

A portrait of an elderly woman with short, curly white hair and glasses, wearing a light-colored striped shirt. The background is a soft purple with various flowers and a large purple ribbon bow. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Celebrating
THE *Life*
OF

Beulah Mae Oliver

Sunrise March 8, 1933 – Sunset April 26, 2026

Friday, May 8, 2026 at 11:00AM

Ross-Roden Funeral Services, LLC
725 E. Gun Hill Road, Bronx, NY 10467

Obituary

Beulah Mae Oliver was born on March 8, 1933, to the late Napoleon and Hannah Smith-Wing on St. Helena Island in Frogmore, South Carolina—located in Beaufort County.

At an early age, Beulah was baptized at the historically landmarked Brick Baptist Church on St. Helena Island.

She began her formal education at the historic Penn School, now known as the Penn Center. Established as one of the first schools in the South for formerly enslaved people, the Penn School was more than a place of learning—it was a foundation for education, cultural preservation, and practical life skills, shaping generations of Gullah leaders, families, and culture bearers.

Beulah later moved to New York City, embarking on a new chapter far different from the life she knew growing up in Beaufort, South Carolina. Shortly after her arrival, she began working at the renowned St. Vincent’s Hospital on West 12th Street in Manhattan. There, she served as a Dietitian Assistant and became a respected and dependable presence. Over the course of 33 years, Beulah demonstrated unwavering dedication and built lasting relationships with staff and leadership before retiring from her position.

While living in New York, Beulah found love and married Mr. Lorrain Oliver in 1960.

From a young age, Beulah had a passion for cooking, preparing meals for her family and friends. She became especially known for her mastery of Gullah Geechee cuisine. Her signature dishes included red rice, a beloved one-pot staple; hearty okra soup; and sweet potato pone, a traditional pudding-like dessert made with shredded sweet potatoes. During the holidays, her sweet potatoes topped with marshmallows were always a favorite, along with her unforgettable pot roast and bread pudding.

In addition to her love for cooking, Beulah enjoyed taking trips to the casino, where she could often be found at her favorite slot machines. With her bright spirit and a little luck on her side, she had a knack for turning a good time into a winning one—rarely leaving empty-handed and always leaving with a smile.

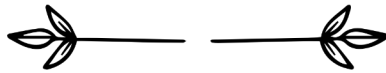
On Sunday, April 26, 2026, surrounded by her loved ones, Beulah Mae Oliver peacefully departed this earthly life to be with the Almighty God.

She leaves to cherish her memory her loving children: Madeline Shepherd of Brooklyn, NY; Betty Simmons of Jersey City, NJ; Daniel “Danny” Wing and his wife Flora Mae Wing of Beaufort, SC; Kelly Williams and his wife Tammy Wing of Carrollton, GA; Diane Grady and her husband Victor Grady of Atlanta, GA; and Lenora Oliver of New York, NY.

She is also survived by her sister, Julia Johnson of St. Helena Island, SC, and her brother, Alex Wing of Browns Mill, NJ.

She was preceded in death by her sisters, Thelma Green, Florence Wing, and Margaret Wing, as well as her brothers Amos Wing and James Wing.

Beulah also leaves behind a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, along with many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.



Order of Service

Processional

Scripture Reading(s) - Psalm 23 & Psalm 121.....Yolanda Regina McNeill

Solo “I Won’t Complain”
Mae Carrington

Reading of Obituary..... Darryl Belton

Poem “This Is Not Goodbye”
Read By Shawna Wing

Reflections..... Family and Friends
(two minutes each please)

Remarks By The Funeral Director

Final Viewing..... Organist’s Selection

Recessional



This Is Not Goodbye

I did not want to leave you

It was just my time to go

I know your heart is breaking

So, I need to let you know

That although you can no longer see me

I'll be forever by your side

I promise time will numb the pain

And help dry the tears you've cried

You can reach me in your memories

Just think of me, / will be there

In your dreams, we can visit yesteryear

Where we didn't have a care

Please carry on and live your life

I beg of you to try

Just know we'll meet again one day

As this is not goodbye

Acknowledgements

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement. May God Bless and Keep You!

Professional Service Entrusted To:

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Francine Ross-Roden, CFSP – Licensed Funeral Director



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