

CELEBRATING THE LIFE
OF

Virginia Marie Vaughn

Sunrise: December 1, 1921 - Sunset: February 20, 2017



Saturday, February 25, 2017 - 10:00 am

Nia Fellowship Baptist Church

174 South Valley Road
West Orange, NJ 07052

Rev. Alphonsus E. Platt, Pastor

Obituary

Virginia Marie Binns Vaughn was born December 1, 1921 to the late Clarence Allen and Daisy Binns- Newport News, Va. She was the 2nd oldest of 6 children.

She was raised and educated in Newport News. After completing her primary and secondary education, she attended Virginia Union University. Additionally, she attended the Medical College of Virginia and on October 17, 1943, she graduated and established her professional identity as a Nurse. At that time, Medical College of Virginia was a segregated school of nursing established for African American women to provide trained personnel for the St. Philip Hospital in Richmond, Va.

Marie, as she was fondly called by her parents and siblings, met James Robert Vaughn in Newport News, Va. At the time, he was a handsome serviceman who was enlisted in the United States Army. They fell in love and in 1946, married and moved to Murfreesboro, Tennessee. From their union, two children were born: Clarence Robert (Bobby) and Shirley Ann. As was the case for many African American families during the Postwar Era, James and Marie with their young children, became a part of the Great Migration to the north. Lured by the promise of economic mobility and relief from harsh Jim Crow laws of the south, they relocated in 1953 to Newark, New Jersey. Leaving the south, however, did not guarantee leaving discrimination behind. The swell of taxing social and political conditions that eventually set the stage of the Newark Riots of the 1960's became their new urban reality. Marie, however, was determined to build a life together with James that would repudiate even the most challenging circumstances. When work as a nurse proved inaccessible, she sought employment at General Textile in Bloomfield, NJ. She remained employed there for 25 years.

Marie and James would eventually become Mama and Big Daddy to all of their children and many of their guests. As proud owners of a multi-family home, they opened their home and hearts to anyone who wanted to visit. They were the ultimate entertainers; always willing to host holiday celebrations or provide snacks and a safe place to play for the kids in the neighborhood. Maybe in an effort to accommodate her southern sensibilities, Big Daddy cultivated a plot of soil in their backyard where Mama loved to spend hours gardening and growing vegetables. Mama also used her shrewd administrative and organizational skills to help James manage the rental of their multi-family home.

While they enjoyed spending time at home, they shared an equal affinity for travel and the arts. While neither learned to drive, they amazingly found a way to visit multiple countries in Europe, South America, Canada, as well as many islands dotting the Caribbean. Together they also explored the United States. Frequently they would board a plane to some destination and return home on a red eye flight the same day. Mama delighted in going to the theater. Big Daddy, with the assistance of their son Bobby who provided tickets and transportation, was more than happy to take her to New York to see plays and musicals. Over the years, they saw every major on and off Broadway production.

Big Daddy predeceased Mama in 1991. For 26 years after, Mama continued to guide and nurture her family with her generous heart and her quiet strength. She was small in stature but never one to be underestimated. Her quick wit could bring anyone down a size. She fiercely protected her children and never failed to remind us that no matter where life would take us, we always had a home in which to return.

Marie gently departed this life on Monday, February 20, 2017.

She leaves to cherish her memory her devoted daughter Shirley (James)Townes of Newark, NJ, and her devoted son, Bobby (Darlene) Vaughn of Montclair NJ. Her loving sister and brother in law, Doris and Lucius Wyatt of Hampton, Va. Granddaughters: Danette (Willis) Edwards of Atlanta, GA, Danielle Townes of Newark NJ, Dr. Christina (Darryl) McCune of Gainesville, Fl., and Jeannine (Dr. Paulvalery) Roulette of Charlotte, NC., Theresa Johnston of Hackensack, NJ and Sydney Drummond of South Carolina. Grandsons: Carnell (Sandra) Townes of Union, NJ and Sean (Krista) Townes of College Park, GA. Great Grandchildren: Charles (Daneja) Edwards, Soleil Townes, Leah Edwards, Carnell Townes, Jayden Townes, Brianna Roulette, Zavier Roulette, Derrick Akridge, Janel Akridge, Kasana Akridge, Tone Bigelow, Antwanette Johnston, Sal Johnston, Sean Jr., Kayana Hinnant, Jonathan Townes, Elijah Townes and Kaiden Townes. A host of additional loving family members, throughout the country, including great, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and adopted grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband James, she is preceded in death by her siblings Dr. Silas Binns, Freda Boykins, Jerry Binns and Dr. Leon Binns.

Order of Service

Processional

Greeting & Invocation

Scripture Reading

Old Testament- Lamentations 3:22-26

New Testament- John 14:27-30

Musical Selection

Prayer of Comfort

Reflections

Musical Selection

Silent Reading of the Obituary

Eulogy.....Rev. Tyrone Singletary
Pastor of Bible Ministry Church, Newark, NJ

Benediction

Recessional

ENTOMBMENT

Woodbridge Memorial Gardens
US Highway 1 North
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Repast

The family invites you to join them for a repast at the
Nia Fellowship Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
following the internment.



When Great Trees Fall

by Maya Angelou
May 28, 2014

When great trees fall, rocks on distant hills shudder,
 lions hunker down in tall grasses,
 and even elephants lumber after safety.
 When great trees fall in forests, small things recoil into
 silence, their senses eroded beyond fear.
 When great souls die, the air around us becomes
 light, rare, sterile.
 We breathe, briefly.
 Our eyes, briefly, see with a hurtful clarity.
 Our memory, suddenly sharpened, examines, gnaws on
 kind words unsaid, promised walks never taken.
 Great souls die and our reality, bound to them,
 takes leave of us.
 Our souls, dependent upon their nurture,
 now shrink, formed, wizened.
 Our minds, formed and informed
 by their radiance, fall away.
 We are not so much maddened as reduced
 to the unutterable ignorance of dark, cold caves.
 And when great souls die, after a period peace blooms,
 slowly and always irregularly.
 Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration.
 Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us.
 They existed.
 They existed.
 We can be. Be and be better.
 For they existed.

In Appreciation

The family wishes to express their sincere and heartfelt gratitude
 and appreciation for all the prayers, words of encouragement
 and expressions of love and kindness at this time.
 May God continue to bless and keep you!

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
 130 Main Street
 Orange, NJ
 973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
 Newark, NJ
 973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
 37 Clinton Avenue
 Jersey City, NJ
 201-433-1000

