

Home Going Celebration for
Sheilah M. Flake

Sunrise
May 27, 1948

Sunset
September 28, 2012



Service

Saturday, October 6, 2012 - 9:00 a.m.

Greater Zion Hill Baptist Church

2365 8th Avenue at 127th Street • New York, NY

Rev. Lee Arrington, Officiating
Rev. David Jenkins, Organist

Obituary

We are not here to mourn a loss, but to celebrate a life; the life of **Sheilah M. Flake**.

Sheila was the eldest daughter born to parents, Brody and Julia Flake on May 27, 1948. Growing up in Harlem she attended P.S. 170, J.H.S. 13, and Julia Richman H.S. She furthered her education at the College of New Rochelle. Studying Customer Relations was a fit for her natural socializing demeanor. These skills allowed her to work as a Customer Representative at all of her jobs, including Chemical Bank, and then Visiting Nurse Services; there she was a member of the 1199 Union and voted in as the shop steward representative. Sheila later retired after working there for more than ten years. Her innate charisma and personal intuitiveness was often requested exclusively by clients to solve their problems; even if it meant that they had a chance of being chastised.

During her 20's she was blessed with two beautiful sons, Jason De'voe and Raymond Morris; she lost both tragically in 1990 and 1991. She was never completely whole since then. The pain of this broken chain of unconditional love lasted into her last breath.

Sheila's quick-wit and quaint sense of humor allowed her to make any situation a humorous one. You could always find her engaging in conversation with people age two to one hundred. With her sassy-ness and no holds bar attitude, her words could sting, pacifier, and educate you in the same moment. Many times she was able to get a stranger to confess to her their inner secrets. People naturally confided in her, and always awaited her opinion...or not. We often told her that she missed her calling as a Psychiatrist.

Her competitiveness made it hard for anyone to beat her in any game especially a hand of Bid Whist or Spades. She could make a bluff bid, and by skill and yes luck, she would win that hand by slamming down the last card; followed, of course by her famous smirk that let you feel the agony of defeat. On one occasion, at a NYPD family BBQ, Sheila and her brother Cecil entered a Bid Whist tournament. Taunting by the prior year's veteran players quickly ended when Cecil and Sheilah came in 2nd place, and returned to our picnic area with towering trophies and smirks to match.

She was passionate about mingling, music and dancing, and it was pleasurable to see her enjoying all three simultaneously, especially the Caribbean genre. She loved the way they pronounced her name, that "SHE" added an "H" to it, making it her new signature.

Sheilah enjoyed reading, traveling, and watching old AMC movies which consumed a lot of her time. She also had a serious passion for discount shopping, and could always find the latest trend at the right price. She was innovative and stylish when it came to clothing and designs. One of her greatest talents was merging different styles by making it her own. She definitely was a Fashionista. Her extraordinary fashion flair transcended down to her son, Jason.

Being around family and friends was truly a highlighted mission in her life. She was very active in her community. Sheilah was one of the founding Members of The Association of 112th Street Inc., which formed in 2001 to service the children in their community. Her creative nature showed in her decorations and floral arrangements which were displayed at their annual dances. Sheilah would say, "I am the Coordinator, but I don't do hard labor...yes that goes there and put that there."

Losing Sheilah can never be described, but we are all blessed to have had her essence in our lives. She leaves to cherish in her memory, her five siblings, Cecil, Debra, Eric, Vaughn and Roslind; sister-in-law, Daisy; five grandchildren, Jason, Jamacia, Johan, Rayshawn and Da'Zha; a goddaughter, Arjamay, and godson, Michael; nephews, Trevis, Eric, Vaughn, and La'Quan; nieces, Kelli, Tai'sh, and She'Levon; Cindy and Tara, who were like daughters, and a host of relatives and friends.

As she continues her journey joining her two sons, mother, Julia and brother, Cornelius (who she affectionately nicknamed "NeNe"), and those loved ones who transcended before her, we say "Sheilah Margaret Flake this celebration of your earthly life touching ours will remain in our hearts forever."

To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

Order of Service

Processional

Invocation *Rev. Lee Arrington*

Organist *Musical Selection*
(Let My Deeds Speak for Me)

Scripture Reading *23rd Psalm*

Acknowledgements and Expressions

Solo *Musical Selection*
(His Eyes Is On The Sparrow)

Eulogy *Rev. Lee Arrington*

Obituary *Family Member*

Solo *Musical Selection*

Closing Prayer

Recessional

Interment

Rosehill Cemetery
Linden, New Jersey

Repast :

Immediately Following Burial Services

Greater Zion Hill Baptist Church

2365 8th Avenue at 127th Street, New York, NY.

*My soul opened up and God flew in
he enveloped my whole, so that I could truly begin
I rest in his arms amidst my sons, mother and brother beside his throne
In the full stillness of everlasting, as a spirit never again alone
You may honor my memory and treasure our time
hold close to your hearts the way I touched your life and you mine
you have not lost a sister, a grandmother, or a friend in the least
for I am beyond found, I have been blessed in peace.*

Tai'sh Malone

Acknowledgement

*The Family of **Sheilah M. Flake** wishes to acknowledge with grateful appreciation the many acts of kindness and sympathy shown them during their time of bereavement.*



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