

**Celebrating The Life
Of**

Constance Loretta Mendes

*Sunrise
December 2, 1925*

*Sunset
November 4, 2016*



Saturday, November 12, 2016- 11:00 a.m.

Calvary Baptist Church
66 South Grove Street
East Orange, New Jersey 07017
Rev. Dr. Joseph Oniyama, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Leora Liggins, Officiating
Bro. Myron Smith, Organist

Obituary

Constance (Connie) Loretta Mendes peacefully transitioned home November 4, 2016 at her apartment in Union, New Jersey.

Constance was born in Newark, New Jersey on December 2, 1925 to the late Charles A. Shell and the late Irene Shell (Worrell). Educated in the Newark, New Jersey Public School system, she attended Abington Avenue Elementary School and graduated from Barringer High School. Constance was married in November, 1945 and gave birth to two daughters, Sheila and Sandra (Sandy).

Constance worked at a war plant during World War II and later at The Western Electric Company, Kearney, NJ for 16 years. Then she returned to school and became a Licensed Practical Nurse in June, 1970. Constance was a wonderful and very caring nurse who worked at Little Sisters of the Poor, Newark, NJ, Essex County Geriatric Center, Belleville, NJ and in several private homes. After she moved to South Carolina, Constance worked in respite care and at an adult special needs residential program. Also, she taught CPR and standard First Aid.

Constance relocated to Fort Mill and later North Augusta, South Carolina where she (at 66) married her beloved soul mate, the late Elwood John Mendes (at 68) on April 23, 1992. In October, 2007 she returned to New Jersey after the deaths of her beloved husband in November, 2004 and brother Carl Shell (her North Augusta neighbor at that time) in November, 2006.

Constance was baptized at an early age, served as a dedicated member of several churches and continued to grow spiritually throughout her life. She was very honored when her beloved Christ Resurrection Missionary Baptist Church, East Orange, NJ named her "Mother of the Church" on May 4, 2014.

Constance was a very friendly, energetic, feisty, resilient and beautiful lady. She loved to help and encourage others, and in later years, many called her "Mother Mendes". However, her greatest joy and "work" was sharing her profound faith, exceptional wisdom and unconditional love with family, friends and everyone she came in contact with.

Constance was involved in many Christian classes, organizations and Bible studies. She also participated in numerous prison, salvation, prayer and healing ministries over the years. Constance truly believed that she would behold Him face to face when she flew home to be with her "Daddy God".

Constance is survived by: her two devoted daughters, Sheila Foxx, Orange, NJ and Sandra Prince (Early), Union, NJ; her brother, Edwin A. Shell (RoseMarie), Maplewood, NJ; many loving nieces and nephews; her godson, Angel Burgos; her special adopted daughter, Mary Khan; her special angel, Rev. Dr. Leora Liggins and church family; and her adopted family, Rev. Dr. Arnold Fox and Minister Sonya Fox.

Order of Service

Prelude.....Myron Smith

Processional.....Clergy and Family

Song of Comfort.....Ian Johnson

Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. Dr. Arnold Fox

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 103.....Deaconess RoseMarie Shell

New Testament - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.....Mary Khan

Solo.....Tyrone Dunlap

Remarks.....Two Minutes Please

Rev. Dr. Arnold Fox

Rev. Yvonne Cooper

Rev. Malva Wise-White

Deacon Benjamin Humphrey, CRMBC

Deacon Edwin Shell (Brother)

Sheila Foxx (Daughter)

Sandy Prince (Daughter)

Acknowledgement/Resolutions

and Obituary.....Deacon Carolyn Humphrey

Solo.....Tyrone Dunlap

The Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Leora Liggins

Christ Resurrection Missionary Baptist Church, East Orange, New Jersey

Recessional.....Clergy and Family

Cremation
*Rosedale Crematory
408 Orange Road
Montclair, New Jersey*

Repast

Immediately following the Cremation Services family and friends are invited back for a repast in the Church Fellowship Hall.

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 of **Constance L. Mendes** will always remember and cherish your prayers, messages, cards, visits and expressions of love, sympathy, encouragement and support. May God bless and keep you.

Special thanks to Christ Resurrection Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. Arnold Fox and Minister Sonya Fox, St. Mary's at Alaris, Orange,

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