

In Loving Memory of



Edna Louise Riley

Sunrise
November 8, 1937

Sunset
May 9, 2020

Service:
Thursday, May 21, 2020 - 10:00 am

MCCALL'S BRONXWOOD FUNERAL HOME

4035 Bronxwood Avenue • Bronx, New York 10466

Rev. Anderson, Officiating

Minister Kevin Wade, Organist

Obituary

Edna Louise Riley (Armstrong) passed peacefully, surrounded by family on May 9, 2020 in the home of her loving niece in the Bronx. She was born in Montgomery Alabama on November 8, 1937 to Edward Lowe and Beulah Lee Austin. As a young child, she was an excellent student and a strong-willed, yet loving individual.

Her family relocated to Akron OH in 1947; however, upon the untimely death of her mother in 1953, New York City became Edna's permanent home. During her high school years, she was fortunate to land a clerical job with the Federal Government that enabled her to complete her educational requirements during the evening and to graduate from Roosevelt High School in 1956.

She met, fell in love and married the late Fred Riley. As a young widow and single parent, her integrity and strong work ethic led to a career path within State and Local Government. Edna enjoyed traveling to visit family, abroad, bus outings to Atlantic City and social activities. She loved to dance, was a phenomenal speaker and demonstrated extraordinary writing skills.

A devout Christian, Edna spent her lifetime in formal bible study and education. In 1985, she joined Thessalonia Baptist Church and served in various ministries and administrative positions. She faithfully attended services there until her health began to fail a few years ago. After dating long-time friend James "Stone" Armstrong for 20 years, they were married on February 22, 1986. The combining of their families provided her with the love and blessings of additional children.

Edna retired from the New York City Office of Contract Management in 1992. As a Deputy Director, her department reformed the city's welfare system in the Bronx. In addition, she was able to positively impact many lives through her work with the Agency for Child Development, the nation's largest contracting agency that funded day care centers nationwide. After 40 years of employment, Edna remained engaged in her field through active involvement in the Retirees Association. She had a cadre of associates "The Over the Hill Gang" who remained loyal friends in retirement.

Edna was preceded in death by siblings Esther Riley and Alonzo Street and husband Stone on July 18, 2019. She leaves behind to cherish her loving memory and to carry on her legacy of love: devoted daughter Pamela Riley, step children: JaVonne and Larry Armstrong, sister: Jean Sharon Jones (Winston Sanders), brothers: Willie Jones (Christine) and Lucius Street, brother-in-law: Robert "Bubba" Armstrong, former sister-in-law: Florence Wheeler who helped to raise her and remained close through the years, 1st generation nieces and nephew: Loretta Riley Brown, Nadijah Jones and Michael (Stephanie) Jones, great niece: Jamilah Brown, a myriad of great nieces and nephews, cousins, extended family and a host of friends.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude
Minister Kevin Wade

Processional

Invocation
Rev. Anderson

Selection
Minister Kevin Wade

Scripture Readings
Old Testament
New Testament
Rev. Anderson

Prayer Of Comfort
Rev. Anderson

Selection
Minister Kevin Wade

Reading Of Obituary

Selection
Minister Kevin Wade

Eulogy
Rev. Anderson

Committal & Benediction
Rev. Anderson

Remarks By Funeral Director

Final Viewing

Recessional

Entombment

Tuesday, June 9, 2020
Woodlawn Cemetery
Bronx, New York

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.
I'm following the path God has chosen 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've found now peace at the end of the day.
If my parting has left a void,
then fill it with remembered joys.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;
Oh yes, these things, I too will I miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
look for the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much;
good friends, good times, a loved ones touch.
Perhaps my time seems all too brief;
don't lengthen your time with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and peace to thee,
God wanted me now – He set me free.

Acknowledgments

The family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.

Professional Service Entrusted To:

McCall's *Bronxwood*
Funeral Home, Inc.

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