



*Celebrating the Life of*  
*Barbara Mays-Bobb*

Sunrise  
July 5, 1943

Sunset  
June 18, 2020



Friday, July 3, 2020 - 10am

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**  
2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

# *Obituary*

**Barbara Jean Mays-Bobb**, 76 years young, who was a resident of Boca Raton, Florida departed this life on Thursday, June 18, 2020, after battling cancer for almost 3 years. When she took her final breath before going home, she was holding the hand of her husband and greatest love, Paul (Ronnie) Bobb.

Barbara Jean was born in New York City on July 5, 1943 to Gertrude and Victor Callender. Barbara was the youngest of four siblings and throughout her education in the New York City Public School system, she demonstrated a love of learning and a penchant for excelling in all of her endeavors. She graduated from Central Commercial High School in 1961. Her first marriage was to James Mays in 1964 and later that year, they had a son, James Charles Mays. Unfortunately, the marriage ended in a divorce. Sometime later, Barbara met Lowell Pierre and they had a daughter, Natalie Pierre-Rodriguez.

From her early years, Barbara was self-sufficient as evidenced by the part-time job with the New York public library system that she maintained for the better part of her high school tenure.

At 28, Barbara secured a position as a secretary with the Ziff Davis Media Group. One of the company's many noted publications was the magazine Travel Weekly. Starting as a secretary, she rose through the ranks, first as a travel writer and ultimately to the lauded position of Editor. Her career spanned over 31 years. During her tenure, she was able to visit more than 32 countries, four continents, all of which included Egypt, Russia, Japan, Mexico, Africa, France, Italy, and Greece. She wrote about her experiences with a bent on encouraging others to develop an appreciation for the rewards of global travel. Before the advent of the TV show Dora the Explorer, BJ Mays was a young black writer from Harlem who extolled the virtues of world travel.

Barbara and Ronnie were childhood sweethearts who reconnected later in life. An innocent phone call from a dear friend in 1993, proved to be the start of what turned out to be a storybook romance. Since that fateful call, Barbara and Ronnie have been inseparable. No matter the weather, destination or situation, their love conquered all.

Barbara, however, also had a love for tennis. She wasn't just an avid tennis player but a super fan. After attending the US Open for many years in her retirement she volunteered to work at many local tournaments. Like all great champions she learned to function with pain and keep serving. This is how she lived her life not as a spectator but as being involved in life.

Music and dance also brought her joy. It wasn't uncommon for a catchy song or beat to bring BJ alive. She was often the life of the party, even while she was battling a terrible disease. Her warm smile and social skills were unmatched. It has been said on many occasions, "that if you didn't like Barbara, something was wrong with you."

Barbara was small in stature, but her personality was larger than life. She leaves to cherish her memory: husband, Paul Bobb (Ronnie); stepsons, Paul and Ronnie; her daughter, Natalie Pierre-Rodriguez; Lowell Pierre; her two grandsons, Michael Derrick Mays and NaSire Rodriguez; two great granddaughters, Michaela and Blair Mays; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends. Barbara is predeceased by parents, Gertrude and Victor Callender, James Mays, Sr., James Charles Mays, Dennis Callender, Victor Callender, and Eleanor Simmons.

# *Order of Service*

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Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

## *Interment*

Fairlawn Memorial Park, Fair Lawn, 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.

# Isaiah 38: 16, 17

Lord, by such things people live and my spirit finds life in them too.

You restored me to health and let me live. Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back.

*"Life is too short for drama and petty things, so kiss slowly, laugh insanely, love truly and forgive quicklyd ..&*

## 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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