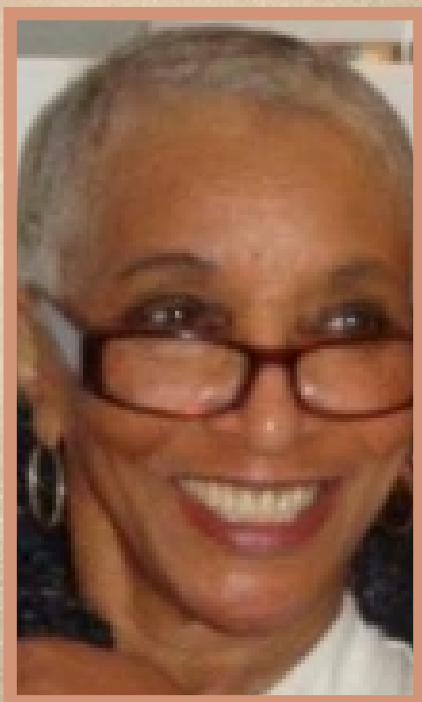


*Celebration of Life
Homegoing Service For
Ruth E. Dean-Harraway*

Sunrise: October 19, 1943 - Sunset: January 26, 2017



*Monday, February 6, 2017
Viewing: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
Service: 12:00 Noon*

GREATER CAVALRY BAPTIST CHURCH

43-55 West 124th Street • New York, NY 10027

Presiding:

Pastor Shirley L. Daniels, Liturgist

Pastor Stephan Patrick McKinney, Senior Pastor & Eulogist

Obituary

Ruth Elizabeth Dean-Harraway affectionately known by family and close friends as “**Dee-Dee**” was born to her late father, Leon Thomas and surviving mother, Ruth Thomas in Bridgeport, Connecticut on October 19, 1943. She was the third oldest of seven siblings, preceding her youngest sibling and sister, Charlene Thomas who made her transition in June 2013.

The family was moved and raised by their parents in the Patterson Houses located in the Bronx, New York. During Ruth’s teenage years, it has been well documented in the family annals of her precocious behavior and how she continually tested the patience of her mother. Being strong willed, she would repeatedly get in trouble for staying out after curfew, preferring to take her whipping (yes, you could beat kids back then) as long as those nights were filled with fun and adventure with her lifelong best friend, Sandra Adams along with others.

She was educated in the New York City Public School System and upon meeting her future husband, Lorenzo Dean, who also grew up in the Patterson Houses they eventually married and bore children. After his death, Ruth dedicated her life to her children. She was employed at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital and then took a position at Maritime Overseas Corporation leaving after several years to continue her education, earning a Degree from Monroe College.

Ruth eventually met the second love of her life James “Jimmy” Harraway as she remarried and they were together for 28 years until he made his transition in July 2009. During their union, she returned to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital as a Blood Data Entry Specialist where she worked for the past two decades with her beloved colleagues and co-workers building an extraordinary bond that was evident when she got sick. They were at the hospital often to offer their love and support after it was discovered she was afflicted with a terminal illness.

Many people described Ruth as an Angel on Earth, an adoring soul who was beautiful, insightful, intelligent, kind and compassionate. She was very spiritual and embodied the essence of God. As she lay in the hospital bed weakened from the disease, she would listen to her children’s conversations who kept a vigil at her bedside and would smile, because she knew for certain she was loved and would soon be going Home to the Kingdom of the Lord.

On Thursday, January 26, 2017, God summoned her home and we are all thankful that we had a chance to be in the presence of an Angel.

Ruth Elizabeth Dean-Harraway leaves behind to cherish: her four children, Sye, Aishah, Odetta and Ta-Tanisha; mother, Ruth Thomas; three brothers, Nurridin, Raymond and Billy; two sisters, Ray and Margie; three brothers-in-Law, Elbert, Ismail and Charles (Ditty); four sisters-in-law, Sandra, Venice, Darlene and Laverne; one daughter-in-law, Zina; six grandchildren, Darrell, Jasmine, Devin, Asia, Tayshawn and Taylor; four great grandchildren, Zoey, Zaida, Zaiden and Zaharie; nephews, Alexander, Terrence, Tarik, Eric, Mark, Raymond, Joaquin, Darrin, Omar, Saladin, Ricky and Golden; nieces, Brenda, Connie, Gina, Vanessa, Saudia, Chivon, Nadia, Erica, Star and Alimah; god children, Michelle Anderson and Rondell Gonzalez with a host of other family and friends.

Also, special thanks and recognition to those who touched our mother’s life including Barbara Moore, Evelyn Toro, Valerie and Janel Gunn, Michelle and Stephanie Sewell, Linda Duke and the entire Columbia Presbyterian Blood Bank Staff including Gina Marsh and Steve for your love and support for her throughout the many years of employment together. You are appreciated...

Order of Service

Call to Worship.....Pastor McKinney

Opening Hymm..... “Amazing Grace”

Invocation.....Elbert Shamsid-Deen

Scripture Old Testament: Isaiah 41:10

Scripture (Holy Quran): Ismail Shamsid-Deen

Congregational Hymm..... Church Selection

Tribute to Our Mom.....Sye Dean

Remembrances & Recollections.....Family and Friends

Ministry of Song.....Church Selection

Reading of the Obituary.....(Read Silently)

Church Selection

Eulogy.....Pastor McKinney

Final Disposition

*Oxford Hills Crematory
Chester, New York*

*Repast will be after the Service at:
Greater Cavalry Baptist Church Lower Level*

THANK YOU

We knew you were going home
as God prepared your place,

We knew Charlene was waiting on you
and she could not wait to see your face,

Even though you are gone and the pain of
not seeing you will be tough to bear,

We, your Children, Grands and Greats just want
to thank you for our lives as well as your love and care,

You were our Angel on Earth, our teacher through life
and taught us lessons until your very last breath,

We will carry on your Legacy, build on your Foundation and
love each other with everything inside of us we have left.

Thank you...

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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