

*In Loving Memory of*



*Mary Elizabeth Duke*

Sunrise  
August 2, 1933

Sunset  
May 21, 2021

**Saturday, June 5, 2021 - 10AM**

**Seven Light Baptist Church**

3855 3rd Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457

# Obituary

**Mary Elizabeth (Streat) Duke** was born on August 2, 1933 to the late Hazel and Nellie Streat in Meherrin, Virginia. Mary was raised by her grandmother and grandfather, Jannie and Johnie Streat in Farmville, VA; where she spent her childhood and was educated until she graduated from high school. Later she moved from Virginia to New York City where she continued her education at Bronx Community College. Her calling was always to be a nurse. Mary worked at Metropolitan Hospital as a charge nurse and then Kateri Residence Nursing Home where she retired from after 30 years as a L.P.N. After moving from church to church, Mary joined Seven Light Baptist Church in 1981, where she worked until her health began to fail her. She was a member of the Senior Choir and initiated its name change to the now Mary Lee Walker Choir, the Harrison Gospel Ensemble, and the Women's Day Committee which she loved and looked forward to cooking for that Sunday.

Mary Duke or "Ma Duke" as she was so lovingly called by many, touched the lives of all those she would come in contact with in her special way. To know Mary was to know something special. She may have inspired you in some way, cared for you when you were sick, raised you, helped raise your children, fed you when you were hungry and even when you weren't, clothed you, taught you a life lesson, shared her wisdom, gave you advice, was someone to confide in, cried with you, prayed with you or for you, told you an uplifting story, said something that made you smile, and maybe the mother you needed in the absence of one. These are things that she would want you to remember when you think of her. These are the things that Mary's legacy are built upon and should be carry on by us all.

Mary's father, mother, grandparents, one sister, Martha, three brothers, Matthew, John, and Benjamin, daughters, Denise and Grace all preceded her in death.

To remember Mary is: Shenequa—her last devoted and loving daughter who never left her side; nine grandchildren, Nsenga Riverns, Edia Rivens, Edward Rivens, Chiantay Russell, Curel Russell, Travonni Russell, Sanaa Donalds, Isaiah Stevens, and Tammecka Henderson-Suber; twelve great-grandchildren, Imani, Aquillah, Onajae, Kiara, Anisa, Sam Mia, Aiyanna, Azaylah, Noah, Travonni Jr., Evan, and Aaliyah; five great-great-grandchildren, Ziza, Zani, Zere, Nuvi, and Nova; four godchildren, McKinley "Buster" Davis, Tomecar Brown, Tanya Patrick, and Anthony Nored; one child she raised from birth, Felicia Flournoy; a special nephew, Lee Johnson; her sister-friend, Shirley Smith; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, adopted children, adopted grandchildren, and friends.

Written by: Mary E. Duke

Edited & Updated by: Shenequa Duke

# *Order of Service*

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Processional.....	“I’m Going Through, Jesus”
Selection.....	“Jesus On the Main Line”
Old Testament: Psalm 23.....	Minister Alton Rouse
New Testament: 1 Corinthians 13.....	Rev. Larna Samuels
Prayer of Comfort.....	Rev. Stephanie Ward
Poem.....	Lee Johnson (Nephew)
Resolutions	
Remarks.....	Deacon Harry Williams (S.L.B.C.) Sylvester Murray
Obituary.....	Melissa Gaskin
Solo.....	“Peace Be Still”
Eulogy.....	Pastor Lois Giles
Recessional.....	“I Am On the Battlefield”

**INTERMENT:**  
Pinelawn Memorial Park  
Farmingdale, New York

## *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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