



REST IN PEACE

VERNETER "CRICKET" CRAIG

29 JUNE 1945 - 27 SEPTEMBER 2026

ROSE OF SHARON COMMUNITY CHURCH
825 WEST SEVENTH STREET PLAINFIELD, NJ

REV. MAE BELIN-PASTOR

ORDER OF SERVICE

Musical Prelude

PROCESSIONAL.....Entry of the Family & Clergy

PRAYER OF COMFORT

Musical Selection

SCRIPTURE

Old & New Testament Valerie Norman, Sister

Acknowledgment of Family and Friends

Reading of the Obituary..... By Virgie Cisson

REFLECTIONS :

(Brief 2 minutes Personal Tributes from Friends)

REFLECTION FROM THE FAMILY..... Ken Craig, Son

Resolution/ Cards

EULOGY Pastor Mae Belin

Closing Prayer..... Final Blessings

RECESSIONAL

Repast

The family of Cricket would love for everyone that can to come back and fellowship with the family at Rose of Sharon Community Church Fellowship Hall.

RESTING IN

HILLSIDE CEMETERY

1401 WOODLAND AVE., SCOTCH NJ 07076



Obituary

Verneter “Cricket” Craig, a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend, peacefully departed this life on September 27, 2026, leaving behind a lifetime of love, cherished memories, and countless lives forever touched by her presence.

Verneter was born on June 29, 1945, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, to the late William S. and Jimmie Lee Cisson of South Plainfield, New Jersey. South Plainfield was more than just her hometown; it was the place she proudly called home throughout her entire life. She attended Roosevelt Elementary School and South Plainfield Middle School before graduating from South Plainfield High School in 1962.

Cricket was a woman of many talents, a strong spirit, and a heart full of love. Throughout her working years, she was employed at Woodbridge State School. She also spent many years bartending at the Plainfield ELKS, where her vibrant personality and quick wit surely made her unforgettable. Eventually, Cricket found her calling as an in-home childcare provider, a decision that came straight from her heart. After all, there was no way she was going to let her first grandchild go off to daycare when Grandma was right there!

And if you knew Cricket, you knew she had rules! She lovingly cared for the children entrusted to her, but she also made one thing perfectly clear: when you got off work, you had a maximum of 30 minutes to pick up your children. After all, Cricket had a life of her own, too! That was just Cricket—loving, dependable, outspoken, and always keeping everybody in line.

Cricket found joy in the simple things that made life beautiful. She loved sewing, working on puzzles, and, without a doubt, tending to her beloved plants. Her plants were more than just greenery; they were something she nurtured with the same care and attention she gave to the people she loved. And then there were the New York Yankees! Cricket was a devoted fan who never missed watching a game. Whether cheering on her team, caring for her plants, working on a puzzle, or spending time with family, she knew how to enjoy the things that brought her happiness.

Above all, Cricket loved taking care of her family. Her home was a place where love was given freely, where people could find comfort, and where anyone who walked through her door could expect to be welcomed and cared for. She had a heart of gold and a giving spirit that made people feel special. But don't let that sweet heart fool you—Cricket's mouth was quick, her tongue was slick, and she never had to search too hard for the right words! Before you knew it, she would say something that had you standing there wondering if you were a child again. She could correct you, put you in your place, make you laugh, and still make sure you knew you were loved.

That was the beauty of Cricket. She was honest, straightforward, full of life, and never afraid to speak her mind. Her love was genuine, her wisdom was earned, and her personality was one of a kind. She gave her family more than advice; she gave them memories, traditions, laughter, and lessons that will continue to live on for generations. Her presence could fill a room, and her absence will leave a space that can never truly be filled.

Cricket touched the lives of so many through her kindness, wisdom, honesty, and unforgettable personality. She was the kind of woman whose love could be felt in the meals she shared, the children she cared for, the plants she nurtured, the words she spoke, and the countless ways she showed up for the people she loved. She may not have always said things softly, but there was never any question about the love behind them.

Though her earthly journey has come to an end, the love Cricket gave will never die. It will live on in the hearts of her children, in the smiles and memories of her grandchildren, in the laughter of her great-grandchildren, and in the lives of everyone fortunate enough to have known her. Her voice may be silent, but the lessons she taught, the laughter she shared, and the love she poured into her family will echo for generations to come.

Those Who Preceded Her in Death

Cricket was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Gaylord Craig Jr.; her parents, William S. and Jimmie Lee Cisson; her brothers, Bernard, Roger, and Freddie Cisson; and her sister, Francis Williams.

Those Left to Cherish Her Memory

Cricket leaves behind a loving family who will forever treasure the memories they shared and the love she gave so freely.

She leaves to cherish her memory her two sons, Gaylord Craig III and Kenneth Lee Craig, and her daughter, Me'chele Smith (Chris).

Her legacy of love continues through her five grandchildren: Bennie Gibson, Taylor Lee Desmond (Roger), Christopher Todd Smith Jr., Ashlei Nicole Craig, and Shelby Elizabeth Lassiter, who will forever carry a piece of their beloved grandmother in their hearts.

She also leaves behind her three precious great-grandchildren, Jaxon Todd Desmond, Rylee Ne'cole Desmond, and Mila Bergunzi, who will continue to be part of the beautiful family legacy she helped build.

Cricket is also survived by her loving siblings, Kenneth Lee Cisson, William “Boy” Cisson, and Valerie Norman, along with a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and dear friends who will forever hold her memory close.

A Loving Farewell

Cricket's life was a blessing, her memory a treasure, and her love a gift that will remain with her family forever. She leaves behind a legacy built on family, strength, laughter, honesty, and unconditional love.

Though our hearts are heavy with sorrow, we find comfort in knowing that we were blessed to share this life with her. We will remember her watching her Yankees, caring for her plants, working on her puzzles, speaking her mind, and loving her family in the only way Cricket knew how—completely, fiercely, and without reservation.

We will miss her laughter, her words of wisdom, her quick comebacks, and even those moments when she reminded us who was in charge. We will miss the comfort of knowing she was there, the warmth of her presence, and the love that made her home feel like home.

Rest peacefully, Cricket. Your work here is done. You loved us, raised us, corrected us, laughed with us, and gave us memories we will carry for the rest of our lives. You were one of a kind, and there will never be another quite like you.

You may have taken your final bow here on earth, but you will never leave our hearts.

Forever loved. Forever remembered. Forever our Cricket.

Until we meet again, may you rest in eternal peace in the hands of God.

Bennie Gibson	Christopher Smith
Chris Smith	Patrick Draper
Bryant Draper	Roger Desmond

*If Heaven had a phone would she call me or I call her,
If Heaven had a phone she would call for my birthday,
 holidays, anniversaries,
If Heaven had a phone I would get voice messages everyday saying
 she loves me and she misses me,
 If Heaven had a phone then I would be able
to get congratulations calls when I do something awesome
at work or school or in my family or I get honored,
 If Heaven had a phone maybe a smartphone
 I could video call chat with her,
 If Heaven had a phone I could talk to everyday
 about the good and the bad,
 If Heaven had a phone I could tell her goodnight,
 If Heaven had a phone I could finally tell her goodbye
 since I missed it the first time,
If Heaven had a phone I could, I could simply hear her say
 "It's mom, I called to say I love you!"
 If Heaven had a phone....*

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

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Karen Zavala, Funeral Director NJ Lic. No. 5497

