

In Loving Memory of



Sylvia Jones-Williams

Sunrise

July 19, 1947

Sunset

December 3, 2014

Service

Friday, December 12, 2014 - 11:00 a.m.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO, R.C. CHURCH

211 W. 141st Street • New York, NY

Obituary

Sylvia Margo Jones-Williams, RN spirit entered this world on July 19, 1947 as the first born of six to her parents, Harold Jones, Sr. and Olive Chisholm. As the eldest of six, she would embrace, at an early age with honor, responsibilities often befitting a first born of a large family. A duty she would never relinquish until her final day. Raised in “Spanish Harlem”, a community well enriched of culture, allowed her to exude a prideful embrace of her own Caribbean and Latin heritage, which she enjoyed so much in doing. Reared in NYC Catholic Parochial schools, Sylvia developed a strong faith in God and was an exceptional student. A constant honor roll student often at the head of the class or among the top 1% throughout her scholastic education. She would graduate Valedictorian of her High School, and receive a number of admission offers from premier colleges, including Columbia and New York University respectfully.

Though promising academic endeavors were abound, they would be put on hold for a little while, as life after H.S would take on a different turn, yet important, meaning for Sylvia. Sylvia’s new importance would be the building of her own family. She would solidify her long term romance, with a then, seaward bound Navy Seaman and hence begin a most rewarding role as wife and mother. Sylvia would marry John A. Williams from Harlem and their union would produce two children, Lisa Renee and John A. Williams, Jr. Unfortunately, both her husband and daughter would precede her in death. John, Sr. passed on in 1977 and sadly, her beloved daughter Lisa, just this past January 2014.

Determined to be an empowered woman, Sylvia would handle the challenges of wife and mother, but also return to her planned pursuits of higher education and a love of science. Considering science and her nurturing inclination as a Big sister and now a mom, she decided to pursue a career in nursing. She felt this was a befitting profession where she could incorporate her love of science and her desire to take care of others. After considering responsibilities of her budding young family and the accessibility of collegiate options and cost, she chose scholarship offers from CUNY at Bronx Community College. To no ones surprise, she would graduate with her Nursing Degree with Honors. This would be one of her proudest moments in life, for she had achieved this while raising a young family, who now were audience witnesses to this grand accomplishment. From husband and children, to parents and siblings, all were so proud and inspired by her. Similar to her scholastic achievements, Sylvia excelled in her new career. She went on to work in varies areas of nursing. With stints at hospitals from Bronx Lebanon and Lenox Hill to specialty sites at Bronx Children’s Psychiatric Center and US Job Corps. Sylvia worked more than 35 years in the field of nursing from Emergency Room care to Neo Natal, Elder care, to Patient specialty needs and Nurse mentor-educator. She was often elevated to Supervising Nurse of these posts, and even became Director of Nursing at both an adolescent and children with special needs facilities, to finally retiring as a Visiting Nurse.

Sylvia loved being a Nurse. Her knowledge of her profession and work ethics were readily acknowledged by her coworkers and patients alike. Sylvia was vigilant and outspoken for nursing profession causes. Her knowledge, experience and exceptional writing ability garnered her a leading voice for progressive change in the field of Nursing. From better pay structure, to proper respect from hospital administration on nurse’s rights and responsibilities, including that of the right to unionize. Present day nurses are benefiting from changes made by Sylvia’s efforts and the work of others done some time ago.

Sylvia’s profession wasn’t the only thing she gave her energy and efforts too. She was ever the big sister, elder aunt and the go to cousin. She was always called upon for advice on medical issues, to family and general life concerns. Considered a favorite among her siblings, nieces and nephews and other family members alike, she often found herself usually above the fray when family behaves, “well like” family and mayhem shows itself. Called upon to be the consigliere, Sylvia had a knack to help garner the peace. Invites to all sorts of celebrations from family members were a constant, for she was a most desired guest to celebrate with. Sylvia was very happy to oblige if she was able too, making every effort to please family. As a result, she brought many a smiles to awaiting family upon her

arrival, and/or the opportunity to visit with her in her home; Sylvia was very welcoming to both family and friends.

During her career, and especially in retirement, she would contend with some serious health issues. One such issue was breast cancer. Upon her diagnoses she was determined to not be pessimistic or deterred, but yet, again be vigilant and defeat it. With family support, especially from that of her son John, accompanying her to all doctor and treatment options, she was successful at beating the disease. She took great pride in doing so. Unfortunately, with an underlying heart issue she would later in years suffer from some strokes that would ever change her physically. She remained vigilant; she worked with her health care providers, especially physical therapist so that her movements would be as unrestricted as possible. As a result, her toughness and resiliency kept her out of a wheel chair and eventually, the infrequent use of a walker. Despite health concerns, she remained ever present as big sis and supportive to her siblings as they dealt with their own health concerns. She was especially present through out the years when her own daughter Lisa, battled a number of health issues eventually seeing her succumb to them in death. This of course gave her pause as to life’s unyielding mortality regardless of life tenured.

Sylvia’s legacy is continued through the lives of her four grandchildren. She again took great pride in being with them and even more so acknowledging their accomplishments with no limits on commenting about them to anyone and everyone who gave her their ear. Her pleasant personality, infectious laugh, which could lead to projectile dentures LoL, became her staple that made being around her so enjoyable, and that’s what will surely be missed.

Sylvia is survived by: her son, John A. Williams, Jr.; his wife, Lineviere; grandchildren, John III, Xavier, Sole’ and Miguel; brother, Al- Khidr; sister, Roxanne; nieces, nephews, cousins, other family and a host of friends, including long time beloved partner, Leon Sanders.

Funeral Mass

- Gathering Hymn.....“Shall We Gather At The River”
- Processional Hymn.....“Amazing Grace”
- Placing of The Pall.....Lineviere Williams and Miguel Williams
- First Reading - Old Testament - Book of Wisdom 3:1-9.....Xavier Williams
- Second Reading - New Testament - Mark 11:24-26.....John Allan Williams III
- Offertory Hymn.....“He Looked Beyond My Faults”
- Communion Hymn.....“Taste And See”
- Communion Mediation Song.....“The Old Rugged Cross”
- Obituary Read ByBrother AL - Khidr (Harold Jones)
- Recessional Hymn.....“God Will Take Care of You”

Final Disposition

Woodlawn Crematory • Bronx, New York

A Mother's Love

A Mother's love is something
that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish
and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
or take that love away . . .
It is patient and forgiving
when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters
even though the heart is breaking . . .
It believes beyond believing
when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
of the rarest, brightest gems . . .
It is far beyond defining,
it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret
like the mysteries of creation . . .
A many splendored miracle
man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
of God's tender guiding hand.

Acknowledgement

The family wishes to thank all family and friends that reached out to us in our time of mourning. A special acknowledgement to our St. Charles Borromeo Family, the Lazarus project, St. Vincent DePaul, and The Rosarian ministries.
Clergy: Father Greg Chisholm and Deacon Beckford.

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