

*In Loving Memory of*



*Geraldine Metoyer*

***Sunrise: December 2, 1922***

***Sunset: August 15, 2017***

**Service**

***Wednesday, August 23, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.***

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

**2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027**

***Elder Frankie Gilmore, Officiating***

***Rev. David Jenkins, Organist***

## Obituary

**Geraldine Dorothy Metoyer, nee Wideman**—affectionately known to her family and friends as "J.D.", was born in Augusta, Georgia on December 2, 1922. The eldest daughter of Ira and Mary Wideman of Abbeyville, South Carolina. Geraldine grew up on Staten Island, New York. Over the course of her life she related fond stories of her experiences on Staten Island with family and friends. Geraldine attended Curtis High School.

Geraldine Metoyer met and married Lloyd Walford, a union which lasted twenty-five years and produced four well-loved children, to whom she sacrificed and dedicated her life. At the commencement of this marriage Geraldine enjoyed life as a stay-at-home mother. After registering her youngest daughter for school, Geraldine took on a volunteer position in the library of Public School 1, in the Bronx. There she was able to monitor the academic progress of her children. Her presence at school and home afforded Geraldine the opportunity to consistently reinforce the importance of education as a valuable weapon against oppression and a tool to be used to progress in life. Geraldine's ardent belief in the values of education has trickled down from her children to her grandchildren, great grandchildren and is presently being instilled in her great-great grandchildren.

Her dedication to the students and staff, as a volunteer, in Public School 1 led to her being offered a position as a School Aide and later as an Assistant Teacher. While serving as a School Aide the Principal of Public School 1, Phillip Moran, chose Geraldine to attend a program at Pace University. Geraldine graduated from Pace University, with honors, earning an Applied Science degree in Communications Technology. During the time of her studies at Pace University she reunited with and married her long lost childhood sweetheart, Joseph William "Billy Joe" Metoyer. The two spent several blissful years together before Billy Joe succumbed to illness.

In her free time Geraldine enjoyed assisting in the care of her grandchildren. Completing thirty years of service, Geraldine retired to a life of travel, reading, and before falling ill, dedicated special moments in her life with her great granddaughter, Miana Marsh. The bond between Geraldine and Miana was the inspiration for the name in which her great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren call her, "Mima".

Geraldine was predeceased by: two sisters, Catherine King of Detroit, Michigan and Josie Anna Mason of Charles City, Virginia, and a son, Lawrence Walford. Geraldine is survived by: her sister, Elizabeth McCombs of Staten Island; a very special cousin, Wendy Campbell of Chicago; her daughter, Gayla and husband, Chancy Marsh III of New Rochelle; her son, Lyle Walford and wife, Christine of New York City and daughter, Glynis Pringle, of New York City and Fort Washington, Maryland (currently developing a special relationship with her granddaughter); fifteen grandchildren, twenty-three great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews and cousins and a life-long neighbor and friend, Dora Bradley of the Bronx.

# *Order of Service*

*Processional*

*Selection*

*Rev. David Jenkins*

*Scripture Readings*

*Prayer*

*Selection*

*Rev. David Jenkins*

*Acknowledgements*

*Remarks*

*Poetry Reading*

*Saroya Marsh*

*Obituary*

*Samera Marsh*

*Selection*

*Rev. David Jenkins*

*Eulogy*

*Elder Frankie Gilmore*

*Committal*

*Viewing*

*Recessional*

*Interment*

*Fairview Cemetery  
Staten Island, New York*

# *I Heard God's Call*

*Hi, it's me, JD  
I'm not lost, I'm finally free  
If you get down and look for me  
There are so many places that I might be*

*No matter the moment I was there through them all  
I only left when I heard God's call*

*In the swift wind that rushes past your face  
In the raisin bread at the marketplace  
At Saks Fifth where I loved to shop  
Or in the shining lights at the casino slots*

*No matter the moment I was there through them all  
I only left when I heard God's call*

*If sadness is all you're thinking of  
Remember me in the way I loved  
Think of my smile and laughs we shared  
Remember me in the way I cared*

*No matter the moment I was there through them all  
I only left when I heard God's call*

*There were happy days and sad ones, too  
I spent every day thinking of you  
I loved to dance and have a ball  
When spirits were high and when tears would fall*

*No matter the moment I was there through them all  
I only left when I heard God's call  
- Roya Marsh*



## *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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