CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



Albina Retemiah

APRIL 16, 1932 - OCTOBER 25, 2026

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church

217 Prospect Street, South Orange, NJ 07079

Obituary

Our beloved Albina Retemiah, affectionately known as Mom, Mommy, Granny, and Grandma, was born on April 16, 1932, in Georgetown, Guyana, South America. She was the first of three children born to Whitfield and Ezelima Mitchell.

While Albina was still a young girl, her family of five relocated to Linden, Guyana, where she spent her formative years. She attended Christianburg Primary School, earning her school-leaving certificate at the age of 16. She began her working life as a pharmacy clerk at Harris Drug Store.

In 1949, Albina married William Miller, and together they raised four children. After his passing, she met and married her current husband, James Retemiah, with whom she welcomed four more children.

Albina was a devoted mother who worked hard to ensure her eight children were well provided for. With the invaluable help of her beloved mother, she balanced the demands of work and raising her growing family.

She left Harris Drug Store to pursue a position as a seamstress at Mackenzie Hospital, where she made nurses' uniforms and caps, bed linens, and numerous other items essential to the hospital's daily operations. She later transferred to a position as a switchboard operator at the same hospital.

She developed a strong interest in workers' rights and representation. Albina attended Critchlow Labour College, where she pursued trade union education and studied collective bargaining, labour laws, grievance handling, and industrial relations.

Upon successfully completing her training, she was appointed a Union Representative and subsequently advanced to the position of Union Vice President. Her work in the labour movement took her abroad to the Caribbean and the United States, where she attended conferences and training courses conducted by the AFL-CIO. She remained committed to her union responsibilities until her retirement at the age of 50.

In 1984, Albina and James migrated to the United States with their children, seeking new opportunities for their family. True to her hardworking nature, she returned to work to help provide for her family. She worked as a home health aide for several years before taking a position as a seamstress at Morris View Nursing Home. She continued working there until her retirement in 1999.

Above all else, Albina's greatest priority was her family. Her love was expressed through the countless ways she cared for those around her, and few things brought her greater joy than cooking for her children and grandchildren.

When her birthday approached, we often had to beg her to allow us to take her out for a celebration. She much preferred to spend her special day at home, surrounded by her family, and insisted on preparing the meal herself. Yes, even on her own birthday, she wanted to be the one doing the cooking!

She loved to bake cakes, pastries and bread, and also make traditional Guyanese drinks such as ginger beer, sorrel, and mauby. Among the family's most cherished culinary traditions was her delicious pepper pot, which she lovingly prepared only at Easter and Christmas. Everyone loved her pepper pot and it brought her so much joy to watch us enjoy it along with everything else she prepared.

Through her cooking, her generosity, and her unwavering commitment to bringing her family together, Albina created memories and traditions that will be treasured and passed down through generations. Her home was a place where love was shared, family bonds were strengthened, and everyone could feel the warmth of her presence.

Albina's love for her family was matched only by her deep and abiding love for the Lord. Her Catholic faith was an important part of her daily life. Every day at noon and at 6 PM her routine was to watch the Mass on the Catholic Network. She also possessed an impressive knowledge of the Bible and could recite countless verses, from Genesis to Revelation.

She lived her life as a true Christian, demonstrating her faith through her actions, her kindness, and her willingness to place the needs of her family before her own. Her life was a testament to the values of love, sacrifice, perseverance, and devotion.

Albina was the loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother that anyone could hope for. She was the heart of her family, a source of strength and guidance, and a woman whose love knew no bounds.

Her passing leaves an immeasurable void in the hearts of those who loved her. Yet, the lessons she taught, the traditions she established, the faith she demonstrated, and the countless memories she created will remain with us always. Though we mourn her loss, we are grateful for the many years we were blessed to have her in our lives.

Albina was preceded in death by her brother, Compton Mitchell, and her eldest son, Lawrence Miller.

She leaves to mourn her passing and cherish her memory her beloved husband, James Retemiah; children: Brent Miller, June Paton (Michael), Monica Lara, Donna Henry (Lugard), Hazel Channel (Neil), Wesley Retemiah (Tessa), Marcia Retemiah, and her daughter-in-law, Joy; grandchildren: Michelle, Rhonda, Racquel, Troy, Ryan, Tandika, Keon, Crystal, Malika, Tamika, Colin, Kieron, Monique, Kesia, Lasana, Anthony, Kendra, Eboni, Christian, Adantae, and Lemar; thirty-six great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; her brother Vernon Mitchell and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins: the Mitchell family, Giddings family, and Dubissett family.

Though our beloved Mom, Mommy, Granny, and Grandma is no longer physically with us, the love she gave so freely will remain in our hearts forever. We will remember her in every family gathering, every cherished recipe, every holiday tradition, and every prayer.

May her beautiful soul rest in eternal peace.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Reading
Old Testament
New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Remarks
(Two minutes each please)

Acknowledgements

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Recessional

Interment
Hollywood Cemetery

Precious Memories





















AERO
New York
87






I'VE BEEN
SAYING
DIET STARTS
MONDAY
FOR THREE
YEARS NOW




adidas

















Safely Home

I am home in Heaven, dear ones:
Oh, so happy and bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed:
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last

Did you wonder I so calmly
Trod the valley of the shade?
Oh! But Jesus love illumined
Every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself to meet me
In that way so hard to tread:
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,
Could I have one doubt or dread?
Then you must not grieve so sorely,
For I love you dearly still:
Try to look beyond earth's shadows,
Pray to trust our Father's Will.

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.

Professional Services Provided By

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