

*Celebration Of
Life*

Lolita Alberta Christian-Hughes

Sunrise: September 21, 1951

Sunset: June 14, 2016

Service

Friday, June 24, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.
1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, New York

Obituary

Lolita Alberta Christian-Hughes was born on September 21, 1951 in Richmond, Virginia, to parents Gladys Elizabeth Christian and John Clifford Christian. She was a bubbly and active little girl from day one.

Upon relocating to Brooklyn, New York (Bedford Stuyvesant) with her mom at the age of eight, Lolita lived a very colorful life. During her public and middle school years, she proudly twirled her baton as she marched along with her fellow members of the Carter Cadets. If you didn't find her practicing her twirls, you could probably find her rallying and organizing her cousins, Roz and Jackie and friends, Linda and Loretta, to mirror her vision of a singing group because, naturally, everyone had to sing and dance. Upon the last day of school, Lolita looked forward to spending her summer vacations in Baltimore, Maryland with her grandparents, Edna and Robert Pinkney and cousin, Barbara Matthews. During this time, she bonded and watched over her cousin, Lamar Pinkney, who had to play student while she taught the class. Every summer, her grandmother Edna made sure that all of the kids in the neighborhood were posted and waiting for her arrival. Auditions, rehearsals and class were in session no sooner than she dropped her luggage. Everyone played a part and pretty much new that this was how the summer would go, year after year, eagerly awaiting the summer to come around again. She would return in preparation for school with a host of treats and the latest 45s to share with her cousins who waited for her return in NYC. Cousin Tiny longed for her return so that she could accompany Lolita to The Apollo to catch the latest acts. Willie Lee Hughes would watch the clock as he longed to see Lolita return from summer break to hear about her adventures. They became friends in 1962.

In the midst of completing her education at Grove Cleveland High School, Lolita set out to share her gift of song with a traveling church group called Sister Thomas. It was during one of these excursions that Lolita met blood sisters, Patricia Stepney (Pat) and Mildred Reese (Mikki), who would later form the group, Lolita and The Exotics (The Exotic Three) in 1968. Lolita, Pat and Mikki performed at various venues and became staples at halls and night clubs throughout. The musical threesome was well on their way after releasing the song, "Too Too Good To be True," produced by Billy Dawn and Otis Blackwell under the label of Libra Records. Due to life alterations within the group, Lolita went solo, leading up to the moment when she received a call directly from Cousin Brucie asking that she fill in for singer, Baby Washington, at the Biltmore Theatre.

Eventually, Lolita had a desire to settle down and start a family. She married her best friend, Willie Lee Hughes on May 4, 1974. Through this union, Zita Elizabeth Hughes was born on August 1, 1974. In search of providing a solid spiritual foundation for their family, Lolita and Willie embarked on studies under the teaching aide of Carol and Glen Holland, and both were baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses on October 13, 1976. Lolita welcomed the birth of her son, Trevor Donny Ellis Hughes on August 8, 1979. Her family, ministry and service became her life, and she balanced it all. Employed as Staff Assistant to the Secretary of the State for the State of New York, twenty years as Administrator at Nasa/Hughes Communications, Inc. (PanAmSat) and more recently, Telephone Operator at Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center, Lolita was the backbone for her family. If anyone were to ask her how she did it all, she would undoubtedly say, "I could not have done any of this without Jehovah."

Over a span of forty years, Lolita was blessed to connect with many people, especially her adopted "Big Sis" Gloria Hayward, who she spoke to practically every morning. She gained spiritual family members too large to count. Where she once sang in the lime light, she now chose to sing at practically every wedding that took place within her spiritual circle. She never refused the honor to share her gift. She loved to strengthen her vocals as she practiced the newest kingdom melodies.

Despite the onset of health problems that challenged her daily, Lolita always maintained a smile on her face with laughter in her soul. She enjoyed outings and conversations with her children and family get together at "Nana's." She had the opportunity to enjoy spending every weekend with her granddaughter, Sue, for four years. Lolita enjoyed studying, laughing, playing, singing, dancing and spoiling Sue beyond measure. Sue brought joy to her heart. Lolita loved her family immensely.

Lolita succumbed to the affects of her illness on June 14, 2016. She is preceded in death by her mother and father. She is survived by: lifelong friend and father of her children, Willie Lee Hughes; daughter, Zita E. Hughes-Smith and fiancé, Juan D. Lopez; son, Trevor D.E Hughes and his daughter, Sukilie M.T. Hughes; brother, Clifford O. Christian; sisters, Gloria Hayward, Patricia Stepney, Mildred Reese, Delores Ewing and Steerie Christian; aunts, Bertha Smith, Janie Spicer and Marva Green; mother-in-law, Benzena Rice; brothers-in-law, Nathaniel Lee Cooper, Frank Lee Cooper, Ernest Jerome Rice, Jr.; Sister-in-law, Priscilla Faye Rice; cousins, Jackie Mack, Sharon Smith-Timmons, Sheila Smith, Andrea Campbell-Graziano, Vanessa, Xavier and Lydell Humphrey, Tanya Sumlar, Buddy, Jimmy, Gaye and Erica Spicer; The Christian-Clark Family, Lamar, Barbara Ann, Carrie, Janice, Leon, Lois, Renee, Stewrdrella, Trudy; and a host of other family and friends. "Lo", as she was affectionately called, is resting now. However, in her words, she would want all of us to, "Keep looking to the mountains."

Order of Service

(6-7 PM will be opening remarks from family and friends)

Opening Song..... Congregation

Opening Prayer..... Brother, Roosevelt Bell

Reading of Obituary..... Family Member

Discourse..... Brother, Roosevelt Bell

Concluding Prayer

Concluding Song..... (song printed on back of obituary)

Final viewing

Recessional.....Family and Friends

Final Disposition

Rosemount Memorial Park
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Life Without End—At Last!

**Can you see with your mind's eye,
Peoples dwelling together?
Sorrow has passed. Peace at last!
Life without tears or pain.**

**In those days old will grow young,
Flesh revived aSps in childhood.
Troubles are gone, from now on,
No need to weep or fear.
Paradise all will enjoy
As we sing of God's glory.
Long as we live, we will give
To God, our Maker, thanks.**

**Sing out with joy of heart!
You too can have a part.
Live for the day when you'll say,
“Life without end, at last!”**

***“And He will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.”
(Revelation 21:4)***

Acknowledgement

The family of **Lolita A. Christian-Hughes** wishes to acknowledge all who prayed with us throughout this difficult time, in person or in private, with our heartfelt appreciation for your expressions of sympathy. Your warmth and love will never be forgotten.

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

email: unityfc@aol.com

“Your Loved Ones Deserve The Best - Unity”

