

*In Loving
Memory
of*

A portrait of Corliss Inez Duke, a Black woman with long dark braids, wearing a white collared shirt and a brown vest with a red bow. She is smiling. The background is a soft-focus image of lit candles.

Corliss Inez Duke

Sunrise
March 31, 1955

Sunset
September 7, 2014

Service

Monday, September 15, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Pastor Kimberly Wright, Officiating

Obituary

Corliss I. Duke, "Coco" was born on March 31, 1955 in Norfolk, Virginia to Robert E. Duke, Sr. now deceased and Alice M. Duke. She was called to return home on September 7, 2014.

Coco was the youngest female child and a special child she was.

At the tender age of 5, the family relocated to the core of the Big Apple, the South Bronx. It was around this time that Coco developed a deep passion for illustration and art in general. A passion of hobby and self entertainment that evolved into a thriving business and if not for copyright laws a fashion line. If she saw it or you could describe it, she would draw it.

Coco was educated in the NYC public school system. While in 6th grade at PS 65, she met a teacher, Ms. Benjamin, who was a mentor and they remained in touch throughout her adult life.

After completion of her general high school studies, Corliss began to work for the New York City Parks Department. In knowing Coco, she wasn't happy if she wasn't running the show and having fun. A trait that has taken her from park laborer to site supervisor of a W.E.P crew. All the while putting her CDL to full use in other capacities such as a school bus driver and providing transportation for the handicap in the Access-A-Ride program to a seasonal stint with the US Open Tennis Tournament. Coco's life was like a sandwich, no matter how she turned it, the bread came first.

Corliss followed her parents in spiritual faith and joined St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church.

Coco's eye for fashion was displayed by her style of dressing. Never one to wear a hat that didn't match her shoes. Be it summer time or the dead of winter, Coco took being fly from head to toe to another level.

Corliss leaves to mourn: her mother, Alice; siblings, Linda, Lamont, Felecia, Kelvin, Dwayne and Bertram; a host of in-laws, aunts, uncles, cousins, numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and a great-great niece; her cherished friend, Denise; beloved pets, Spanky and Fefe; and many others too vast to mention.

Order of Service

Entrance Prayers

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Song

Daniel Coakley

Acknowledgements

Reading of Obituary

Song of Comfort

Daniel Coakley

Eulogy



Interment

Mt. Holiness Cemetery
Butler, New Jersey

Corliss

**Courageous
Outgoing
Remarkable
Loved
Independent
Stylish
Sister**

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

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.*

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