

Celebrating The Life Of
Vivian C. Dawson

Sunset
September 9, 2019



Serenity Prayer
God grant me
the serenity to accept the things I cannot change
the courage to change the things I can, and
the wisdom to know the difference.

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 - 11:00 a.m.

Woody “Home For Services”

163 Oakwood Avenue

Orange, New Jersey 07050

Rev. Jeffrey B. Kearney, Officiating

Myron Smith, Organist

Obituary

Beloved mother, aunt Vivian Frances Caesar Dawson passed away on September 9, 2019 after a brief illness. Having survived a stroke in 2017, she lived in relatively good health until her passing. Prior to the stroke, she lived an active, independent lifestyle.

Vivian was born in East Orange, NJ to Dorothy and Joseph Caesar. Along with her sister Barbara, Vivian attended and graduated from the East Orange school system. She did well in school academically and made many friendships that lasted into her adult life. She enjoyed sports and social activities. Along with her sister, she was a member of the Twilight Debs social club.

It was through her interest in basketball that Vivian met her husband Robert Dawson, who played on local area and college basketball teams. They later welcomed a daughter Donna.

Except for a brief job following high school, Vivian was employed by NJ Bell Telephone for her entire working career. She was one of the first female African American management employees in the Network Traffic Engineering organization, where she managed the group responsible for supplying call rate and routing information. Vivian enjoyed a close working and social relationship with her co-workers. They frequently went to plays and dinners in New York City. Vivian loved musicals and saw "Purlie," "Guys and Dolls," and "The Wiz," several times. Vivian also bowled for many years in the NJ Bell bowling leagues. She retired from NJ Bell after 33 years of service.

Vivian enjoyed traveling a great deal. She and her friend Dorcus Rogers planned a number of group trips throughout the US by train and bus. With her family, Vivian took cruises to Bermuda and several Caribbean islands. Vivian also enjoyed vacationing in Atlantic City; first with her parents as a child and later as an adult with her family. She also liked to gamble and would accompany a senior citizen group on their monthly casino Excursions.

Vivian also liked movies. Often she would chauffeur her uncle Bobby Smith and cousin Marie Langston to matinees, where they would enjoy lunch and a movie. If there were a movie she really liked, she would go see it many times at various theaters.

She loved watching sports, particularly college and professional basketball and football. And Vivian was an avid Yankee fan. Recently, she even started following golf on tv.

Vivian had a soft spot in her heart for most animals. She particularly loved dogs and cats and shared her home with a number of them over the years. One of her neighbor's cats "adopted" Vivian, returning even though she took him home many times. Finally, the neighbor let her keep Gallagher. Through the years, Vivian also doted on her daughter and son-in-law's pets, making sure they always had plenty of toys.

Vivian was an intelligent, independent woman, who was extremely devoted to her family. She greatly enjoyed family gatherings; looking forward to planning and celebrating birthdays and holidays. Vivian donated to many charities and on numerous occasions would help friends or relatives without a request or any return expectations. Her decisive, organized nature drew others to her for advice and initiative. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends and all who knew her.

Vivian was the beloved wife of Robert ("Bob") Dawson (deceased); devoted mother of Donna Dawson-Luckey and her husband Kennard ("Ken") Luckey; beloved sister of Barbara C. Phipps (deceased); loving aunt of Loren Phipps Cadwell; loving cousin of Dennis Smith and his wife Mary Jane Linnehan Smith, and doting companion of Luc the cat. She is also survived by a host of other loving relatives and dear friends.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude.....Myron Smith, Organist
Seating of the Family.....The Funeral Director
Invocation.....Rev. Jeffrey B. Kearney
Selections.....“Fields of Gold” Sting, “Night Time Conversation” Dorothy Wanger
Dennis Smith/Dorothy Wagner, Guitars
Scripture Readings.....Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, 1-8; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
Solo.....Tyrone Dunlap
Obituary.....(Read Silently)
Remarks/Acknowledgements
Selections.....*Tears in Heaven*” Eric Clapton, “Blackbird” Lennon/McCartney
Dennis Smith/Dorothy Wagner, Guitars
Words of Comfort.....Rev. Jeffrey B. Kearney
Church of The New Covenant • East Orange, New Jersey
Solo.....“Wind Beneath My Wings”Tyrone Dunlap
Closing Prayer.....Rev. Jeffrey B. Kearney
Recessional.....Clergy and Family

Interment
Fairmount Cemetery
Newark, New Jersey

Repast
Immediately following the Interment family and
friends are invited for a repast at
Librettis, 564 Nassau St. • Orange, NJ 07050

The Broken Chain

We little knew the day that God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly; in death we do the same.
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.
You left us peaceful memories. Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you, you are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same,
but as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.

Ron Tranmer

Weep Not For Me

Weep not for me though I have gone into that gentle night.
Grieve if you will, but not for long upon my soul's sweet fight.
I am at peace, my soul's at rest; there is no need for tears.
For with your love I was so blessed for all those many years.
There is no pain; I suffer not. The fear is now all gone.
Put now these things out of your thoughts. In your memory I live on.
Remember not my fight for breath. Remember not the strife.
Please do not dwell upon my death, but celebrate my life.

Author Unknown

Acknowledgement

With sincere appreciation we acknowledge all of your comforting expressions
of sympathy and support during this sorrowful time.

The Family

Professional Services Provided By

Woody "Home For Services"

163 Oakwood Ave. • Orange, NJ 07050
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