

In Loving Memory of



Cynthia Marie McKay

Sunrise: June 25, 1951

Sunset: April 14, 2016

Service

Thursday, April 21, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.

GALILEE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

325 Genesee Avenue • Englewood, New Jersey 07631

Obituary

Cynthia McKay was the first born child of the late Moses and Ethel Lee, in Valentine, Virginia on June 25, 1951. With a brief relocation to Brooklyn, NY, due to her father's military assignment, and then back to Valentine, Virginia, she became a product of the Brunswick County, VA school system. Upon her graduation from high school, and after a brief start of her post-secondary education at St. Paul's University in Lawrenceville, VA in 1968, she decided to once-again explore life in New York City (Brooklyn). She resided in Brooklyn with her aunts, uncles and cousins before they all moved to Teaneck, NJ in 1971.

During her time up north, she met and later married her best friend, Dr. Ronald W. McKay, Sr. on November 15, 1975. This union would produce a daughter, Cheryl McKay. With a big heart and dedication for family, she opened her arms to welcome the addition of her husband's two sons to her already blossoming family. She would love them like they were her own.

Employed by Verizon (formerly Bell Atlantic & NYNEX) since the age of 19, she worked her way up from Phone Operator to a Telecommunications Manager for Business Accounts up until her retirement in 2006. This period in her life brought many joys and many life-long friends, including her good friends, Lillieth Thomas, Laura McKinley, and her adopted work daughter, Tonia Bunch. While managing her family, work career and church responsibilities, she managed to finally complete her college studies, for a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, from Fairleigh Dickinson University (Teaneck, NJ) in 2000, a truly proud moment in her life.

Despite her moments of anxiety upon the acceptance of her newly found retirement phase in life, this period would bring about some of the most beautiful moments and blessings. In September, 2006, her discovery of the Teaneck Senior Center programs, would bring about several new loves to her life to include, painting, drawing, scrapbooking, tai chi, water aerobics, and most notably, quilting. Quilting, a historical pastime within her family, from her great-grandmother and grandmother to her aunts, would become her secret affair. The Quilting Group of Teaneck became a family of hers, always clearing her schedule for their weekly Tuesday sessions. If you couldn't locate Cynthia on a Tuesday, there were many of times where her Husband or Daughter had to track her down at the Richard Rodda Center of Teaneck. She remained dedicated to the group up until her last Quilting display show in May, 2015, with her Assistant, her loving Sister Jean, in tow.

Retirement also further developed another passion, in the form of gardening. She was a dedicated member of The Teaneck Garden Club, serving in the positions of team lead over the Geraniums, an Executive Team member, and Hospitality Chair. This secondary passion would bring about the catalyst for her and her husband's backyard garden sanctuary each Spring, Summer and Fall seasons.

For over forty years, she remained an active member of Emmanuel Pentecostal Faith Temple in Mount Vernon, NY, serving as a Deaconess and member of the Voices of Emmanuel Choir. Her church leaders, Bishop Leon and Pastor Dorothy Dixon, also her Aunt and Uncle, were proud to have such a dedicated servant of God in their presence.

Cynthia loved spending time with her daughter. She became an extension of many organizations that her daughter belonged to, by assisting with the catering and planning of events. She even assisted her daughter Cheryl with fundraisers at her job, Passaic High School, baking and selling cupcakes, and even offering up the occasional free cupcake to students who made A's or B's. She was like no other, and touched so many lives. Affectionately called by her family, "The Supervisor," she was everyone's go-to person, always having the answer or providing support.

Over the past 18 months, from her surprise diagnosis in November 2014, she vowed to fight and was prepared for the unexpected road ahead. She began to strive on this journey, towards conquering an aggressive form of brain cancer, through chemo, radiation and eventually alternative medicine protocols. She tried to protect her younger siblings throughout this journey by disclosing very little information, to encourage a family that was still reeling from the loss of her baby Sister, Evelyn in 2012 from Leukemia. She always offered up advice, encouragement, laughs and jokes to all, especially her niece, Shamere and family friend, Will. Her perseverance and strength, was something that kept her fighting throughout. With one setback came an even great comeback. Even with the complete loss of her vision in June 2015, Cynthia continued to maneuver through life with such tenacity, and of course with a smile on her face.

Cynthia leaves to cherish her memory: her husband, Dr. Ronald W. McKay, Sr.; one daughter, Cheryl McKay of Teaneck, NJ; two sons, Brian McKay (Deidra) of Savannah, GA and Ronald McKay, Jr. of South Hackensack, NJ; grandchildren, Jeremy and Blake McKay of Savannah, GA; step-mother, Mary Lee; sisters, Irma Jean Bryant of Greensboro, NC, Vivian Shields (Craig) of Chesterfield, VA and Deborah Jeffers (Lance) of Montgomery, AL; brothers, Roland Lee (Sandra) and John Lee (Anita) of Chesterfield, VA and Willie Stallings (Sharon) of Montgomery, AL; and a host of relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her sister, Evelyn Cary (William) and brothers, McKinley Reese, Wilton Lee and Warren Lee.

Order of Service

ProcessionalFamily

Hymn #526 “*What a Friend We Have In Jesus*”Dr. Charles Warren

Prayer of Comfort..... Rev. Dr. Edna C. Dismus, *Officiating Pastor*

Old Testament Reading - Psalm 23..... Vivian Shields, *Sister*

Gospel Reading - John 14.....Deidra McKay, *Daughter-in-Law*

Witnesses

- **Family** – *Brian K. McKay*
- **Quettes** – *Valerie Hamer*
- **Garden Club** – *Debbie Morgan*
- **Teaneck Quilters Club** – *Delores Butler*
- **Verizon Communications** – *Lilleith Thomas*

Acknowledgements.....Melanie Stokes

Reading of Obituary.....Melanie Stokes

Solo..... “*Going Up To Yonder*”Nicole Charles, *Cousin*

Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Edna C. Dismus, *Officiating Pastor*

Commendation.....Rev. Dr. Edna C. Dismus, *Officiating Pastor*

Hymn #701 “*When We All Get To Heaven*”Dr. Charles Warren

Benediction

RecessionalSoft Music Refrain

Interment

Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery
Wrightstown, New Jersey

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.*

Professional Services Entrusted To:

Eternity Funeral Service, LLC

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