

Celebrating the Life of  
*Sylvia Williams-Saunders*

**APRIL 5, 1958 - APRIL 3, 2025**



# Obituary

Sylvia “Missy” Williams Saunders was born on April 5, 1958, in Brooklyn, New York, to Harry Williams Sr. and Margaret Williams. She was the fourth child in a vibrant and loving family. Preceding her in death were her parents and siblings: Tye, Harry Jr., Tyrone, Andre, Patricia, Felicia, and Lisa—each of whom she carried in her heart every day.

Missy attended 117 Middle School in Brooklyn and graduated from Walton High School in the Bronx. Shortly after graduation, she briefly joined the U.S. Army, but her heart led her in a different direction—toward caring for children. That same compassionate spirit guided her career as a teacher’s aide for the New York City Department of Education, where she nurtured countless young lives with patience and kindness. Though her work was cut short due to an injury, her impact lasted a lifetime.

Missy was a mother in every way that mattered. Though she had no biological children, she lovingly helped raise her sister’s children—Shelly, James, and Corey—as if they were her own. She created a home filled with warmth, laughter, and love, where every child was safe, every need was met, and everyone felt seen.

In June 2001, she married the love of her life, Robbie Saunders, after many years of partnership and devotion. Together, they shared a bond that inspired those around them. In retirement, they moved to Richmond, Virginia, where Missy found joy in quiet moments, family visits, and of course, a good plate of seafood from City Island—her favorite treat when she returned to New York. She spent Sundays in Richmond at the flea market with her husband selling various goods and meeting new people.

Missy’s heart belonged to her family. Growing up in Brooklyn, she loved playing handball and softball with her sisters. The family team—Patty, Felicia, Helen, Cathy, and Tony—was a force to be reckoned with. Sundays meant handball games in the Bronx with her sister Pat, facing off against Alex McMillan and his crew. Summers were marked by laughter at big family BBQs in Pelham Bay Park, reunions in Sumter, South Carolina, and youthful memories at Youth-in-Action and Church Camp (even if they weren’t always her favorite).

She was elegant and sass rolled into one—a woman who could light up a room with her smile, who never hesitated to lend a helping hand, and who stood fiercely for those she loved.

She leaves behind a legacy of love, cherished by her husband Robbie Saunders; her step father Daniel Spruill; her daughter Shelly Williams and son Corey Williams; her brother Charles Gilmore (Vanessa Gilmore); sisters Mrs. Terry Swan and Mrs. Annette Brown; her beloved cousin Eddie Wright; grandchildren Ashaunie, Bashiri, and Cherish; her uncle James Gilmore (Ernestine); and a host of family and friends who will forever carry her light in their hearts.

One thing we loved the most about Missy is her 5am calls on our birthday, singing Happy Birthday. She always made it her business to be the first person to call each and every family member on their birthdays. Sylvia “Missy” Williams Saunders gave love freely, lived life joyfully, and left this world better than she found it. She will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

A Message to my Wife: Thank you for loving me so deeply and so truly. Thank you for sharing your beautiful life with me as my wife. Every moment with you is a blessing, and I believe with all my heart that our love will last for eternity.

Forever yours,  
Robbie Butch Saunders -

*Monday, April 21, 2025*  
*Viewing - 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM*  
*Celebration of Life - 6:00 PM*

**T. Carrillo Funeral Service LLC**

4363 Bronx Blvd  
Bronx, New York 10466

*Order of Service*

Prayer of Comfort ..... Annette Brown- Sister

Hymn of Comfort ..... “What a Friend We Have In Jesus”

Reading of the Word ..... Pastor Sherry Williams

Old Testament: Psalm 23

New Testament: John 14; 1-6

Song ..... “I’m Gonna Be Ready” By Yolanda Adams

Reflections - 2 minutes please

Special Tribute ..... Poem- Ashaine Walsh -Granddaughter

Acknowledgement of Condolences

Reading of the Obituary ..... Tyrena Whitehurst (niece)

Musical Selection

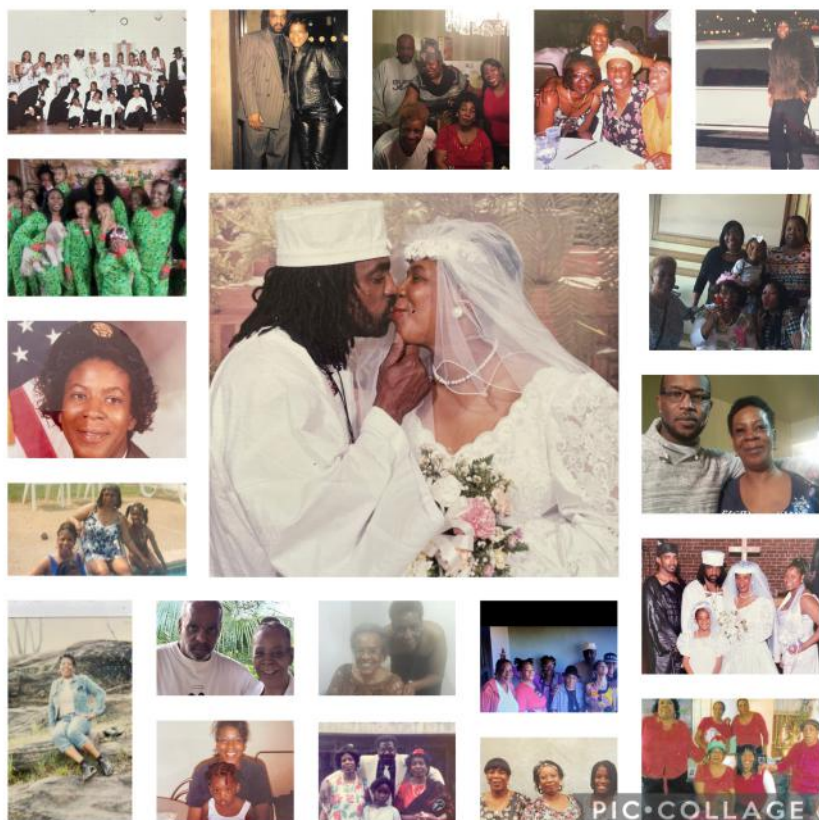
Eulogy

Benediction

Recessional

**FINAL RESTING PLACE**

Tuesday, April 22, 2025  
Forest Green Park Cemetery  
Morganville, New Jersey



## Acknowledgment

The family wishes to thank all of you for your prayers, messages of comfort and the many other acts of kindness shown during our hour of bereavement. May God continue to bless you in a very special way.



*T. Carrillo*  
FUNERAL SERVICE, LLC

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