

In Loving Memory of

A portrait of Alberta Harris, a woman with short, curly, light-colored hair, smiling. She is wearing a purple and white patterned top. The background is a soft, warm-toned floral pattern with large, light-colored flowers.

Alberta Harris

Sunrise: February 9, 1927

Sunset: January 23, 2016

Service

Saturday, January 30, 2016 - 11:00 a.m.

GREATER HOOD MEMORIAL CHURCH

160 W. 146th Street • New York, NY

Rev. Dr. Sidney Hargrave, Officiating

Rev. David Jenkins, Organist

Obituary

Our Lady Mama Bert

On Saturday, January 23, 2016 our Lady, also known as Mama Bert and Grandma took flight with the storm and went home to rest with the Lord.

Alberta Harris was born February 9, 1927 in New York City, she was the first born child of the late Laura and Jordan Lee Jones.

Alberta grew up in New York City in a diversified era as New York was integrated with all races, but still a prejudiced society. Alberta had a rough time being accepted as she grew up, she was considered a Milano, as her mother was Italian and her father a black, southerner. Alberta lost her dad at a very young age. In the absence of her father, her mother struggled to support the family and Alberta was forced to leave school to help support her mother and sister.

In 1943, she met and married her first love, John Gardiner and gave birth to her only child, Peggy on April 15, 1943 at the age of sixteen. Alberta and John were both young, times were difficult and they soon divorced.

Alberta was a strong willed woman. She never let hard times or bad experiences hold her down. For a while she held various bartending jobs and found that was not fulfilling. She knew she had to get an education in order to support her child. Eventually Alberta met Elwood P. Harris her long-time companion and husband. They had a wonderful marriage and created a lifetime of memories. Alberta decided to go for her GED and passed. Alberta was able to get a job with Citibank where she worked for over 25 years. In 1984, Alberta became a widow as Elwood died of cancer, but she didn't let this interfere with her career and retired from Citibank in 1989.

Alberta was a caring and giving individual. She gave of herself to help others without a complaint. Alberta would never walk by a panhandler, or whatever charity was asking for a donation, she made it her mission to give. When asked, "why do you always give to everyone who ask for help", she replied, "you never know what someone is going through or have been through, and you should be kind to everyone because you never know what can happen to you."

Alberta was also a great cook. Whenever you visited with her you would never leave without a home cooked meal. She also made the best carrot cake and sweet potato pie you ever tasted. Everyone made requests for her baking.

Our lady Mama Bert, Grandma leaves to cherish her legacy and memory; her daughter and son-in-law, Peggy and Ralph Wilson; granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Phaedra and Ifeanyi Uwaomah; granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Makeda and Warren Jones; three great granddaughters, Latashia Wayas, Adaeze and NeNe Uwoamah; one great grandson, Tedrick Cheeseboro and his girlfriend, Jalessa Leslie who are expecting her first great great granddaughter; along with many family, friends and neighbors whom she loved dearly.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

Final Disposition

*Woodlawn Crematory
Bronx, New York*

I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.*

I could not stay another day.

*To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it up with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.*

*My life's been full, I savored much.
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free!*

-author unknown

Acknowledgement

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

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