

In Loving Memory of



Crystal Mearl Wade Carey

SUNRISE: April 8, 1949

SUNSET: September 10, 2021

Sunday, September 19, 2021 - 12PM - 2PM

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Obituary

Crystal M. Carey, 72, of Mt. Vernon, New York sadly passed away on September 10th, 2021. She was born on April 8th, 1949 in New York's Harlem Hospital as Crystal Mearl Wade.

In her early years, the family moved to the Bronx, New York where she was raised by her loving parents, the late George and Christine Wade. The Wade household consisted of five children, Vivian (who preceded her); George Jr.; Dorothy (who preceded her); Crystal and George Allen. Malcolm and Beatrice Grey were her younger siblings who preceded her.

Crystal graduated from Roosevelt High School and attained credits at New York Technical College. Crystal met and married James Pridgen and they had one child from their union, James "Derrick" Pridgen before they parted ways. Crystal's second child, Shannon Pridgen was born two years later. While employed as a clerk at Lincoln Hospital, Crystal met and married Dr. Robert Z. Carey, who preceded her. Crystal and Robert had two children from their union, Charles "Chuckie" and Corey Carey who were born in the South Bronx, whom they later raised in Mount Vernon, New York.

After her employment at Lincoln Hospital, Crystal continued with her working career in the medical profession at Greater Harlem Nursing Home in Harlem, NY. She then became the Director of SEBNC in Forrest Houses (in the Bronx, NY) and lastly as a foster parent.

Crystal affectionately called "Creeko" or "Creek" by her family was an infectiously funny and vivacious extrovert who loved people. She was engaging and charismatic. She had a generous spirit, and she knew how to connect with everyone she encountered. Crystal knew everybody from the boys on the block to political elites. She indiscriminately extended herself to form meaningful relationships with all.

A passionate community activist, she ran for a seat in the 36th State Senatorial District. She was responsible for the Food Pantry at 165th and Boston Road. She also was the founder of the Bronx Arts Cultural Center, President of Board William Hudson Senior Community Center in the Bronx, First Vice President of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Inc. in the Bronx. Crystal also held positions on various boards, Bronx Lebanon Hospital, the Black Forum, Old Timers Day at Crotona Park.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her four loving and devoted children, James "Derrick" (Denise) Pridgen of the Bronx, NY, Shannon A. Pridgen of Brooklyn, NY, Charles C. Carey of Rhode Island, and Corey C. Carey of Mt. Vernon, NY; a grandson, Nigel Pridgen of Harlem, NY; siblings, George Anderson Wade of the Bronx and George Allen (Simone) Wade of Elmont, NY; and a host of beloved nephews and nieces.

Psalm 23

The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.



INTERMENT:
Ferncliff Cemetery
Hartsdale, 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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