



In Loving Memory of
Hattie Lucille Cheeks

Sunrise
December 8, 1937

Sunset
November 9, 2012

Service

Tuesday, November 13, 2012 - 12:00 Noon

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY 10459

Obituary

Hattie Lucille Cheeks was born on December 8, 1937 to the late William Cheeks and late Martha Louise Latham in the small, rural town of Millport, Alabama. Although her family was poor, she grew up with a very industrious mother who raised pigs, sewed clothes, grew her own vegetables, and made and sold desserts and moonshine in order to make ends meet. Hattie Cheeks inherited a lot of her mother's talents; especially in the kitchen. Ms. Cheeks attended elementary school and went only as far as the eighth grade in her education, but you would not know it as she was an avid reader. Her favorite author was Donald Goines, a 1960's through 1970's Black Urban writer.

Ms. Cheeks had children at a very early age and with that, became affectionately known as "Madear". Mr. Tyler Perry may have gotten his character from this original Madear as she was just as strong willed, opinionated, stubborn, party-going, caring, loving, hard-working, warm, and funny as the individual he plays. Because of those characteristics, Millport could not hold Hattie Cheeks. In the early 1960's, Hattie set out to conquer the world; leaving Millport, AL and arriving in NYC's Harlem just in time for its civil rights movement era and its popular clubbing night life.

Shortly after arriving in New York, Hattie secured a job as a seamstress, got an apartment, and sent for her four children who were still living with her mother in Millport. In no time at all, the Cheeks family left Harlem, migrated to various parts of the Bronx, and then finally settling at Hall Place in the mid-'60's. Ms. Cheeks lived on this street until 1979, when she went back home to Millport, AL because of the deaths of first her sister, and then her mother.

Back home in Millport, Hattie Cheeks continued her profession as a seamstress in her small town's garment plant and continued to party and enjoy life. She also helped raise her sisters' children and was often visited by her grandchildren from New York. Sadly, in March of 1998, Hattie suffered a major aneurysm and then several strokes which incapacitated her, bringing her full circle back to the Bronx to be cared for by her family until her last breath.

Ms. Cheeks will be met in Heaven by her mother, Ms. Latham; her sister, Martha Peggy Bridges; her brother, Donald Ray Latham; and her daughter, Nancy Carol Cheeks-McGill. Left behind to mourn are her children, Gracie N. Cheeks-Cosme (Armando Antonio Cosme, II), Mary Joyce Cheeks, and William Earl Cheeks. Her sister, Ola Mae Latham-Brown; her grandchildren, Audrea Denise Cosme, Armando Antonio Cosme, III, Armani Aurelio Cosme, Marvin Dennis Jermaine Cheeks, Stephanie Sharmaine Cheeks, Mary La'Tisha Cheeks, Zakeia La'Niece Cheeks, and Gracie Idalia Cheeks; her nieces, Martha Jo Bridges-Bounds, Kysola "Tina Boo" Latham, and Sharmaine Latham, and her nephew, Tommy Lee Bridges. Hattie Cheeks also leaves behind a host of other great-grandchildren, great-nieces and nephews, distant relatives, and close friends.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

Inurnment

Oxford Hills Crematory
Chester, New York

Afterglow

*I'd like the memory of me
To be a happy one,
I'd like to leave an afterglow
Of smiles when day is done.
I'd like to leave an echo
Whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
And bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve
To dry before the sun
Of happy memories that I leave behind,
When the day is done.*

-Helen Lowrie Marshall

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.

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