

A portrait of an elderly Black woman, Elmeda E. Francis, is the central focus. She is wearing a grey headwrap with a blue flower and a long-sleeved dress with a vibrant geometric pattern in blue, white, and orange. She is standing on a white, ornate spiral staircase that curves upwards against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text "In Loving Memory of" is written in a white, elegant cursive font in the upper right corner.

*In Loving
Memory
of*

Elmeda E. Francis

Sunrise
November 16, 1919

Sunset
August 22, 2021

Service:
Saturday, August 28, 2021 - 11:30 am

MCCALL'S BRONXWOOD FUNERAL HOME

4035 Bronxwood Avenue • Bronx, New York 10466

Rev. Sheldon Williams, Officiating

Rev. David Jenkins, Organist

Obituary

Elmeda Everna Francis “Ma” entered this world on November 16, 1919 in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. On August 22, 2021, at the age of 101, while in her home in the Bronx, she was called home. Ma and her two siblings were born to Christian and Rosalind Francis. As a child she grew up in a faith-filled home.

Ma spent her early years in her hometown of St. Croix. She and her first born son Leroy, later migrated to the United States and her three younger children, Reuben, Eunice and Joseph, soon followed.

Ma was a hard-working woman who had a 35-year career as a seamstress with Amalgamated Service and Allied Industries which was located in the Fashion District of New York City. She was recognized as an expert in her field by numerous celebrity clients, such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr. and many more. She retired in 1982.

There was never a dull moment when Ma was around. She was witty and loved telling stories of her childhood in St. Croix. Ma was a voracious reader and could be often found reading late into the night. She loved spending time with her family and enjoyed the occasional trip to the Casino. There wasn't a slot machine safe when Ma was around. She enjoyed cooking for her family and they looked forward to her speciality, her cod fish cakes.

Physically able to “kick up her heels” for most of her years, she led by example of how to live and totally enjoy life. She was a spiritual woman whose favorite saying was “It’s in his hands.”.

Ma was predeceased by her brother, Leslie Francis, her sister, Doris Reed, her sons Leroy James and Joseph James and her daughter Eunice Campbell. Left to cherish her memory is her only surviving son, Reuben James; her grandchildren: Raymond James, Lorraine James, Crystal Jewell, Reynold James, Ronald James, Denise Copeland, Sheila Hagens, Reuben James, Jr., Donnell James and a host of relatives and friends.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude
Rev. David Jenkins

Processional

Invocation
Rev. Sheldon Williams

Selection
Rev. David Jenkins

Scripture Readings
Rev. Sheldon Williams
Old Testament
New Testament

Prayer Of Comfort
Rev. Sheldon Williams

Selection
Rev. David Jenkins

Reading Of Obituary

Selection
Rev. David Jenkins

Sermon
Rev. Sheldon Williams

Committal & Benediction
Rev. Sheldon Williams

Remarks By Funeral Director

Final Viewing

Recessional

Disposition

Ferncliff Crematory
Hartsdale, New York

Asleep

I've closed my eyes and fallen asleep,
So there's no reason for you to weep;
This is a debt we all must pay,
You will see me again someday.
I've endured pain and sometimes sorrow,
Now I don't have to worry about tomorrow.
But life for you must go on,
You must not worry because I'm gone.
You stood beside me all the way,
When I was down, you knew what to say ...
You always told me, "get some rest,"
Let me sleep now, I've done my best.
So please let me rest in peace,
The tears you're shedding soon will cease.
You'll soon realize this was meant to be, I
thank God because He came for me.
-Emily Dickinson

Acknowledgments

The family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.

Professional Service Entrusted To:

McCall's Bronxwood

Funeral Home, Inc.

4035 Bronxwood Avenue

Bronx, NY 10466

718-231-7647

Fax 718-231-7665

E-mail: Director@McCalls.net

Web: www.mccalls.net