers, Henry Jr. and Lewis. Joan was the last surviving member of her immediate family.

Joan was strong, smart, focused and determined. She was an independent thinker. She never followed trends. She never tried to impress anyone. She just did what she considered to be her most important task on earth and that was to take care of her family. And for certain, she never set out to intentionally hurt or harm anyone. Circumstances that would have leveled others, Joan used them as a stepping stones and 'kept it moving'. She had an uncanny ability to see the big picture. At age 19, Joan's mother suddenly died. Joan had her two younger brothers and her two young daughters, Sheila Regina and Alicia Ann. After her brothers married and left home, Joan and her two young daughters survived a devastating fire. She relocated from the Bronx to Brooklyn and soon afterwards she had two more children, Linda Viola and Calvin James.

While struggling to raise four children alone, Joan worked at Pfizer, Inc.; she worked as a quality control technician for more than 25 years. She seized upon her employment at Pfizer as a golden opportunity to improve the quality of her life. Her work ethic was unmatched. She hardly ever missed a day. She took the initiative to learn all aspects of her job. She had an acuity to focus on and pay attention to details that others often missed. She developed a keenness for finances. She abhorred debt and thus, always lived life in the black.

Joan loved her family and close friends. When she was healthy and mobile, she traveled and vacationed with her friends from Pfizer. In both pre-retirement and post-retirement, Joan spent major holidays with her family members, whether in New York, Pennsylvania or Washington, D.C.— she was always with family. She attended Graduations, Baptisms and First Holy Communions. Joan lived to see her family grow in numbers as well as grow into productive adults. She will be sorely missed and now, her family must learn to navigate in the physical world without her. Joan's family can rest assured in knowing that just as she loved them in life, they are all covered in her eternal love and protection.

Joan leaves as a legacy to cherish her memory: her children, Sheila Regina (Archie), Alicia Ann, Linda Viola (Peter) and Calvin James; grandchildren, Irving Duane, Sherice Shante, Shaun Duval, Lateik Christopher, Archie Reginald, Almira Susan, Peter Alcantara II and Ian Christopher; great grandchildren, Lateik Jr., k-Shaun, Talib, Tarriq, Keianna, Sharif, La Shanae, Tenisia, Zaira, Ny'tia, Shanne, Sieshia, Shyanne, Shareem and Shatiek. She leaves great great grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

*Order of Service*

**Processional**

**Selection**

**Scripture Readings**

*Old Testament: Wisdom 3:1-9 - Ian Davidson - Grandson*

*New Testament: 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 - Archie Ragland - Grandson*

**Prayer**

**Selection**

**Acknowledgements**

**Remarks**

**Obituary**

*Peter A. Davidson, Sr. - Son-in-law*

**Selection**

**Eulogy**

**Committal**

**Viewing**

**Recessional**

*Interment*

Fairlawn Cemetery  
Fairlawn, 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 left 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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**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](http://www.unityfuneralchapels.com)

email: [unityfc@aol.com](mailto:unityfc@aol.com)

*"Your Loved Ones Deserve The Best - Unity"*

