

Obituary

Gladys Mickey was born in Aiken, South Carolina to John Cunningham and Jeannette Saxon on February 24, 1924. The oldest of six children, Gladys, affectionately called "Tater" because of her love and steady consumption of sweet potatoes ("potaters), was a bright, precocious and kind child who often helped her working parents raise her younger siblings.

The family soon moved and settled in Flushing, New York. They joined a church where Gladys, a gifted pianist, and her younger siblings Alice, Albert and Roy formed a group called The Cunninghams. They sang songs of worship and praise to The Lord. Gladys played the organ and piano while Ann and Alice sang and Albert and Roy performed backup.

She graduated from Newton High School in Queens, New York, in 1942. She was in the Newton Honor Society for four years and graduated in the top half of her class. After high school, she fell in love with and married Raymond "Red" Mickey. They moved to Manhattan and soon settled in Harlem to raise their young children.

In 1968, Gladys began working for the Board of Education at P.S. 92 in early childhood education, specializing in first, remedial reading, and later, in the computer lab. It was in this capacity that she most made her mark with the community of Harlem. For over twenty-five years, she helped educate scores of Harlem children who affectionately remember Ms. Mickey for her soft-spoken tone and kind, gentle manner. During this time, Gladys also received her Associates Degree in Education from Manhattan Community College and studied Early Childhood Education at Baruch College.

Upon retirement, Gladys took numerous cruises with her second husband of nearly thirty years Leslie Simmolkjier and traveled often. When she wasn't in Los Angeles, California, one of her favorite places, she could often be spotted somewhere smiling in the City. Whether it was traveling downtown to get her hair done each week, stopping to feel the warmth of the sun on the front bench of 225, or driving her Scooter around the neighborhood, Ms. Mickey "kept it moving." She was always on the go and had a friendly, warm smile for everyone she met.

Gladys made her transition on August 23, 2011 while on vacation in Las Vegas. She leaves behind: two sisters, Ann and Barbara; five children, Shirley, Patty, Phillip, Gregory and Bobby; one step-daughter, Myrtle; four daughters-in-law, Lois, Carol, Doris and Diane; six grandchildren, Hank, Monique, Ronnie, Katrina, Jasmine and Robert; several great-grandchildren, including Kelsie, Brittany, Shakira, Ronald, and Aiden, and scores of nephews, nieces and other loved ones. Two of her children, Barbara and Ronnie Sr., three of her siblings, Albert, Roy and Alice, as well as Red and Leslie preceded her in death.

<u>Order of Service</u>

Processiona	·
ETOCESSIONA	

Reflections

Musical Selection "I Won't Complain"

Eulogy Pastor Mary Freeman

Final Viewing

Benediction

Departure

Interment

Kensico Cemetery Valhalla, New York - Matthew 25:21 (NJKV)



<u>Acknowledgement</u>

The Mickey family is very grateful for all your love, prayers and well wishes. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

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