

*In Celebration of the Life of*



*Ms. Melissa Lockett Gray*

*Sunrise*  
*July 7, 1969*

*Sunset*  
*August 29, 2011*

*Service*

Friday, September 2, 2011 - 10:30 a.m.

**ROY L. GILMORE'S FUNERAL HOME, INC.**

191-02 Linden Blvd. • St. Albans, NY 11412

*Rev. Victor M. Singletary, Officiating*

## Obituary

**Melissa Lockett Gray** was born on July 7, 1969 in the Bronx, NY to Emanuel J. Gray and Eleanor I. Gray. She passed away on August 29, 2011 at home in Cambria Heights, NY.

She was baptized and joined the Cambria Heights Community Church at a very early age.

She graduated from the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, located in Manhattan, NY in June 1987. She attended Hampton University for two years and later matriculated at York College in Queens, NYC, graduating as an honor student in June 1994.

She was very well traveled (London, Spain, France, the Caribbean and Rome) and loved attending family reunions and any reason to go shopping. Melissa was also a voracious reader. Her love of the written word was well known and encouraged by her many friends and family.

She worked for a variety of employers. She started as a hairdressers assistant when she was fourteen years old. She excelled at any position that related to interacting with people. She worked as a Special Education Teacher for the NYC Department of Education, a Social Worker for The Valley (a non-profit social services agency) and for Verizon as a Communications Specialist. After leaving Verizon, she worked as an Assistant to an attorney at a local law firm.

Melissa was a vibrant, social and engaging personality. She loved mentoring young people and took joy in watching them achieve their goals. She loved music, shopping, entertaining and cooking. One of her many talents, was listening, empathizing, and solving problems of her friends, co-workers and family members. She was a tenacious advocate when she felt the welfare of others was in jeopardy.

She leaves behind: a loving mother, Eleanor I. Gray and sister, Meredythe Gray, four god-children, three uncles, Joseph Dunigan of Chicago, IL; Alphonsa McCaslin of Bay Shore, NY and Curtis McCaslin of Birmingham, AL, two aunts, Annie Laura Hargraves of Bay Shore, NY and Gwendolyn Eloise Butler of Bessemer, AL, a host of cousins and numerous friends. She was predeceased by her father, Emanuel J. Gray.

Melissa's family encourages donations to The Lupus Foundation of America.

# Order of Service

- Prelude ..... Brother Whitfield Coppin
- Song ..... “What A Friend We Have In Jesus”
- Prayer ..... Elder Ruby Johnson
- Scripture Reading ..... John 14:1-4  
Mrs. Elizabeth Pinckney
- Reflections ..... Mr. Kevin Hill  
Mrs. Charlene Harris  
Ms. Barbara Simon
- Obituary ..... Ms. Gwendolyn Butler
- Solo ..... Brother Whitfield Coppin
- Affirmation of Faith
- Words of Comfort ..... Rev. Victor M. Singletary
- Commendation/Closing Prayer
- Recessional Hymn ..... “It Is Well With My Soul”

**Internment**

Pinelawn Memorial Park  
Farmingdale, New York

## *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 Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day.*

*To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it up with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh, 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 savored 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!*

*-author unknown*

### *Acknowledgements*

The family wishes to thank their friends, relatives, church family and medical personnel for their support during this challenging time. We are truly appreciative. You have all been a tremendous blessing to us.

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Professional Services Provided By:

*Roy L. Gilmore's Funeral Home, Inc.*

Angela Gilmore-Manning, *President*

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