

In Loving Memory Of



Amelia E. Samuda

Sunrise
September 9, 1929

Sunset
July 2, 2012

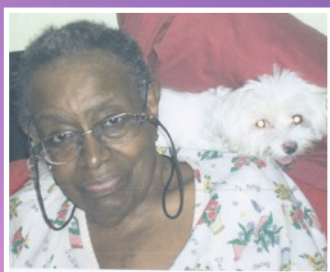
Service
Monday, July 9, 2012 - 12:00 Noon

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

David Jenkins, Officiating
Marvin Hadley, Organist

Precious Memories



Reflections of Life

MRS. AMELIA EVELYN SAMUDA, age eighty-two departed this life on Monday, July 2, 2012 at Calvary Hospital, Bronx, New York.

Amelia Evelyn Moore was born on September 9, 1929, just six weeks before “Black Thursday” which kicked off the start of the Great Depression. She was born in Harlem Hospital to George Moore, a native of Barbados, and Ellen Maynard Moore, who was born in Nevis-St. Kitts. Like millions of other immigrants, both of Amelia’s parents came through the historical corridors of Ellis Island upon their arrival in the United States.

Amelia was the youngest child and the only girl in her family. Her brothers, Maverick Maynard, Henry Maynard and Marcus Moore, preceded her in death.

As a child growing up in Harlem, Amelia was reared in the Catholic faith, attended P.S. 89, listened to FDR’s fireside chats during World War II and went to meetings of the United Negro Improvement Association with her parents who were strong followers of Marcus Garvey and his Black self-improvement organization.

As a young woman, Amelia worked for her Aunt Chris at her laundry in Harlem, graduated from Washington Irving High School, played at the Harlem YMCA, rooted for the Giants at the Polo Grounds, danced at The Harlem Renaissance Ballroom or “The Rennie,” and along with her closest girlfriends, Amelia frequently visited the world-famous Apollo Theatre listening to such performers as Billy Eckstine, Nat King Cole and Ella Fitzgerald.

In her early twenties, Amelia put her employment at Hunter College aside in order to dutifully care for her ailing mother. A few years after her mother’s death, Amelia was introduced to a young Jamaican immigrant named Leslie Samuda, whom she married on February 27, 1954.

Soon thereafter, Amelia and Leslie had their first daughter, Theresa and moved into their own two-family home in Brownsville, Brooklyn. During the next several years, Amelia became a payroll administrator with Baruch College, joined the Nation of Islam under Minister Malcolm X and she and Leslie had a second daughter, Madonna. Some years later, Amelia and Leslie had their third daughter and final child, Belinda.

Six years later, Amelia and Leslie welcomed their first son-in-law, Larry Dobson and grandchild, Shareen into the family. Sadly, shortly thereafter, Amelia and Leslie separated and in 1981 Amelia joyously returned to her beloved Harlem with her two youngest daughters.

Amelia was a woman who truly loved the arts and often took her daughters to the movies, concerts and plays. Her children remember

seeing concerts featuring Michael Jackson and The Jackson Five, James Brown, Josephine Baker, Harry Belafonte, Miriam Makeba, Lena Horne, Sweet Honey In The Rock and such plays including The Wiz, Mama I Wanna Sing, Pippin, A Chorus Line, Cats, Fences and Dreamgirls.

Additionally, Amelia was an avant garde woman who enjoyed games of chance. She loved placing bets at Off Track Betting (OTB) parlors and Aqueduct and in her later years, through her OTB phone account. Amelia was also well acquainted with the one arm bandits from Las Vegas to Niagara Falls to Connecticut to Atlantic City. Amelia never met a casino she did not like.

Amelia found much spiritual comfort and solace in her beloved church home of Canaan Baptist Church, which she, Madonna and Belinda joined in 1981 after being baptized by Rev. Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker. When she was no longer able to attend church regularly, Amelia joined the virtual congregations of several ministers. Among her favorites were Rev. Dr. Franklin M. Reid, III and Bishop T.D. Jakes.

Amelia enjoyed traveling across the U.S. And while she did not like Airplane travel, she flew several times to Atlanta, Georgia to visit her daughter Belinda at Spelman College and even took a flight to Jamaica to visit her husband's family.

Eventually, Amelia and Leslie repaired old wounds and in their retirement years they became the best of friends. As the years passed, Amelia and Leslie enjoyed their growing family, Theresa and Larry had another child, James and Madonna married the late Louis-Philippe Nianwan and gave birth to two sons, Elie and Evan. Amelia was faithfully by her husband's side after he suffered a stroke in 1998. Thereafter, Amelia was an unfailing caregiver for Leslie until his passing on August 12, 2000.

In spite of Amelia's various health challenges though the years and her spending the winter of her life being an amputee in a wheelchair, she was still on the go with her family as she traveled across country from New York City to various locations including, Las Vegas, New Orleans, Baltimore, Martha's Vineyard, Virginia Beach, Disney World in Florida, Ocean City, Toronto and Washington, D.C. She even went on a cruise to the Caribbean, where she enjoyed the various ports of call, on-board entertainment and midnight pizza runs.

Amelia was a strong, faithful and loving woman of God. Whenever you asked her how she was doing, her steadfast reply was always, "Thank God for life." We thank God for life and we thank God for the life of Amelia Samuda.

Amelia leaves to mourn and cherish her memory: three daughters, Theresa, Madonna and Belinda; four grandchildren, Shareen, James, Elie and Evan; four nieces, Lorraine, Gwendolyn, Ramona and Maria; two nephews, Willoughby and Turhan; and a host of in-laws, relatives and friends.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Processional Ministers & Family

Opening Prayer

Musical Selection “Amazing Grace”

Scripture Reading

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Consolation

Selection “Precious Lord Take My Hand”

Poem Reading Theresa Dobson (daughter)

Obituary Madonna Samuda-Nianwan (daughter)

Reflections Belinda Samuda (daughter)

Selection..... “He’ll Understand and Say Well Done”

Eulogy

Benediction

Recessional

Disposition:

Woodlawn Crematory

Bronx, New York

Life Is But A Stopping Place

*Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road,
To sweet eternity.*

*We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant to
learn some things,
But never meant to stay...
Our destination is a place
Far greater than we know.
For some the journey's quicker,
For some the journey's slow.
And when the journey finally ends,
We'll claim a great reward,
And find an everlasting peace,
Together with the Lord.*

-Author unknown

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