

*In Loving  
Memory of*

*Shaakira Waliyda  
Larnette-West*



**June 19, 1987 - July 24, 2021**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021 - 4:00 P.M.**

**Cotton Funeral Service**

**1025 Bergen Street • Newark, New Jersey**



## *Obituary*

On the 19th of June in 1987, Larry and Erniece West were blessed with their beautiful baby girl, Shaakira Waliyda-Larnette West. Larry and Erniece had their son Anwar and now their daughter, Shaakira. The West family was finally complete.

Shaakira grew up with her family in Irvington N.J. until they moved and settled to Jackson N.J. Shaakira was a very active child into her adolescent years. Her infectious smile could be found gracing the stage during many Emily Miles' Annual modeling events in Newark, N.J.

Growing up Shaakira was involved in many activities such as Karate and Golf. During her time at Goetz Middle School in Jackson N.J. Shaakira excelled in Tap dancing as well as Contemporary dance. Shaakira's parents believed in allowing their daughter to express herself in extracurricular activities in order for her to grow into a cultured and well-rounded woman.

Shaakira grew up closely with her older brother Anwar. Their bond was unbreakable. She was a known Daddy's girl and the apple of her Mother's eye. She spent many summers and free time with her beloved maternal Grandmother Jean Hampton (preceded in death), paternal Grandmother Thelma Cobbs her spouse Cleo Cobbs (both preceded in death), Aunt Regina and her cousins Akhu and Ayanna.

Shaakira loved to entertain and was the life of the party at all the family events hosted at her family home in Jackson N.J. She could always be found with her childhood best friend Asha Stokes. She loved to swim and make everyone feel welcome. She was truly a gracious host and fun-loving person. She loved to spend quality time with her niece Samiyah Jean West as often as she could.

After graduating Jackson Memorial High School in 2005, Shaakira attended the prestigious Historical Black College Shaw University in Raleigh N.C. Shaakira majored in Psychology. During her time at Shaw University, she was involved in the Track and Field team. In 2008, Shaakira pledged to the international, historically African American Sorority Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. She was the 7th line sister to pledge that year and was loved by her Sisters and fellow fraternity Brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

In 2009 Shaakira graduated from Shaw University obtaining her Bachelor's degree of Science in Psychology. She then attended North Carolina Central University and obtained her Master's degree in Psychology. Shaakira had a passion for helping others and pursued a career in Social Services. She later became the Director of Social Services at Tower Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Raleigh, N.C.

Shaakira loved the life she built in North Carolina, it was there in November of 2012 she met her long time love Tyrece Lee. Shaakira had a zest for life. She enjoyed traveling, cooking and had an adventurous spirit.

Shaakira leaves to cherish her memory Grandfather: William Copeland Sr.(Betty Copeland), Aunts: Regina Kerr, Valerie Silver (preceded in death), Pamela Ligon, Uncles: Marlo Silver (Jackie Brown-Silver), William Copeland Jr. (Connie Copeland) and Michael Copeland. Niece: Samiyah Jean West and a host of beloved cousins and friends.

Shaakira left us far too soon, but through faith we know God, the Author and Finisher of our fate knows what's best. We are thankful for the memories, laughter and most of all the love from this special young Woman.



## *Order of Service*

Processional: Pastor and Family

Prayer of Comfort: Bishop Hilton Rawls Sr.

Old testament: Psalms 46:1-7

New testament: Revelations 21:1-7 : Deacon George Hargrove III

Song of Hope: Tiffany Shaver

Family Tribute: Alissa Zayas

Reading of Obituary: Alissa Zayas

Musical selection: Evangelist Ushika Clyburn

Eulogy: Bishop Hilton Rawls Sr.

Hymn of consolation: When we all get to heaven

Benediction: Bishop Hilton Rawls Sr.

Final viewing

Recessional: Organist

*Interment*  
Rosehill Cemetery  
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 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!

**-author unknown**

## *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.*

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

130 Main Street  
Orange, NJ  
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street  
Newark, NJ  
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME

37 Clinton Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ  
201-433-1000

