

*In Loving
Memory
of*

Verna Tolbert

Sunrise: February 2, 1935

Sunset: March 6, 2016

Obituary

Verna T. Tolbert was born on February 2, 1935 to John and Margaret Tolbert. She was born at home by a mid-wife on 101 E. 101st Street between Lexington & 3rd Ave. Verna was educated in the New York Public School System. When Verna was fifteen years old, her mother moved her and her sister to Buffalo to live with their grandmother, but they eventually moved back to New York City. Verna would later embark on the arduous task of raising three daughters with the help of her mother and close friends.

To support her family, Verna worked as a key punch operator at Columbia University. She also received a Bachelor's Degree from the City College of New York. In 1975, Verna was invited to a church service at Refuge Temple where she fell in love with Jesus. She was also baptized at Refuge and received the gift of the Holy Ghost. She loved telling people about the Lord; it was her only reason for being. She described her earlier years as being dirt poor, but Verna loved helping people especially strangers. If you mentioned you had a problem, you had no greater friend than her. She poured out her love and generosity on family, friends, and strangers equally. Verna held many jobs in her life, but her favorite was working as a Para Professional at P.S. 133. Her hobbies also showcased her creative side as she loved sewing, decorating, and designing, and she was famous for making macramé. Verna was also extremely witty and funny; a friend of hers remarked that she could make a dog laugh. Beyond her humor, when you came into her presence, she loved talking about the deep mysteries of God.

God used Verna to inspire and enrich everyone's lives. She had wisdom that flowed from a deeper place. She would leave a God-mark on every conversation she engaged in. Regardless of your level of education, God blessed her with the ability to match you skill for skill, which is the Holy Spirit she would say.

In 2003, Verna was diagnosed with cancer, but she did not let that stop her. In July 2004, she opened up her home to her great-grandson, Alex and took care of him for eleven years. For Verna, her great-grandson was a challenge and absolute joy to raise. She loved caring for Alex and walking him to school every day, and it kept her going. God blessed Verna with eighty-one rich years of life. After a long battle with cancer, she passed away on Sunday, March 6, 2016, to be with her precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

She was preceded in death by her loving mother, Margaret Tolbert, sister, Janet Tolbert, and beloved daughter, Renee Tolbert-Bordeaux. She leaves to cherish her memory: daughters, Margaret Tolbert-Hairston and Carol Williams; son-in-law, Stanley Williams; grandchildren, Monique Tolbert, Tamia Hairston, Shalanda Tolbert, Katina Williams, Asha Williams, Bobbie Bordeaux, and Lauren Bordeaux; great-grandchildren, Chad Seegars, Brandon Seegars, Alex Seegars, and John James Johnson; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Service

Saturday, March 12, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Order of Service

The Organ Prelude..... Paul Worrell

The Processional

Solo..... Monique Tolbert

Old Testament Scripture - Psalms 8:1-9

New Testament Scripture -1 Cor. 13:1-13

Prayer of Comfort

The Acknowledgements

Reflections

Speaker..... Guen Shaw-Pieters

The Obituary

The EulogyBishop William Wilkins, Jr.

The Recessional

Solo..... Tyrone Baker

The Organ Postlude..... Paul Worrell

Interment

*Maple Grove Cemetery
Hackensack, New Jersey*

Grandma Verna

Grandma Verna
A beautiful name
A beautiful face
A daughter of God
And of grace
A sparkle of wit
With a spirit of love
A heart set on Christ
And a generous hand
A blessing to all
Joy in her laugh
Life in her walk
She is a shimmering light
That gleams beside stars
And smiles into night

Written by Katina Williams

Acknowledgement

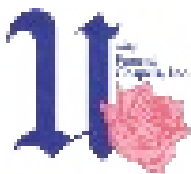
With great appreciation, the family wishes to acknowledge the many prayers, expressions of love, concern, and kindness shown to them during the passing of their loved one. May the Lord continue to bless you richly.

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