

A portrait of Lavinia B. Spruell, a woman with short, dark, curly hair, wearing a black top and large hoop earrings. She is looking slightly to the right with a gentle expression. The background of the entire image is a golden, ornate staircase leading up to a bright light at the top, flanked by decorative railings.

*In Loving  
Memory  
of*

*Lavinia B. Spruell*

*Sunrise: January 13, 1940*

*Sunset: November 11, 2017*

**Service:**

**Saturday, November 18, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.**

**COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE**

**130 Main Street • Orange, New Jersey**

**Bishop Joseph C. Allen, Officiating**

**Emory Lee, Organist**



## Obituary

### **(Beloved Mother Lavinia B. Spruell)**

Lavinia B. Spruell was born January 13, 1940 in Newark NJ. Lavinia's mother Ella Minor was a loving Mom and single parent of four children; Matilee, Elizabeth, Oliver and Lavinia the youngest of the four.

At the very young age of sixteen Lavinia's mother Ella died suddenly, during the untimely passing of her Mom she learned that she was with child... everything happened so suddenly. Can't imagine what a lonely and difficult time that must have been for her. Lavinia persevered facing many adult decisions, she left Eastside High school to raise her first born child, she went on to marry Edward Spruell and from that union came Debra Elizabeth.

Years later she met the love of her life Amos Louis Black they had four more children Donna, Stacey, Louis, and Angel. Lavinia spent a few years being a stay at home Mom and caring for the home she and Louis provided for their growing family, she eventually finished school and received her nursing assistant certification. Lavinia was always in the business of either helping people or finding creative ways of making money on the side selling dinners, bartending, selling woman's fashions, and her at home salon specialty was "jerry curls".

Lavinia was the "Jane of all trades" she tried her hand at just about everything whether it was painting, sewing, driving a taxi, interior decorating, home improvement and becoming an entrepreneur. Walking into her home seeing new tiling on the floor, wallpaper on the wall, a staple gun, and hammer in her hand was nothing out of the ordinary there was no task that was unattainable for this self-taught Renaissance woman. Everyone that's knows her recognized her flair for fashion, she was and forever will be the epitome of beauty, style and grace.

She spent many years in private duty nursing and later on in life she worked in conjunction with the NJ Division of

Developmental Disabilities providing services as a caregiver opening her home to care for Adults with special needs.

Lavinia was known for her party's, cooking and entertaining is what she loved the most, seeing her family together is worth it is what she would say after all the preparation and planning it took bringing us all together. I can still hear the laughter when she got together with her elder siblings, beloved Aunt Beatrice Schenck, dearest cousins Junior, Peggy, and host of extended family/friends.

Lavinia was preceded in her death by two sisters and one brother Elizabeth Raiford, Matilee Raiford and Oliver Raiford.

She leaves to celebrate and cherish her life four daughters Debbie Zellars, Donna Black (Son in law, Nkem Ebinamah), Stacey Black, Angel Black and one son, Louis Black (Daughter in law Pamela); seventeen grandchildren, seventeen great grandchildren and a host of family members and close friends, all of whom will miss her dearly.



# Order of Service

Processional

Selection

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”  
Lakima Spruell (granddaughter)

Scripture Reading - Deacon Lee Osborne

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Minister Bertha Scott

Selection

“Going Up Yonder”  
Gerald Washington (great nephew)

Remarks

(Two minutes each please)

Reading of the Obituary/Acknowledgements

Selection

Eulogy

Bishop Joseph C. Allen

Recessional

## **INTERMENT**

Fairmount Cemetery  
Newark, New Jersey

*Repass details as follows:  
St. Mark's United Methodist Church  
51 Elm St. Montclair NJ 07042*

# *I've Changed My Address*

I've changed my address to Heaven  
I've crossed the Great Divide.

I know there's no sorrow or crying,  
Because I've reached the other side.

I am so happy to be here,  
for the Lord Himself I see.

I've changed my address to Heaven,  
That's the place where you'll find me.

I've changed my address to Heaven,  
I bid this world goodbye.

I now live forever with  
Jesus in my new home in the sky.

I have no burdens or heartaches  
and from tears I am now free.

I've changed my address to Heaven,  
That's the place to find me.

I've changed my address to Heaven,  
I'm safe forevermore.

For the Lord built a mansion  
and my name is on the door.

You can find us walking together,  
for where He is, I'll always be.

I've changed my address to Heaven,  
That's the place you'll find me.

*-Author unknown*

## *Acknowledgement*

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.

Perhaps you sent a floral piece If so, we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.

Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.

Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You, Whatever the part.

### **Professional Services Provided By**

**COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE**

130 Main Street  
Orange, NJ  
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street  
Newark, NJ  
973-926-6400

**COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME**

37 Clinton Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ  
201-433-1000

