

Celebrating the Life of



“EVERYTHING IS IN DIVINE ORDER...”

Denise T. Nelson

SUNRISE: September 11, 1956 - SUNSET: April 1, 2026

Sunday, April 19, 2026 - 1:00 pm

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.
2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Obituary

Denise Nelson, 69, was called home to rest on April 1, 2026. Born on September 11, 1956, in Harlem, New York, Denise was the daughter of Benjamin Wilson and Amy Gittens. She spent her early years on 121st Street in Harlem before moving with her family to 139th Street in the Bronx, though Harlem always remained close to her heart.

Denise attended James Monroe High School and went on to graduate from Bronx Community College. Shortly after high school, she discovered a deep passion for African dance, a love that would become a defining part of her life. Denise danced with “The LaRocque Bey Dance Company,” where her vibrant energy and commanding presence made her truly unforgettable. Her talent took her to notable stages, including performances for Eddie Kendricks, former member of The Temptations, in Atlantic City. She also graced the stage at Lincoln Center in New York City and proudly participated in numerous African American Day Parades throughout Harlem.

After stepping away from dance, Denise built a successful career as a legal secretary, working with some of New York City’s top law firms. Known for her intelligence, wit, and professionalism, she excelled in various areas of law and was a valued member of every team she joined.

While dance was her first love, nothing compared to the love she had for her family. Denise was a devoted mother who poured her heart into raising her children, Taj and Nkenge. She instilled in them the importance of faith, family, and connection, ensuring that each day began with a prayer for family and friends.

Denise leaves to cherish her memory her loving children, Taj Goodman and Nkenge Nelson; her son-in-law, John Flores; and her cherished granddaughter, Nalani Flores, affectionately known as her “Grandbaby Girl (GBG).” She is also survived by her sisters, Margie Nix and Debra Wilson; her niece Halimah Muhammad; her dear “sister friends,” Sharon Hume, Debra Wallace, Donna Boswell; and a host of extended family members and friends.

Denise’s life was one of passion, strength, and deep love. She will be remembered for her radiant spirit and her dedication to family. Her memories lives on in the hearts of all who loved her.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Nalani Flores, John Flores, Donna Boswell, Debra Wallace,
Halimah Muhammad, Nkenge Nelson

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

Psalm 23

The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul.

He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me;

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness during this time. They ask that you cherish the memories of Denise as she walks the roads paved of gold in heaven.

"As your prayers go up, may your blessings continue to come down."

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