

Celebrating The Life of
Syacinth Merlyn Hawthorne
February 23, 1929 - December 12, 2021



Service Information

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2022
VIEWING: 9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.
SERVICE: 10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

ETERNITY FUNERAL SERVICES, LLC
725 East Gun Hill Road • Bronx, NY 10467
Rev. Hyacinth Johnson, Officiating
Min. Mark Stewart, Organist

Interment

Kensico Cemetery
Valhalla, NY

Pallbearers

Norman Withfield Mills
Hugh Victor Hawthorne
Patrick Keith Hawthorne
Seymour Clive Hawthorne

Order of Service

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| Welcome and Introduction | Reverend Hyacinth Johnson |
| Opening Prayer | Kamali O’Meally |
| Hymn | “It is Well With My Soul” |
| Old Testament Reading – Job 19:25-27 | Kareem Hawthorne |
| Remembrance | Dr. Colleen Hawthorne Corliss Crosswell, Felicia Elvis |
| Reading of the Psalm – Psalm 23 | Maxine Partridge |
| Remembrance | Vivienne Rottman |
| Reading of the Gospel – John 14:1-6 | Reverend Hyacinth Johnson |
| Remembrance | Jolie Hawthorne, Khadary Hawthorne, and Stephen Gaynor |
| Video Tribute and Well Wishes | Lynval George Gaynor Headley Stredick Gaynor |
| Hymn | “Blessed Assurance” |
| Reading of Obituary | Rowan Reid |
| Poem (“When I’m Gone”) | Shakina Hawthorne Krystle Sylvester & Jkeoyne Hawthorne–Symister |
| Open Tributes | 2 minutes each |
| Musical Tribute | |
| The Grandchildren’s Story Time | Kamali O’Meally & Janika Hawthorne |
| Selection | Marie & Junior |
| Words of Comfort | Reverend Hyacinth Johnson |
| Prayer For the Family | Minister Margaret Hawthorne |
| Closing Hymn | “When We All Get To Heaven” |
| Benediction | Reverend Hyacinth Johnson |
| Final Viewing | Eternity Funeral Services Directors |
| Recessional | |

Obituary

Hyacinth Merlyn Hawthorne, affectionately known as Ms. Merle, was the second of seven children born to the late Carlter and Lilla Gaynor (nee Wint) on February 23, 1929, in Friendship, Saint Ann, Jamaica West Indies.

Ms. Merle received her elementary education at the Addison Park School, Browns Town, Jamaica. Growing up, she was cheerful, experimental, curious and fun loving. She learnt to ride a fixed wheel bicycle at an early age and enjoyed riding around the neighborhood. She loved sewing and she helped her mother to sew many beautiful garments for family and friends.

As a young adult, Ms. Merle met and fell in love with her soulmate, Vincent Hawthorne and they were united in holy matrimony in 1950, followed by a beautiful reception at the family residence in Friendship, Saint Ann. In 1956, she immigrated to England where she initially worked in a confectionery factory and then as a bus conductress. After a few years abroad, she returned to Jamaica and later she relocated to New York.

Upon arrival in New York, Ms. Merle attended Monroe College where she honed her skills in business practices. She also worked as a manager at a West Indian store which was located at 174th Street on Boston Road, in the Bronx, New York, for a few years.

In 1972, Ms. Merle and her husband Vincent became proud owners of a superette called Vincent's Deli, on White Plains Road, in the Bronx, New York. Along with her husband, she worked diligently to operate the business until it grew into a successful endeavor. After her husband's passing in January 1979, she managed the business with the assistance of her children and other family members until her retirement. She was an astute businesswoman. She was kind and respectful to her customers and always showed appreciation to them for their support.

Ms. Merle was passionate about cooking and she enjoyed sharing her culinary delights with family, friends, neighbors, and customers. She always made sure that everyone around her was well fed and would sometimes pack bags of groceries and give to those in need without being asked. While she was busy operating her business, she also made time every day to cook meals and set aside portions for some customers who enjoyed savoring her delicious food before playing their domino or card games. Because of her very loving, kind, and caring nature, several of her customers became her lifelong friends and called her mother.

Ms. Merle also had a passion for gardening. She loved to plant vegetables, herbs and flowers. She took great pride in reaping what she planted and always shared her reapings with others. She had a special way of caring for plants so that everything that she planted flourished. Because of her special “green thumb” it was often said that even if she planted just a tiny piece of leaf, it would grow into a big and healthy plant.

Merle loved the Lord. She was a member of St Peter’s Lutheran Church, in the Bronx, New York, where she worshipped with many other family members until she relocated to Georgia. While in Georgia, she continued to serve and worship God and attended a local church near her home until she was physically unable to attend.

Ms. Merle was a very loving, caring, understanding, and nurturing mother. As a grandmother and great-grandmother, she was sweet, loving, lovable, and fun to be around. She delighted in keeping abreast of the activities, accomplishments, and milestones of all her children and each grandchild and great-grandchild, regardless of where they are located.

Her concern and love for her family members residing in various parts of the United States and abroad was sincere. She constantly contacted her family in various locations via telephone or written letters to see how they were doing. While living in Georgia, whenever there was inclement weather in other states or countries where her family members reside, quite often she was the first person to call those family members to tell them she heard of the pending weather or to ask them how they made out in the bad weather.

Ms. Merle was a genuine and sincere person, and she demonstrated her concern and love for others through her words and actions.

Ms. Merle was called home to eternal rest on December 12, 2021. She is preceded in death by her husband Vincent; children Celia and Toney; sister Enid; and brothers Alfred, Evans and Webster.

Ms. Merle is survived by children Norman, Victor, Keith, Clive, Jacqueline, Simeon, Jean, Myrtle and Lloyd; brothers Headley and Lynval; sisters-in-law Jill, Josephine and Joycelyn; daughters-in-law Audrey, Margaret and Pauline; and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, cousins and friends.

May Hyacinth Merlyn Hawthorne’s soul rest in everlasting peace.



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"It Is Well With My Soul"

When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my soul

Refrain.

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ (yes, He has)
has regarded my helpless estate
And has shed His own blood for my soul [Refrain]

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"Blessed Assurance"

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood

Refrain.

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

Perfect submission, perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love [Refrain]



Acknowledgement

The family of Hyacinth Merlyn Hawthorne acknowledges with great appreciation all acts of kindness, sympathy and love extended to us during this time of bereavement.



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