

In Loving Memory of



Yvonne Una Sawyers

Sunrise
May 16, 1938

Sunset
May 6, 2025

Service
Saturday, May 17, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.

Butler Memorial United Methodist Church

3920 Paulding Ave • Bronx, NY 10466

Rev. Dr. Allen Pickney Jr., Presiding

Obituary

Yvonne Sawyers, a Bronx, New York resident, passed away on May 6, 2025, at a rehabilitation center in Nashville, Tennessee, due to kidney failure. Born in Portland, Jamaica, affectionately known as Shirley, she was married to her husband George Sawyers for over 40 years, who preceded her in death. Also preceding Yvonne in death are her siblings sisters, Ruby Lennox, Gerzy Everett, Dorrett Lennox and brother Guy Lennox.

In the 1960s, Yvonne relocated to the United States from Jamaica. She settled in Cleveland, Ohio, where she worked as a caretaker. Later, she moved to New York City, where she worked as an elevator operator at Berdoff Goodman. It was during this time that she met many of her lifelong friends and had a chance encounter with Michael Jackson and Diana Ross.

After relocating to the Bronx, Yvonne started her own after-school services for students at Our Lady of Grace School, where her grandchildren Sterling and Luisa attended. She formed deep bonds with dozens of students and their parents during this time.

Yvonne found joy in simple pleasures, such as solving word puzzles and watching wrestling. She was a music lover, enjoying listening to artists like Bob Marley and James Brown. She had a strong faith in God and prayed daily for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Yvonne is survived by her three children, Lorna Olds, Carl Sawyers, and Jennifer Hudson; her son-in-law, Julius Olds; her daughter-in-law, Rose Sawyers; her son-in-law, James Hudson; her grandchildren, Sterling, Luisa, Shalane, Kendall, Starr, Candice, and Carlene; and her great-grandchildren, Laila, Zaya, Zariyah, Saniyah, Zayvin, and Kyla. Hosts of nieces and nephews: Heather Wallen-Bryan, Cheryl Lambert, Nigel Lambert, Deon Stewart-Miles, Jennifer Everett. Host of grand and great-grand nieces and nephews: Rene' Stewart – Miles, Chelsea Miles, Courtney Miles, Ryan Miles, Tyra Lambert, Yekini Wallen-Bryan, Tanisha Everett, Jada Matin, Mia Matin, Zahir Matin.

Order of Service

PRELUDE

GATHERING

OPENING HYMNBlessed Assurance

PRAYER OF COMFORT

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSONPsalm 23

HYMN/MUSIC MINISTRY

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSONJohn 3:16

WORD OF REMEMBRANCETribute by her niece Heather Wallen-Bryan

READING OF THE OBITUARY Shalane Olds

HYMN/MUSIC MINISTRY

MESSAGE OF COMFORT AND HOPE

HYMN/MUSIC MINISTRY

AFFIRMATION OF FAITHRev. Dr. Allen Pickney Jr.

COMMENDATIONRev. Dr. Allen Pickney Jr.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVINGRev. Dr. Allen Pickney Jr.

THE LORD'S PRAYERRev. Dr. Allen Pickney Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTERMENTFuneral Director

THE DISMISSAL WITH BLESSINGRev. Dr. Allen Pickney Jr.

RECESSIONAL HYMNGod Has Spoken, Let the Church Say Amen

Interment

Rose Hills Memorial Park
100 Mill Street, Putnam Valley, NY 10579

In Tears We Saw You Sinking

*In tears we saw you sinking
And watched you fade away.
Our hearts were almost breaking
We wanted you to stay.
But when we saw you sleeping
So peacefully and free from pain
How could we wish you back
To suffer that again?
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home*

-unknown author

Acknowledgments

The family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.

Professional Service Entrusted To:

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