

*In Loving Memory of*



*Virginia Browner-McRae*

Sunrise  
October 23, 1928

Sunset  
May 11, 2021

Service:  
Wednesday, May 19, 2021 - 11:00 am

**MCCALL'S BRONXWOOD FUNERAL HOME**

4035 Bronxwood Avenue • Bronx, New York 10466

**Rev. Craig Johnson, Officiating**



# *Obituary*

*“ When I came to the foot of the cross, dear Lord, I was beaten, and worn, and tired. You lifted me with your loving arms and left me encouraged and inspired...When I longed to give up by the side of the road, You taught me to love and pray...to live by faith in your wonderful grace in a strange sweet infinite way...The pain and sorrows were all part of a plan and the pathway led me to you.”*

**Virginia Browner McRae**, daughter of the late Webster and Willie Tecora Browner, was born October 23, 1928 in Seneca, South Carolina. She mercifully departed this life May 11, 2021 at Calvary Hospital, Bronx, New York after extended illness.

At the age of six, Virginia moved with her family to Shelby, North Carolina. There, she attended her first through twelfth grades of education in the public schools of Cleveland County, North Carolina and displayed an unrelenting thirst for knowledge and sports. Virginia, affectionately called, “Gen” was looked upon by most as brilliant. She was an honor roll student and was also noted as an outstanding athlete who achieved many awards in the field of women’s basketball. Whilst in High School, “Gen” was a Batons Majorette, a member of the Glee Club, the French Club, the Drama Club, and the track team. In 1940 “Gen” was voted “May Queen” and later became homecoming queen, “Miss Cleveland”, which was put on the front page of “The Cleveland Echo” High School paper. In May 1947, she graduated Salutatory of her Senior Class and in September 1947, she entered the school of higher learning at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. Shortly after receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education on May 28, 1951, Virginia returned to Shelby, North Carolina and received her Grammar Teachers Certification.

Between 1951-1953, Virginia taught a variety of subjects to fifth and sixth graders, including her nieces and nephews. Virginia, the Captain of Grammar and High School Girls Basketball Team for two years, participated in County Tournaments and received two trophies. On July 17, 1953, Virginia resigned as a teacher.

On May 24, 1952, Virginia Browner married Herbert Spencer McRae, Jr., whom she met in July 1948 in Washington D.C., where she spent her summers working. The two were married in the town of Gaffney in Cherokee County, South Carolina. From that union they had two children, a daughter, Audrey T. McRae and a son, Kevin H. McRae. After a few years of marriage, the McRae family moved to New York City.

As a firm believer in the Lord, Virginia was affiliated with Goodwill Baptism Church for over 60 years. She served in the Sanctuary Choir, Great Choir and Memorial Choir. She was crowned Queen from the “King & Queen” contest Sanctuary Choir on August 10, 1980. Virginia was a faithful and dedicated member of the church until she could no longer attend due to poor health. Although she was homebound, her love for the church never wavered & she continued to provide support and tithes.

Virginia was also a member of the Order of Eastern Star. Virginia has been a Dennis Lane resident/ stockholder for more than 45 years. She received a Distinguished Service Award by Dennis Lane for being on the Board of Directors from 1998 - 2018 (twenty years) as the Treasurer of the Board of Directors.

In September 1989, Virginia enrolled in weekend classes at the Westchester Business Institute, White Plains, NY. On May 16, 1991, at the age of 63, she graduated and received her diploma as a Word Processing Specialist with honors for maintaining a 4.0 Quality Grade Point Average. Her message for students of all ages, “After having been out of the school system for 37 years, IF I CAN EXCEL SCHOLASTICALLY, SO CAN YOU!”

- A few of her numerous awards & certificates over 50 years:
- Certification of Appreciation- support of law enforcement officers across the nations.
- National Museum of African American History & Cultures (August 21, 2018)
- Faithful Support American Lung Association
- Special Olympics award received June 6, 1983
- Veteran Administration Incentive award from Chief Spinor Cord Injury section July 25th
- Dean’s List
- President’s Lists

Virginia was preceded in death by her husband, Herbert S. McRae, Jr on May 31, 1991. She leaves to cherish her memory; one daughter, Audrey T. McRae-Morse; one son, Kevin H. McRae; one sister-in-law, Luradene Wright; two grandchildren, Brandon W. Morse and Allegra T. Morse-Brannon; one grandson-in-law, James W. Brannon; two great- grandchildren, Aaden & Alani Brannon; 8 nieces; 5 nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.



# *Order of Service*

Processional

Opening Selection ..... “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Prayer Scripture

Old Testament – Psalm 23

New Testament – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Selection ..... “Rough Side of the Mountain”

Poem

Tributes ..... (2 min)

Obituary

Selection ..... “He’ll Understand and Say Well Done”

Eulogy ..... Rev. Craig N. Johnson

Committal

Viewing ..... “Going Up Yonder”

Recessional

## *Interment*

Calverton National Cemetery  
Calverton, New York





by Dover Foundation  
In Memory  
of & K. N. L.

## *I'll Be Seeing You*

I'm at rest so don't cry  
It will be easier as time goes by.  
I've done my best to live a good life,  
For I know if I did I could go with God.  
As my body lies here it is only a shell.  
God has called me home and my job I've done well.  
Know that I'm happy and very content.  
For the things I've done wrong I will repent.  
You know, that I know it is hard on earth;  
So you shouldn't cry at death but at birth.  
I have no worries pain or fears  
Cause I'm with God so dry your tears.  
I love you all, so this is what I want you to do:  
Put God first in your life, and "I'll be seeing you."  
Look at me as you go by,  
So as you are once was I.  
But as I am so shall you be  
So prepare yourselves now for someday soon  
You will follow me.

Lovingly Submitted,  
Family

## *Acknowledgments*

The family of Virginia B. McRae wishes to express their deep appreciation and gratitude for the many comforting expressions of sympathy, love and kindness shown to them during their hour of bereavement.

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*Professional Service Entrusted To:*

**McCall's Bronxwood**

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