

# I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day.  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of day.  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it up with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much.  
Good friends, good times,  
a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free!*

*-author unknown*

## Acknowledgements

The family of Berniece Kee Hamilton would like to say "Thank You" for your kind expressions and prayers all served as a source of strength for us through our time of bereavement. We shall always be grateful. May God continue to bless each of you and keep you in his care.



**Berniece Kee Hamilton**



*The Life and Legacy of  
Berniece Kee Hamilton*

*May 2, 1931 - February 22, 2020*

*Thursday, March 5, 2020 - 11:00 a.m.*  
**The New Hope Baptist Church**  
106 Sussex Avenue  
Newark, New Jersey 07103  
Pastor Joe A. Carter  
Rev. Ruby Williams, Officiating



*That's My Momma*

One who produce a beautiful smile that reflects the loving spirit of the heart and soul. When we were babies, she would produce the comfort of warmth and cover so that we would not be cold. She did her best to raise us from boys to men, with many lessons that we would have learned throughout the years.

So you must understand why today we share so many tears. But it's not over Ms. Berniece Kee Hamilton, a queen in our eyes. The essence of her smile and her inner being, for those who she touched shall always rise. My mother was a true believer in a family that prays together, stays together. From the family that she came from and the family that she bought to life. There are just a few great qualities of a beautiful woman and a loving wife. She had a great love for music, and could sing like a bird. With a sensational voice, that could always be heard.

A Nana to many, many loving grands, and a great grands. As she was there for them whenever they were in need. With a show of strength and words of wisdom and good advice, so that they all could succeed. In the twilight of her days, if she was to do or say something that we didn't understand. She would just look up and say keep living and that would be her demand.

My momma a mother full of compassion with such a loving soul, a true precious gem as if she was made of a diamond laced with gold. And I could go on and on, and the whole story would not be told.

That's my momma  
Al-Khalique Kee Hamilton

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# Phenomenal Woman

Pretty women wonder where my  
secret lies.

I'm not cute or built to suit a  
fashion model's size  
But when I start to tell them,  
They think I'm telling lies.

I say,  
It's in the reach of my arms  
The span of my hips,  
The stride of my step,  
The curl of my lips.  
I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

I walk into a room  
Just as cool as you please,  
And to a man,  
The fellows stand or  
Fall down on their knees.  
Then they swarm around me  
A hive of honey bees.

I say,  
It's the fire in my eyes,  
And the flash of my teeth,  
The swing in my waist,  
And the joy in my feet.  
I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

Men themselves have wondered  
What they see in me.  
They try so much



But they can't touch  
My inner mystery.  
When I try to show them  
They say they still can't  
see.

I say,  
It's in the arch of my back,  
The sun of my smile,  
The ride of my breasts,  
The grace of my style.  
I'm a woman

Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

Now you understand  
Just why my head's not  
bowed.  
I don't shout or jump  
about  
Or have to talk real loud.  
When you see me passing  
It ought to make you  
proud.

I say,  
It's in the click of my heels,  
The bend of my hair,  
the palm of my hand,  
The need of my care,  
'Cause I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

*Processional*

*Sealing of The Bier*

*Invocation.....Rev. Ruby Williams*

*Musical Selection..... Aliyah Hamilton ~ Granddaughter*

*Scripture Readings*

*Old Testament..... Proverbs 31: 10-12 ~ Jessie Butler - Cousin*

*New Testament Matthew 13: 1-9 ~ Henry D. Muhammad - Son*

*Prayer of Comfort.....John P. Kee ~ Nephew*

*Musical Selection.....Leon "Charlie" Nelson ~ Nephew*

*Remarks: .....Hakim (Henry) D. Muhammad - Hamilton ~ Son  
Desarea Bryant and Hassaina Williams ~ Granddaughters*

*Acknowledgements / Condolences:*

*Resolutions..... Rev. Louise Roundtree*

*Obituary..... Audrey Wilson ~ Niece*

*Tribute to the Family..... Beverly Kee ~ Niece*

*Tribute to Mamma..... Al-khalique Kee ~ Son*

*Musical Selection.....John P. Kee ~ Nephew*

*Eulogy..... Pastor Joe A. Carter*

*Recessional*

**INTERMENT**  
Fairmount Cemetery  
Newark, New Jersey

*Immediately following the Interment, family and friends  
are invited back to the church dining hall for a repast*

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*When the trumpet sounded on February 22, 2020 at 12:39 am and the angles sang “When the Saints Come Marching In”, Berniece Kee Hamilton traveled in the footsteps of her siblings who have gone before her and was reunited with her loved ones. We give praise for the gifts she has shared with us as we celebrate her life and legacy of this phenomenal woman.*

*Berniece Kee Hamilton was born May 2, 1931 in Blacksburg, South Carolina. She was the fourth child born to the late George Graham Kee Sr. and Florence Elizabeth Thompson.*

*Berniece was raised in the Ironbound section of Newark, NJ where she attended Oliver Street Elementary School and East Side High School. Because of her love for music, she sang in the school chorus and in several church choirs. She also sang Jazz and R&B music and performed with such notable artist as Sarah Vaughn, Cissy Houston and other great acts in the Greater Newark, New Jersey area.*

*In the early 1950’s she met and married the love of her life, the late Bishop Henry Hamilton and from this union, six beautiful children were born; the late Henrietta (Hassaina) Hamilton, the late John Calvin Kee, Al-khalique Kee Hamilton, Hakim (Henry) D. Muhammad - Hamilton, Bishop Darryl Hamilton and the late Kevin Bernard Hamilton.*

*She was a devoted mother and homemaker to Bishop and her children up until the age of 60. She began to work as a Home Health Aid for Unified Vailsburg Corporation, located in Newark, NJ where she received several recognition awards for her “Outstanding Work” until her retirement at the age of 83.*

*Berniece was raised as a Christian where she was a long-time devoted member of St. James AME Church of Newark, NJ for over 50 years. She sang in the church choir and participated in church activities until her health would no longer allow her to attend.*

*Bernice was a very classy and stylish woman, who loved to dress with a nice pair of high heels. Her granddaughters always made*

*sure they took her to the hair salon to get her hair done, but don’t get it twisted Berniece was always famous for wearing a nice wig too.*

*Berniece loved music, her favorite song was “Oh Danny Boy” by Jackie Wilson up until her death. She could often be found listening to it while dancing around the house. Her love for music was passed along to her children by which they formed a singing group called the “Hamiltones”. Al-khalique and Hakim went on to continue the legacy by forming their own singing group now known as “The Silver Stars”. It would be very irregular for her not to be attending either her son’s or her nephew “John P. Kee” performances as much as she could.*

*Berniece loved to entertain and to sing at family gatherings. It gave her so much joy to have a home filled with laughter either with her children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or friends.*

*Berniece was preceded in death by her husband Bishop Henry Hamilton; her daughter, Henrietta (Hassaina); her two sons, Calvin and Kevin; her grandson, Yusef Johnson; and her seven siblings; John Henry Kee Sr., Lizzie Kee Nelson, Caroline Kee - Cuthbertson, Victor Kee, Mary Ellen Kee -Smoot, Miriam Kee and George Kee Jr.*

*Berniece leaves to cherish her fond and loving memories; her three sons, Al-khalique Kee (Kimberlie) Hamilton, Hakim (Henry) D. Muhammad - Hamilton and Bishop Darryl (Deon) Hamilton; twenty-four grandchildren; Ramona, Latifah, Hassaina, Lena (Tiny), Desarea, Calvin Kenyun, Sharif, Sharhea, Cameron, Shaeed, Aziz (Keith), Zakia, Al- khalique, Aliyah, Kareem, Al-Tariq, Sherrell, Sherry, Hakima, Fardah, Aquil, Qamar, Darryl and Ashley; one sister-in-law; Elizabeth (John H.) Kee and a host of great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins; special friends; Denise Young, Alnisa Barns, Abdullah Muhammad, Mista-B, Karriem Saffat, Myra Lawson, Muta Ibn Ali, Dennis (Sherry) Porter, Wahida Clark and the members and staff of Prodigal Sons and Daughters Redirection Services, Harriet Tubman School and so many, many more that time and space could not permit.*

*Berniece will truly be missed by all!*

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