

*A
Celebration
of Life
for*



Esther L. Tucker

Sunrise: September 24, 1938

Sunset: September 8, 2025

Monday, September 15, 2025

Viewing: 9am - 10am | Service: 10am

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.
2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027
Father Joseph Kinva, Officiating

Obituary

Esther L. Tucker “Sandy” was born on September 24, 1938 in Petersburg, VA. She was one of six children born to the late John L. Tucker, Sr. and Esther (Royall) Tucker. Her mother passed away at an early age, and her father’s mother, the late Lottie E. Powell, known affectionately as Nana raised her.

She received her early education through the Archdiocese of New York, attending Holy Name School and Grace Dodge High School. Later, she continued her studies at City University of New York (CUNY) where she obtained an undergraduate degree in Physical Education followed by a Master’s Degree.

Esther began her career in June, 1968 with CUNY working as an Office Assistant, later advancing to the position of Administrative Assistant. It was there that she became interested in union activities by also serving as a Shop Steward in 1973. She later became President of Local 384 for CUNY & Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) employees. While in this capacity she also served on the District Council 37 Executive Board and as Chair of the District Council 37 PEOPLE committee (an AFSCME Political Action Fund). Esther later went on to become the Vice President for District Council 37. She was President of Local 384 until her retirement in 2021. Esther negotiated contracts and fought tirelessly yet fairly to assure that CUNY abided by the rules and regulations negotiated between CUNY and the union. Her demand for RESPECT was an important principal that she demonstrated to both CUNY and union members. In addition to her passionate advocacy of her members, many fondly remember the bus trips to Atlantic City and picnics that she organized which everyone looked forward to.

Outside of work, Esther loved family and friends. She would often travel to visit family in her hometown of Petersburg where she had a home, as well as Philadelphia and Washington, DC. She revered her brothers and would often gather them to visit cousins for fun-filled weekends. Esther loved music, dancing and going to the casino and would jump at the chance to participate whenever she could with her vast network of friends in and around New York.

Esther met her lifelong friend, Sara L. Norwood while working at Beth Israel Hospital after high school. They referred to each other as sisters and always looked out for each other, remaining friends forever.

Many may not know that Esther was an avid fan of sports. In her youth she played baseball with a team called the Aces. She also enjoyed basketball, karate and ran marathons later in life.

Although she revered her family and friends, her love of humanity was felt by all who knew her. She never met a stranger. Her kind and giving spirit were evident in the way that she helped countless people everywhere she went.

Esther entered eternal rest on Monday, September 8, 2025. Esther was preceded in death by her brothers, John L. Tucker, Jr., Lawrence O. Tucker, James R. Tucker, Melvin D. Tucker and Ronald H. Tucker. She leaves behind to celebrate in memory sister-in-law, Dorothy “Dottie” Tucker (Ronald H. Tucker) and Madeline Tucker (John L. Tucker, Jr.) and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

“Precious Lord”

Dante Hawkins

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23

Ernestine Haynes

Prayer

Father Joseph Kinva

Selection

“Blessed Assurance”

Dante Hawkins

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Rose Lovaglio-Miller, Associate Executive Director DC 37
Traci Royall, cousin

Obituary

(Read Silently)

Selection

“It Is Well With My Soul”

Dante Hawkins

Eulogy

Father Joseph Kinva

Committal

Father Joseph Kinva

Recessional

“I’ll Fly Away”

Dante Hawkins

Interment

Fair Lawn Memorial Cemetery
Fair Lawn, 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

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation those friends and family that shared acts of kindness and support during her life and illness, including Sara L. Norwood, Traci Royall, Madeline Tucker, Kevin Tucker, Lisa Haynes, Ernestine Haynes and the staff at Atria Riverdale and Calvary Hospice. May God bless each of you.

2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300
1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY • (718) 774-1023
1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833



Clifford V. James, President & CEO
www.unityfuneralchapels.com
email: unityfc@aol.com

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