

In Loving Memory of



Shirley Mae Knight

Sunrise: January 19, 1933
Sunset: September 25, 2019

Service

Friday, October 4, 2019 - 6:00 p.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Rev. Dr. Eric B. Turner, Officiating
Rev. Tyrone Richardson, Organist

Obituary

Shirley Mae Knight, daughter of the union of Margaret Woodard and Frank Jones, was born on January 19, 1933 in Portsmouth, Virginia. Having lived a full and remarkable life, she made her transition and departed this life on September 25, 2019 in the Bronx, New York.

Shirley's early upbringing in Portsmouth, Virginia was of the humble, wholesome and Christian tradition of her parents, family and community. She was a thoughtful, sweet, precocious child who was adored by her family. During her early years Shirley's care was also entrusted to and shared by her grandparents, Isaiah Woodard and Virginia Woodard who adored her and showered her with the love and compassion which is the essence of the lady so many have come to know and love.

Shirley's early education was in the Portsmouth Public School system. Afterward, she was educated in the Washington, D.C. public schools when Shirley, her mother and her Aunt Edyth moved to Washington, D.C. Eventually Shirley Knight and her mother settled in New York City where Shirley obtained her high school diploma as a proud and well lettered graduate of Wadleigh High School in Harlem in June 1950. Shirley often spoke proudly of her Wadleigh High School years, remarking about how far her education there had taken her and fondly recalling schoolmates and teachers, many of whom were quite accomplished.

As a young woman, Shirley fell in love with and married Billie Knight, having met him at a dance at the Savoy Ballroom in Harlem, New York. The children of their marriage are Sheila Knight and Billie Knight II. The Knight family moved to the Throgg's Neck section of the Bronx in the early 1960. Shirley Knight made sure her family life, of which Sheila and Billie were the center, was stable, moral and strong. She was a hardworking, good old-fashioned "ain't that something". She was ever generous in giving her children the care, instruction, discipline, patience, attentiveness, and love needed for each of them to grow and bloom. Shirley saw to the education of Sheila and Billie and continued her own education.

Shirley was employed by the United States Postal Service for a number of years. Thereafter, she was selected and made a career working as a Clerk and then as an Office Associate with the New York City Police Department. She was a highly regarded, trusted employee of the N.Y.P.D. and worked there until her retirement.

Shirley was a private person and at the same time was a social, sophisticated, and well-educated person. She enjoyed traveling and a variety of social gatherings and was well read and informed. She was a big New York Yankees fan. Even though Shirley was content with being her own person, her good nature caused her to have a large number of people she called "friend". There were even larger numbers of people who called her "friend". Shirley Knight, was, if anything, a sweet, generous and kind person of the first order. She would open her heart and give a nod of understanding or sympathy to a person in need of assurance. She gave wise counsel which she made easy to listen to and take. She gave financial support to many. She would readily help family, friends and strangers, neither asking for nor expecting anything in return.

Shirley Mae Knight, following the untimely passing of her daughter Sheila, and in the very best of personal and African American family tradition, stepped forward after her retirement and worked and sacrificed in order to see to the continued, strong upbringing

of her granddaughters, Tamika and Tiara Knight. Shirley Knight selflessly saw to the care and well-being of her mother during her mother's later extended trying years with great sacrifice but in good cheer and without complaint. She was a dutiful and loving wife to her late husband, Billie Knight, Sr.

Shirley Mae Knight, beloved and faithful, daughter, mother, grandmother and friend to many, departed this life in peace knowing she was loved. To the end, she expressed her concern and love for her family.

Shirley Mae Knight was preceded in passing by her mother, Margaret Woodard, her beloved daughter, Sheila Knight, her husband, Billie Knight I, and her aunt and "big sister" Edyth.

Shirley Mae Knight is survived and mourned by her beloved and dutiful son, Billie Knight II. She is also survived by her beloved granddaughters, Tamika Knight, Tasia Knight, and Tiara Knight, and a grandson, Anthony Jordan. She leaves to mourn but also lovingly remember her great-grandchildren, Davasia Dunlop, Jalen Baker, Jayda Dunlop, Wesley Stephenson, Justin Baker, Jeremiah Stephenson, David Dunlop and Teagan Jordan. She is also survived by her beloved sister-in-law, Delores Knight, numerous family members in Norfolk and Virginia Beach, Virginia, and a host of other family members and friends.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

Final Disposition

*Oxford Hills Crematory
Chester, New York*

Serenity Prayer

GOD, grant me the Serenity to accept
the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,
and the Wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.
Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it.
Trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life,
and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next.

Amen

-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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