

In Loving Memory of
Alva S. Cooper



Sunrise
October 7, 1929

Sunset
August 22, 2015

Service

Tuesday, September 1, 2015 - 12:00 Noon

NEW TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH

990 E. 181st Street • Bronx, NY

Obituary

Alva Virginia Smith Cooper was born October 7, 1929 to Louise Smith and Roger Johnson in Berryville, Virginia. She was the eldest of seven children.

Alva attended Clark County School; where after graduating found out she was pregnant with her first child, Rudolph Smith. In 1953 and 1957 respectively, she had her two daughters, Yogi and Orchid Smith. While living in Virginia with her three children, she met Johnny Cooper. The two wed and moved to New York City on March 4, 1960.

Only moving with her two daughters, Rudy stayed in Virginia and joined the Army.

During the 60's and 70's, Alva worked as a childcare provider, which she operated out of her home in the Bronx. In 1968, Alva's niece, Terry Carter also moved to New York. Having only her Aunt Alva near, the two developed a close, loving relationship. Sadly in 1969, Alva's son, Rudy was killed. Losing a child at such a young age devastated her. Shortly after his death he had her first grandson, Craig Marshall. In 1975, Orchid also had a son, Cyril Smith. This brought joy back into her life and she was happy once again. In 1981, Orchid gave birth to Alva's only granddaughter, Nicshawna Smith, and in 1985 and 1990 she was blessed with two more grandsons, Andrew Smith and Tone Dorsey. Her grandchildren became her whole world, and she was there every step of the way in raising them. She was also a major part of the lives of her two great grandsons, Cyquan and Tyequan Smith, Cyril's sons. They loved her dearly. Craig also blessed Alva with a host of great grandchildren as well.

Alva was a member of the New Tabernacle Baptist Church until she was no longer able to attend some years ago. Well known in the neighborhood as "Mrs. Cooper" or "Nana", she was loved by many. All children adored her and she loved them right back. She was "Nana" to everyone. Alva dedicated her life to her grandchildren and for that she will forever be in their hearts.

Alva was preceded in death by her parents, Louise Smith and Roger Johnson, her sister, Mrs. Barbara Rutherford, her son, Rudolph Smith and her daughter, Yogi Smith.

Alva leaves to mourn: her youngest daughter, Orchid Smith; granddaughter, Nicshawna Smith; grandsons, Craig Marshall, Cyril Smith, Andrew Smith and Tone Dorsey; niece, Terry Carter; great grandsons, Cyquan and Tyequan Smith; extended family, Shanderra Wright, Zanahya Gainer; and a number of other great grandchildren. Alva also leaves three brothers, Maurice Smith, Lionel Smith and Van Smith; two sisters, Wilma Jean Wilson and Louatha James; as well as a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, extended family and endless friends. Everyone was a friend to Nana!

Lastly the family would like to give a special thanks to Mrs. Jennifer. Thank you for being so loving to and caring for Nana. Thank you for making us feel safe. You were truly heaven sent, we are forever grateful.

Order of Service

**REV. HIRAM RATLIFF, SENIOR PASTOR
BRO. LAGEE GREENE, ORGANIST**

PROCESSIONAL.....FAMILY AND CLERGY

HYMN OF COMFORT.....“HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW”
BY MR. MELVIN MOORE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT: PSALMS 91

NEW TESTAMENT: PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 4 VERSE 4-10

POEM..... MRS. GLORIA

REMARKS: 2 MINS, PLEASE

MUSIC SELECTION: PSALMS 23“THAT’S WHY I’M SAVED”
BY DIGNA GUILTY

READING OF OBITUARY.....LIONEL SMITH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....MS. BELINDA ROBINSON

SOLO.....“SOON AND VERY SOON”
BY MR. MELVIN MOORE

EULOGY.....BY REV. HIRAM RATLIFF, SR. PASTOR

FINAL VIEWING

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

Interment

*Mt. Rest Cemetery
Butler, New Jersey*

If Tears Could Build A Stairway

*If tears could build a stairway
And memories were a lane.
We would walk right up to heaven
And bring you back again
No farewell words were spoken
No time to say goodbye
You were gone before we knew it
And only God knows why
Our hearts still ache in sadness
And secret tears still flow
What it meant to love you
No one can ever know
But now we know you want us
To mourn for you no more
To remember all the happy times
Life still has much in store
Since you'll never be forgotten
We pledge to you today
A hallowed place within our hearts
Is where you'll always stay.*

-Author unknown

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.

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