

*In Loving Memory of*



*Rachel M. Benn*

**October 19, 1943 – July 4, 2021**

**Saturday, July 17, 2021 - 10AM**

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

**2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027**

# *Obituary*

**Ms. Rachel Marie Benn**, 77, of Harlem, New York, formerly from Virginia, passed on July 4, 2021. She was preceded in death by her son, Edward Benn and grandson, Derrick Benn, Sr., three sisters, Audrey Parker, Gertrude Benn, and Dorothy McBride, two brothers, James and Johnnie Earl Benn and her significant other, J.D. Zimmerman. Rachel was born on October 19, 1943, to the late Ora Lee and Johnnie Benn.

Rachel is survived by her children, Pamela Benn, Michael Benn, Benjamin Benn, and Sha-Sheila Benn. Rachel is mourned by eleven beautiful, loving grandchildren, Lonnie Benn, Sr., Anthony Riley, Sr., Levern Benn, Benjamin Harris, Sr., Jason Benn, Irving Benn, Katie Benn, Diamond Benn, Zachary Benn, Brianna Benn, and Brianna Benn. Rachel has nine great grandchildren, Dior Benn, Lonnie Benn, Jr., India Benn, Javon Benn, Derrick Benn, Jr., Anthony Riley, Jr., Benjamin Harris, Jr., Legend Benn, Kennedy Harris and Zoey Benn. She leaves behind three sisters, Eva Parham, Jean Griffin, and Detro Ann Jones and two extended sisters, Mrs. Enid and Ruby Green. Rachel has a host of nieces and nephews who loved her dearly.

Rachel was a devoted mother and an especially a proud grandmother and great grandmother. Her hobbies included watching her soap operas and watching sci-fi channels, reading the newspaper and cooking on Sundays. She enjoyed helping people and treated everyone she met with love and respect. Some of Rachel's favorite things to do daily was to have her morning breakfast, chat with friends, neighbors, and family over the phone and in the park. Rachel loved listening to her music and dancing with her friends as they reminisced about the good old days. She would say that back in the day, they had (Juke Joints) and she was a Fox. Rachel's favorite place to eat was Sherman's Restaurant, in which she loved the barbecue ribs, potato salad, and spaghetti. Rachel enjoyed playing lottery numbers and hanging with her best friend, Mrs. Enid Smiley—aka Thelma and Louise. You would not see one without the other.

Later in life, the progression of kidney disease took her strength and stamina. Nonetheless, Rachel maintained her teasing humor and sharpness. Rachel had non-stop moments to make you laugh (if someone were knocking at the door, and she did not want to be bothered, she would (quote) my mother ain't home) as if she was a kid left alone at home. Her sense of humor was priceless and will always be remembered. Rachel's unfailing commitment, integrity and reliability to her family shows she was a superhero.

The family of Rachel Benn wishes to extend our sincere thanks to her wonderful friends and extended family. Rachel touched so many lives and will surely be missed. To the Smiley's family, we want to thank you all for your love and support throughout the years. Especially, Mrs. Enid Smiley for being a sister in heart to her. Rachel loved and adored her so much.

Today is the day, our mother, sister, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt and friend has been called home to Rest in Peace.

She wasn't just a great mother but a greater remarkable grandmother and no child can ask for nothing better.



# *Order of Service*

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

## **FINAL DISPOSITION:**

Rosehill Crematory  
Linden, 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.

## *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.***

**2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300  
1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY • (718) 774-1023  
1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833**



*Clifford V. James, President & CEO*

[www.unityfuneralchapels.com](http://www.unityfuneralchapels.com)

email: [unityfc@aol.com](mailto:unityfc@aol.com)

*Your Loved Ones Deserve The Best - Unity™*

