

Order of Service

Prelude	Musician
Processional	Clergy and Family
Scripture Reading:	
Old Testament	Proverbs 31:25-26
New Testament	John 14:27
Prayer of ComfortReve	erend Linda Jefferson
Selection	Jasmine Jefferson
Acknowledgments	Tiffani Thompson
Reflections	Family/Friends
Obituary	Silent Reading
Selection	Take Me to the King
Eulogy	vid Jefferson Sr, Esq.
Benediction	vid Jefferson Sr, Esq.
Recessional	Clergy and Family

<u>Interment</u> Fairmont Cemetery 620 Central Avenue Newark, New Jersey 07107



Cynthia Ruff Harris received her heavenly wings on March 29, 2021 at the St. Barnabas Hospital.

Cynthia was born August 4, 1963 in Newark, New Jersey to Ms. Dessie A. Ruff. She attended the Newark Public Schools and often shared fond memories of being a student at Camden Elementary & Middle School, and Central High School. It is during this time she met and established friendships that lasted throughout her life.

Cynthia became a mother at a young age to her oldest daughter Fatima. She later met and married Edgar Harris and to this union three additional children were born—Fayyaadh, Furquan, and Shakima. Cynthia was the epitome of a mother and wife, demonstrating unconditional love in every situation on a daily basis. Not only did she love her children, her husband and her family, she loved all of their friends and their families. She truly knew no strangers and did whatever she could to help any/everyone in need.

After ensuring her children had a firm foundation by being a "stay at home mom", Cynthia entered the workforce. She worked as a receptionist at the Lennard Clinic for several years until a debilitating illness made it impossible for her to continue. However, while she was there, she made a mighty impact on the lives of many. She made everyone who came into the clinic feel important and valued--treating them all with dignity. Her coworkers became extended family. While at Lennard, she helped secure employment for recent high school graduates, many of whom are current social workers on a city and/or state level.

One of the greatest joys of Cynthia's life was her grandchildren! She loved them with all of her heart and played an integral part in their lives: Zion, Zuri, Aziya, Timothy, Sayer, and Enoca. She doted over them, like none other. She showered them with love and support in a manner only she could do. She instilled in them a strong sense of self-worth/pride and unlimited possibilities. There was nothing, absolutely nothing, Cynthia wouldn't do for them regardless of her health limitations. However, she loved all of her grandchildren with all of her heart. At the time of her death, she was excitedly planning her late spring visit to Atlanta to spend time with her four younger grandchildren.

Cynthia accepted the Lord as her savior at a young age and was a longtime member of the Metropolitan Baptist Church, where she served as a member of the Hospitality Ministry. It was only fitting that the Lord would call her to serve in this ministry and be an integral part of welcoming parishioners into "His house".

Cynthia loved to entertain! She was a phenomenal cook who took great pride in preparing family dishes such as collard greens, baked macaroni and cheese, and potato salad, to name a few...as one would say "she put her foot in it". Cynthia had the best cookouts and birthday celebrations, not to mention holiday dinners! Everyone came to her house on these occasions, whether to stay the day or a few minutes of the day! She enjoyed the fellowship, fun, laughter, reminiscing, and music.

Cynthia is predeceased by: her mother, Dessie Ruff; her Sister-Veronica Ruff Boyd; her second mother-Mildred Ruff Drummer; her aunt-Yvonne Ruff Boone; and maternal grandparents Mildred and Thomas Ruff Sr.

Cynthia leaves to cherish her memory: Two daughters Fatima (Kairo) Ruffin-Newark, NJ and Shakima Harris-Orange, NJ; Two sons, Fayyaadh Harris-Rahway, NJ and Furquan Harris-Atlanta, GA; Two sisters: Debora (Emanuel) Weaver-North Plainfield, NJ and Ethel (Eugene) Erwin, Durham, NC; A devoted Aunt, Dorothy Lee Ruff-Orange, NJ; An Uncle Thomas (Anne) Ruff-Columbia, SC. Cynthia served as second/surrogate mom in the lives of Dr. Tauheedah Baker-Jones, Lateefah Taylor, Latoya Boyd, Raheem Boyd, Rahdee Boyd and Sharifah Turman. Three lifelong friends Tracy Oliver, Angenette Ellis-Harper, Sharon Barnes, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends!

Cynthia Ruff Harris leaves a legacy of selfless, unconditional love, and giving!

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!

<u> Acknowledgements</u>

The family of Cynthia Ruff Harris acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this time of bereavement.

God bless you all for your love, support, and prayers.

Professional Services by:

Whigham Funeral Home

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Carolyn Whigham, Director











