

*Celebrating the Life of*



*Earlene "Tracey" White*

**SUNRISE: February 17, 1938 - SUNSET: June 1, 2024**

**Wednesday, June 12, 2024**

**Viewing: 1pm - 4pm**

**Service: 4pm**

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

# Obituary

**Earlene** transitioned from her earthly body at 86, on June 1, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. She was preceded in death by her mother, Gladys Gaskill, brothers, Simon Gaskill, Jr. and Donald Gaskill and sister, Joyce Ann Gaskill.

Earlene Vonetta White, fondly known as “**Ms. Tracey**” to friends, neighbors and extended family, was born on February 17, 1938, in “Little” Washington, North Carolina to Gladys (White) Gaskill. Earlene departed from North Carolina in the late 1950’s, after graduating from Washington High School and moved to New York City, where she attended Apex Beauty School and became a beautician. Soon after she began a relationship with Van Showell, whom she shared two sons with, Alex and Monte. Several years later, she entered a relationship with Sam Doyle and gave birth to a daughter, Alexis.

Earlene was a strong, relentless mother who loved, cherished and deeply cared for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was so proud and independent, a true superhero. Earlene was forever young at 86 years of age, she continued to do her own cooking, shopping and errands, and rarely asked for assistance. She enjoyed watching television, she was extremely up-to-date on current events going on all around the world, as well as pop culture. She was very amusing and knew how to tell a good story. She shared many stories of her youth and early adulthood that will never be forgotten.

Earlene resided at 631 West 152nd Street for the past 55 years until her unexpected transition. “**Ms. Tracey**” was a pillar to the community, she was extremely caring and giving and never expected anything in return. She prepared the best meals, from large spreads for the holidays and birthdays to baking cakes and apple pies that she shared with everyone in the neighborhood. She was a gifted beautician, and incredibly famous in the neighborhood for doing the best Shirley Temple curls. She was also a talented seamstress who created outfits, prom dresses and did alterations for family and friends alike.

She would happily babysit and care for her grandchildren, and the children of countless friends and neighbors. Everyone in the neighborhood referred to her as Ma or Grandma. To say that she will be missed is an understatement, to know her was to love her. She was a true gift that will be forever cherished.

Earlene leaves to mourn: her sons, Alexander K. White and Monte V. White; daughter, Alexis S. White; grandson, Jahmod K. White (Michael); granddaughters, Nyasia N. White and Brianna White; seven great-grand sons, Michael White, Mekhi Torres, Mateyo White, Lorenzo White, Nasir Coffey, Jason White and Kyle White; brothers, Nelson Gaskill and George Gaskill; sisters, Shirley (Pat) Holt and Gladys Baker; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family from the neighborhood, who adopted her as mom or grandma.

# *Order of Service*

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

*Interment*

Hoboken Cemetery  
North Bergen, 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*

*We like to extend sincere gratitude to our friends, family and neighbors whom we gratefully shared her with and loved her so deeply. We would like to thank everyone for their kind words and expressions of sympathy during this difficult time.*

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