

Celebrating
THE LIFE OF



Olive DeSilva Holmes

SUNRISE: June 20, 1922 - SUNSET: April 30, 2025

**Friday, May 9, 2025
Viewing: 9am - 10am
Service: 10am**

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.
2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Obituary

Olive P. Gray DeSilva Holmes was born one hundred and two years plus ten months ago (102.10) to the late Rose and James Gray in New York City. At a young age she was sent to live with her Aunt Marendi Redd in Richmond, Virginia. Later she moved back to Harlem to begin high school at Julia Richmond in Manhattan. After high school she met and married Lionel DeSilva (deceased), through that union her three children were born, Louise, Lionel and Annette. Olive was an only child and longed for a large family, hence she fostered Elizabeth and Anthony (now deceased).

Olive worked at a Millenary Shop before her children were born, much later she decided that she wanted to become a teacher. She became a paraprofessional at the Convent of the Sacred Heart School. While doing that she went back to school to get her degree. In 1975, she earned her master's in education and taught first grade at Sacred Heart until her retirement. Later she married Harold Holmes, to this union she gained two stepsons, Harold Jr. and Kirby. Theirs was a happy marriage until his passing in 2009. In 2011, Olive lost her daughter Annette; through that loss she gained the love of Annette's friends Pat and Pam.

Olive continued to live in Harlem for the remainder of her life. She had many friends and treasured the bond between her besties, Dolores Plumey and Hope Simmons, both gone but not forgotten. Olive was known for her baking, especially her Thanksgiving dinner rolls, cakes and apple-brown-betty. She was an avid user of her favored iPod and many a night was spent playing her games until the wee hours of the morning.

She leaves to mourn her surviving daughter, Louise; son, Lionel (Beverley); her foster daughter, Elizabeth; her stepsons; Harold and Kirby (Donna); her grandchildren, Omar (Raegan), Jamel (Mariah), Christopher (Ysis), Deanna (Richie) and Marendi; her 11 great-grandchildren, Arianna, Cameron, Omar Jr., Mila, Gabriella, Thomas, Ethan, Emma, Louis, Noah and Melody; as well as numerous family members and friends.

May She Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.



Order of Service



Prayer of Comfort
Deacon Rodney Beckford

Hymn of Comfort
"How Great Thou Art"
Rev. Dr. Eric B. Turner

First Reading:
Isaiah 25:6-9
Deanna Giordano

Psalm 23

Second Reading:
1 Corinthians 15:51-57
Janet Andrews

Music Selection
"Blessed Assurance"
Rev. Dr. Eric B. Turner

Gospel
Deacon Rodney Beckford

Homily
Deacon Rodney Beckford

Obituary
Marendi Sanchez

Song of Farewell
"It is Well With My Soul"
Rev. Dr. Eric B. Turner

Recessional

Interment

Calverton National Cemetery
Calverton, New York





PALLBEARERS

Omar DeSilva
Jamel DeSilva
Richie Giordano

David C. Broderick
Allen Louissaint
Alex Louissaint

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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