

*In Loving Memory
of*



Sojourner Renee McCauley

Sunrise: April 16, 1951

Sunset: March 26, 2020

Friday, April 10, 2020 - 9:30 am

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Obituary

On March 26, 2020, **Sojourner McCauley** got her wings and went to walk with the angels. She was 68 years old.

Sojourner McCauley was born to the late Oscar McCauley and IGean Rothwell.

Sojourner attended Long Island City High School, then went on to obtain her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology at NYU.

Iya Sojourner was active in her community, she was BPHN Board Member since June 2011, she began her career as a client care supervisor at the Magdalene House. There she gained first-hand experience providing homes to women in need who were going through detox or returning from a rehab center. Her services were soon in demand at WestHab Inc., where she supervised staff at their different facilities and implemented a community forum for the understanding of homelessness.

After working at Bronx AIDS Services as a Coordinator of Community Services—where she facilitated the Consumer Advisory Board and coordinated volunteer services—Ms. McCauley used her strong community experience to plan and implement HIV awareness, maintaining a membership on the Bronx Regional Faith Based Committee through NYC AIDS Institute.

A strong advocate and champion for women, Ms. McCauley is an active member of the Womyn of Color Healing and Justice Consortium Leadership Team, and an Egbe Iwa Odo’Kunrin*Egbe Iwa Odo’Binrin (Society of Young Men and Women of Good Character) Board Member. She was a priestess of Yemaya for 37 years, her knowledge, insight and experience are invaluable. She has been a political, grassroots agitator, organizer and advocate for change in the LGBT communities of color for over 28 years. She recently retired as the Coordinator of Community Services at BOOM/HEALTH, where she was instrumental in making HIV testing and condoms available in faith communities in the Bronx.

She is survived by: her life partner, Denise Erica Tyler; her two children, Laila McCauley Turner and Scott Gottfried; her grandchildren, Lakeema Caldwell, Christina Gottfried, Garvin Turner, Jr., Nia Turner, and Rachel Gottfried.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Recessional

Interment

Mt. Rest Cemetery
Butler, New Jersey

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 his call,
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah 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 savoured 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.

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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