

In Loving Memory of
THE LEGENDARY


Amaya

Sunrise:
AUGUST 17, 1996

Sunset:
JULY 20TH, 2026



*Homegoing
Celebration*

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2026 - 11AM

LAWRENCE H. WOODWARD FUNERAL HOME

1 TROY AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11213

REV. DR. TIMOTHY TAYLOR - OFFICIATING
BISHOP DAVID SAYLES - ORGANIST

THE LEGENDARY AMAYA

Order of Service

Processional and Viewing

Prayer by Minister Stephen Coleman

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: **Psalms 23** Read by Charen Williams

New Testament: **John 14:1–7** Read by Aunty Mel

Selection

Trustee Joyce White

Poem: Miss Me But Let Me Go

Read by Sister Christine Oliphant

Prayer of Comfort

Deacon Yvette Saunders

Poem: God's Garden

Read by Sunshine

Reading of the Obituary

Stephanie Williams (Nana)

Special Tributes By

Stephanie Williams (Nana)

Kathrionnora Williams (Mother)

Sisters: Desiree Williams, Charen Williams & Christyn Oliphant

Baby Father: Karma Versace

Family Selection

Trustee Joyce White

Reflections

20 people maximum • 2 minutes each

Words of Comfort

Reverend Dr. Timothy P. Taylor Sr.

Final Viewing

Recessional



Serenity Prayer

GOD, grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and the Wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace. Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it. Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with Him forever in the next.

Amen

-Author unknown



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.



John 14:1-7

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

Life & Legacy Obituary

In Loving Memory of THE LEGENDARY AMAYA

Life & Legacy

Amaya was born on August 17, 1996. She was raised with love and guidance, surrounded by family who cherished her deeply—especially her grandmother, Stephanie Williams, who held a special place in her life and heart and played a significant role in shaping the woman she became.

From a young age, Amaya stood out with her vibrant personality, confidence, and undeniable presence. She lived her truth as a proud transgender woman with courage, grace, and authenticity, inspiring everyone around her to do the same. Amaya was bold, loving, and unapologetically herself—her energy could light up any room, and her smile was unforgettable.

Amaya was a powerful and influential figure within the ballroom community. As a respected Mother to many houses, she created safe spaces filled with love, guidance, and acceptance. She mentored children, preserved ballroom culture, and dreamed of establishing a trans house for women of all nations where individuals could transition with dignity, support, and community.

Family

Amaya leaves behind a family who will cherish her memory forever, including her beloved grandmother, Stephanie Williams; her mother, Kathrionnora Williams; SHE LEAVES BEHIND HER FATHER BRANDON SOPRANO AND HER MOTHER TRAEQUAN SOPRANO WHO SHE LOVED SO DEARLY... her siblings, Desiree Williams, Charen Williams, and Christyn Oliphant; her one and only beloved niece, Sanai Williams; **her loving dog, The Legendary Max; her baby father, Karma;** along with her ballroom children, extended family, and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and dear friends.

A Lasting Memory

Amaya will always be remembered for her beautiful smile, her fierce spirit, her loving heart, and the light she brought into every space she entered. She taught us how to be fearless, how to love deeply, and how to stand proudly in our truth.

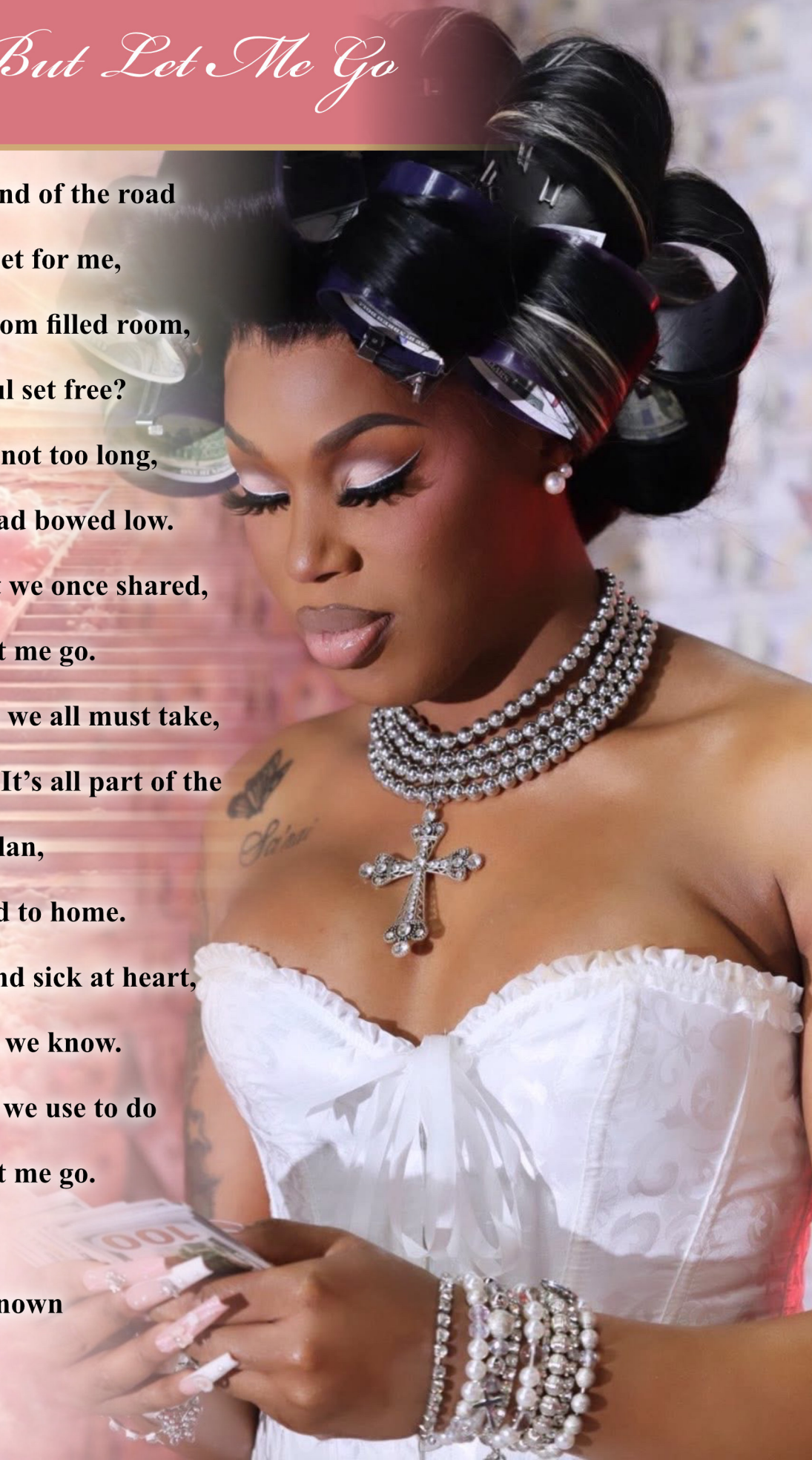
Though she is no longer physically with us, her legacy lives on in every life she touched, every child she taught, every house she nurtured, and every step taken on the ballroom floor.

Forever loved. Forever remembered. Forever Amaya.

Miss Me But Let Me Go

When I come to the end of the road
and the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom filled room,
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little-but not too long,
and not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared,
Miss me-but let me go.
For this is a journey that we all must take,
And each must go alone. It's all part of the
Master's plan,
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart,
Go to the friends we know.
Laugh at the things we use to do
Miss me-but let me go.

-author unknown



MY BEAUTIFUL BABY SISTER, AMAYA

Standing here today and speaking about you in the past tense is something I never imagined I would have to do. There are so many words in my heart, but somehow none of them feel big enough to explain what you meant to me.

Amaya, you weren't just my baby sister. You were my love. You were my best friend, my ride or die, my diary, my protector, and my safe place—my heart.

You were the person I could tell anything to. I could come to you with my happiness, my pain, my secrets, my fears, and everything in between. I knew that whatever I told you, it was safe with you. You knew me in a way that very few people ever could. And that is what makes losing you hurt so deeply.

I don't just miss my sister. I miss my best friend. I miss my confidant. I miss my protector. I miss my ride or die. I miss the person I could tell everything to. I miss my heart.

Amaya, you were truly one of the best people I have ever known. Your presence brought something into my life that nobody else can replace. There will never be another you.

I keep wishing I could have just one more conversation with you. One more laugh. One more hug. One more moment where I could look into your eyes and tell you, face-to-face, how much I love you.

If I had that one last moment, I wouldn't waste it. I would tell you: Thank you for being my sister, my best friend, for protecting me, listening to me, and trusting me with your heart.

Thank you for every secret, every laugh, every argument, every memory, and every moment we shared.

I want you to know that your life mattered. You mattered.

You touched my life in a way that will never be erased. And even though I can't see you, hug you, call you, or hear your voice anymore, I will carry you with me for the rest of my life.

There will be days when I laugh and remember you. There will be days when a song, a place, a smell, or something completely random makes me think of you. And there will be days when I simply wish you were here. And when those days come, I will let myself miss you. Because missing you is just another way of saying I love you.

Amaya, I promise I will never let the world forget you. I will speak your name. I will tell your stories. I will remember the person you were and hold onto the beautiful memories we made together.

And whenever I accomplish something, whenever I have a beautiful moment, whenever life gives me something worth celebrating, a part of me will always wish you were here so I could tell you about it.

I hope you are somewhere peaceful now, free from every pain and every worry. And I hope you can somehow feel how many people are standing here today who love you. But most of all, I hope you can feel my love. Because no matter where life takes me, no matter how many years pass, and no matter how much the world changes, you will always be my number one.

So today, I don't want to say goodbye to you forever. I want to say, until we meet again.

Thank you for giving me a lifetime of memories that I will hold onto forever.
I love you beyond words.
I miss you beyond measure.
And I will carry you in my heart forever.

Fly high, my sister. I love you, Amaya.

Forever isn't long enough.

Rest peacefully, my beautiful Angel.
#FOREVERAMAYAWORLD

Sincerely, Your Sister, Shayla



I'M NOT READY TO SAY GOODBYE, SISTER

I'm not ready to say goodbye, Sister, and I don't think I ever will be.

I still want this to be a dream so bad. Every single day I catch myself hoping this isn't real. I sit here waiting for a phone call or a text from you. I tell myself your phone just broke, that's why you haven't called me yet... but deep down I know that isn't the truth.

I know we had our ups and downs, but that's what sisters go through. One thing that never changed was the bond we shared and the way we always rode for each other. That kind of love is unexplainable.

I will always protect and be here for your family. I love you with all my heart, and I promise you nobody will ever play on your name. I promise I'll keep your name alive for the rest of my life.

Sleep in peace, baby girl.

#AMAYASWORLD

Sincerely, Tete



LETTER TO OUR MOM

On behalf of all of the children, Lamel, Tilee, Adell, and the youngest, Noah, we would like to say that we never thought we would have to go through this so soon.

Amaya just wasn't "Ma." She was our safe space, someone we could always run to whenever we needed her. She always made sure to stop whatever she was doing and would even go above and beyond to show up for us during some of our toughest times.

So, we just want to take this time to honor such an amazing person. A person who allowed us into her space, took care of us, and gave us a caring feeling that honestly can't be replaced.

There were times when all of us would be under the same roof, all calling her name at once, keeping her on her toes. No matter how much we had going on, she always made sure to give each and every one of us the love and attention we needed. She never made anyone feel left out or forgotten. She had a way of making each of us feel special.

We want to thank you for allowing us into your life and for loving us as your own. Thank you for opening your heart and your home to us, for every sacrifice you made, and for always making sure we knew we were loved. Thank you for being our safe place, our biggest supporter, and someone we could always count on.

We love you, Ma, and we will forever carry your love with us in our hearts.



LIVE TRIBUTES

Stephanie Williams (Nana),
Kathrionnora Williams (Mother),
Desiree Williams,
Charen Williams,
Christyn Oliphant



LETTER TO MY BABY MOTHER

Dear Amaya, My Best Friend, My Baby Mother, My Sister, My Forever Love,

There are no words big enough to hold the weight of losing you.

You were never just one thing to me. You were my best friend, the person I laughed with until my stomach hurt. You were my baby momma in every way that mattered, my safe place, my peace, my home. You were my sister, the one who stood beside me through life's highs and lows, never letting me face the world alone. And most importantly, you are the mother of our child—a part of you that will continue to live and shine every single day.

I never imagined a world where I would have to say goodbye to you. I thought we'd have more time, more conversations, more laughs, more memories to make. Now I'm left holding onto the ones we already shared, replaying every smile, every hug, every "I love you," wishing I could hear your voice just one more time.

You taught me what unconditional love looked like. Even when life wasn't easy, you loved deeply, gave endlessly, and carried so much strength. You changed my life in ways you'll probably never know. Because of you, I know what it feels like to truly be loved.

The silence you've left behind is louder than any words I could ever speak. My heart aches in a way I never knew was possible, and there will always be a piece of me that belongs only to you. No amount of time will erase your name from my heart or your memories from my soul.

I promise to keep your spirit alive. I'll tell our child about your beautiful heart, your smile, your kindness, your strength, and how deeply you loved. They'll know the incredible woman you were. They'll know that their mother was someone unforgettable.

I miss you more than words could ever explain. I miss your voice. I miss your laugh. I miss your presence. I miss the life we dreamed about together. But even though I can't hold your hand anymore, I'll carry your love with me for the rest of my life.

Thank you for loving me. Thank you for believing in me. Thank you for every moment we shared.

You may no longer walk beside me, but you'll never leave my heart.

Until we meet again, my beautiful Amaya, know that you will always be my greatest love, my best friend, my family, and the most beautiful chapter of my life.

I love you yesterday. I love you today. I will love you for every tomorrow that I'm blessed to see.

Forever and always.
Till We Meet Again



To OUR Daughter, Amaya Soprano ❤️🐦

WE ARE SO LOST FOR WORDS BUT WE GOT THE STRENGTH ENOUGH TO PUT IT TOGETHER..... MY BEAUTIFUL BABY LOOK AT YOU....YOU ARE AMAZING YOU HEAR ME AS YOUR FATHER AND AS YOUR MOTHER WE ARE PROUD OF THE WOMAN YOU BECAME AND YOU OWNED EVERYTHING YOU GOT YOUR HANDS ON....YOU SEE WE RAISED YOU VERY OLD SCHOOL WITH TENDER LOVING AND CARE BUT ALSO HOW TO BE INDEPENDENT AND SHOW UP FOR YOURSELF WHEN NOBODY ELSE WILL SHOW UP FOR YOU... ALL THOSE CONVERSATIONS WE HAD YOU TOOK THEM AND RAN WITH IT, YOU HAVE AMBITION THE STRENGTH OF A LION PACK BY YOURSELF. YOU SHOWED THE WORLD WHO YOU ARE AND TOOK CONTROL OF YOU, LIVING IN YOUR TRUTH NEVER BEING ASHAMED OF WHO YOU ARE EVEN WHEN THE FAKE WAS A AMONG YOU. YOU ALWAYS KEPT IT REAL YOU ENJOYED HELPING THE PPL AROUND YOU ALWAYS LOVED GIVING BACK TRUE FIGHTER AT HEART ❤️ . YOU MADE A NAME FOR YOURSELF NO ONE CAN EVER TAKE THAT FROM YOU. IF I HAD A CHANCE TO HAVE YOU BACK YOU WOULD NEVER LEAVE OUR SIDE OR OUT OF OUR SIGHT I AM NOT READY TO LET YOU GO BUT GOD WAS READY FOR YOU TO COME HOME.. WE LOVE YOU MY PRINCESS ITS GONE BE ONE OF THE MOST HEART BROKEN MOMENTS OF OUR LIFE BUT YOU KNOW!!!!!!!!!! GOD BUILT US WITH HIS STRENGTH SOMETIMES I DON'T WANT TO BE STRONG BUT WE WOULDN'T HAVE IT NO OTHER WAY I AM A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.

YOUR STEPFATHER DOM, YOUR BROTHERS, ELI, PRESTON,
COREO, AND SHAI,
SISTERS JAPAN , QUANA, LOVE YOU... SO MUCH BEAUTIFUL

Losing you has been one of the hardest things I've ever thought I had to face. I still expect to hear your voice and then reality reminds me you're no longer here. That kind of pain is hard to put into words.

You may not have been my blood, but you were our daughter in every way that mattered. We built our family through love, loyalty, and an unbreakable bond, and nothing, not even death can change that.

Thank you for every laugh, every conversation, every lesson, and every memory we created together. You touched so many lives, and your legacy will continue to live through all of us who love you.

I'll keep speaking your name with love, protecting your legacy, and carrying you with me every single day.

I love you forever, Our Legendary Amaya Soprano.
SIGNED YOUR: YOUR PARENTS
BRANDON SOPRANO
TRAEQUAN SOPRANO



To My Dearest Sister, Amaya Soprano 💋

There are no words that can truly express how much you meant to me or how deeply you will be missed. You were truly one of a kind and I am grateful to have been your chosen sister despite all we went through.

You were more than just my sister, you were a part of my heart, my family, and a beautiful soul who brought love and light into so many lives. A shining star who shine brighter than any star. I can not believe I am about to say my final goodbyes to such a young go getter like yourself, believe it or not I thought I was going to be the first one to go but something's just never change lol. You were always the one jumping in front of me at the site of danger trying to protect me like I couldn't defend myself.

I will always cherish our memories together, the good & the bad, your smile, your laughter, every time you caught an attitude because you couldn't have your way, the quiet moments when we just got finished arguing, the fights and the love you gave so freely. Though you will no longer be here beside me, you will forever live in my heart. Thank you for being the wonderful annoying selfless sister you were to me. I am thankful that we had a chance to put aside our differences and finally speak again because lord knows I would have been more hurt than I already am Rest peacefully until we meet again. I love you always and will miss you every single day.

With all my love,
Your Sister Quana Soprano 💕💜💋💛





THE LEGENDARY AMAYA





LEGENDARY MEMORIES





God's Garden

*God looked around his garden- And found an empty place,
He then looked down upon the earth- And saw your tired face.*

He put his arms around you -And lifted you to rest.

God's garden must be beautiful -He always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering -He knew you were in pain.

He knew that you would never – Get well on earth again.

He saw the road was getting rough – And the hills were hard to climb.

So he closed your weary eyelids – And whispered, 'Peace be thine'.

It broke our hearts to lose you – But you didn't go alone,

For part of us went with you – The day God called you home.

–Anonymous

Forever Loved.

Forever Remembered.

Forever The Legendary Amaya.

#FOREVERAMAYAWORLD

Acknowledgements

*The Family of **THE LEGENDARY AMAYA** extends our heartfelt gratitude for every prayer, phone call, visit, floral arrangement, act of kindness, and expression of love shown during this difficult time. Your compassion and support have carried us through one of the hardest moments of our lives, and we are forever grateful.*

Thank you for celebrating Amaya's remarkable life and enduring legacy with us.

Interment:

The Evergreen Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY

Repass

Forever Amaya Repass
29 Locust Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206
Immediately following the interment.

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted To:



LAWRENCE H. WOODWARD FUNERAL HOME, Inc.

SERVICE WITH DISTINCTION, DEPENDABILITY AND DIGNITY
Melvin D. Thompson (1935-2015)

Lynda M. Thompson, Managing Director
Vicki Thompson, Retired

1 Troy Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11213

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MEMBER
The Order of The Golden Rule

