

Celebrating the Life Of
Theresa Joan Wilkes Snell

March 5, 1931 - December 29, 2019



Tuesday, January 7, 2020 - 11:00 a.m.

Elmwood United Presbyterian Church

135 Elmwood Avenue
East Orange, New Jersey

Reverend Maria Crompton, Officiating

Obituary

Theresa Joan Wilkes Snell was born March 5, 1931 in Newark, NJ to the late Herbert and Ruth Wilkes. She was preceded in death by her husband, Adolph, and all her siblings; Ernestine, Ruth, Herbert, Charles, Anna, Shirley, Josephine, Robert, Reginald, Naomi and Kenneth.

For a short time, the Wilkes family resided in Belleville, NJ before moving to Oak Street in East Orange. The family was large and well known in the community for their vibrant and loving nature. The Wilkes family became a very active part of the community.

Tess attended the East Orange Public School System and graduated in June 1950. In 1953, Tess met the love of her life, Adolph Snell, whom she affectionately called "Honey." On June 3, 1955, they were joined in holy matrimony and to this union, three children were born: Barry, her favorite daughter Lezli, and Kenneth.

Tess completed a secretarial program and began working outside of her home once all her children were in school. For many years, Tess opened her home and provided childcare for a number of children in the neighborhood. She loved baking and doing activities with the children. She began her career with the Head Start Program where she and her niece, Patricia Dukes, worked together for several years. In 1970 Tess began working for the East Orange School District as a Secretary for Ashland School until she retired in 1990.

Throughout her life, Tessie was very vivacious, always smiling and had a fun-loving spirit. Her foundation in life was God, family, and love. Family meant everything to her. She enjoyed spending time with her siblings and frequently held "Sister Parties" at her home for all to attend. The Snell home was known for entertaining family and friends.

Tess was a member of Elmwood United Presbyterian Church since its inception. She and Snell developed a lifelong relationship with Elmwood's minister Rev. Joseph L. Roberts and his wife Jean. As a member, she loved working with the Marriage Enrichment Ministry.

In 1990, Tess and Snell relocated to Fairburn, Georgia to be closer to their friends, Joe and Jean Roberts. In April of 1991, they became active members of New Life Presbyterian Church. As members, they volunteered to coordinate the Vacation Bible School and actively worked with the Marriage Enrichment Ministry. Theresa's love for children inspired her to volunteer with the Kindergarten classes at Campbell Elementary School in Fairburn for several years.

Theresa so appreciated the love and acts of kindness shown to her by the Carpenter family, Lisa Williams, David Roberson, Kelly Howard, Shelley Oliver Granger, Gregory Munford, Robin Lewis and B Ausby. Their deeds provided comfort to her soul for many years.

Her memories will be forever cherished in the hearts of her beloved and devoted children; Barry (Kera), Lezli (Bernard), Kenneth (Yolanda); stepson David (Sheila); grandchildren Brandon, Bryce, Brooke, Brian, Dajhanna, Kimberly, Kisha; great grandchildren Jacoby, Kaila and David; one cousin Hollise Hill and a host of nieces and nephews.

Order of Service

- Processional “This Little Light of Mine”
- Call To Worship
- Opening Prayer
- Opening Selection “Amazing Grace” Jean James
- Old Testament - Ecclesiastes 3:1-5 Shelley Oliver Granger
Proverbs 3:5-6
- New Testament - John 14:1-6 Reggie Wilkes II
- Solo “Precious Lord” Tyrone Dunlap
- Poem Dawn Wilkes
- Remarks
- Acknowledgements
- Reading of the Obituary Michele Davenport
- Solo Jean James
- Eulogy Rev. Maria Crompton, M.Div.
- Recessional “Walk In The Light”

Interment
*Glendale Cemetery
28 Hoover Avenue
Bloomfield, New Jersey*

*Following the interment friends are invited to join the family
For a repast at the church.*

A Letter from Heaven

*When tomorrow starts without me
and I'm not here to see
If the sun should rise and find your
eyes filled with tears for me.*

*I wish so much you wouldn't cry,
the way you did today,
While thinking of the many things
we didn't get to say*

*I know how much you love me,
as much as I love you,
And each time you think of me
I know you'll miss me too.*

*When tomorrow starts without me,
don't think we're far apart,
for every time you think of me
I'm right there in your heart.*

Pallbearers

Brandon Snell
Bryce Snell
Brian Snell

James Howard
Reggie Wilkes III
Chadd Mukete

Acknowledgement

Grateful for the richness of her life.
The kindness of her heart and the love of her friends.
The family of Theresa W. Snell thanks you for all the
Compassion and concern shown to us.

May the Good Lord, who has welcomed Theresa, bless you and your family.

Professional Services Provided By

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