

Celebrating the Life of



Charlene J. Nelson

Sunrise
March 5, 1947

Sunset
April 19, 2020

Monday, May 4, 2020 - 12:00 Noon

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

1406 Pitkin Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11233

Obituary

Charlene J. Nelson was born on March 5, 1947 in Brooklyn, New York. She had six sisters, Mattie, Shirley, (deceased), Joan, Elizabeth, Jennifer and Debra whom she is survived by and one brother, Charles Taylor (deceased). She was the eldest of five, from the union of the late Charlie and Dorothy Taylor.

She graduated from Andrew Jackson High School and later graduated with a degree in Business Admin.

In 1966, she met her soon to be husband, Gary Nelson. They were together 49 years and married for 46 years before he passed in July 2015. They had five children, Gary Jr., Aleaya, Rasheen, Caseem (deceased), and Armond. They also adopted sons, Kevin, Ed and Fonz (nephew).

She was a devoted wife, mother and friend. Her door was always open. She welcomed you with love and kindness. Charlene will surely be missed.

She leaves to cherish her memory: four children, Gary Jr., Aleaya, Rasheen and Armond; three adopted sons, Kevin, Ed and Fonz (nephew); thirteen grandchildren, Asia, Derrell, Taimond, Tijuan, Kaseem, Hysuan, Damoni, Nasai, Meloni, Kevin, Kimora, Kaijah and Antonio; three great grands, Calla, Nazir and Amir; three godchildren, Tranay Lord, Rashawn Lord and Gary Scott; two great aunts, Agnes and Jane; one great uncle, Tiny; four sisters, Joan, Elizabeth, Jennifer and Debra; three sisters-in-law, Patricia, Viola and Sharon; two brothers-in-law, Bernard and Mark; a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives; and friends, Benita, Sylvia, Jean, Neicey and Sandra.

A Queen from Queens

I never thought this day would come, at least not right now. At a time with so much uncertainty, one thing for certain is God. I've had the privilege, the pleasure and honor of knowing an Angel. She came as my nurturing, caring, loving, patient, kind, humble, gentle, giving Beautiful Mother. My brothers and I are blessed. Because only God could've created something so close to perfection. I realize that there is such a thing as Heaven on Earth. My Mother, My Queen the Best Friend you could ever have. Selfless, Vibrant, Calmest, Coolest, Intelligent, Funny, Sweetest, Best Handwriting, Best Cook, Hardest Working, God Fearing, Mother in the Village. I know that the Proverbs 31 Woman is who you are. It has to be. You touched the lives of everyone. Family, friends, colleagues, neighbors and more than likely a few strangers along the way. I don't know how you did it. Even as a child I knew that I couldn't be you. Yet you walked through life smiling in the face of adversity. You exuberated strength and overcame every obstacle that came your way. Never one to be sad or wear a frown. You held your head high and never tilted your crown. I don't know what it's like to put a toe in your shoes, and I know that you're the only one who could wear them. I admire you for your beauty, love and light in this world. As I write this, I realize that you truly are amazing and I'm better because of you. My Queen, I hope that I gave you all your flowers because you deserve so much more. I don't know what life will become, but I know that if I could be anything in this world I want to be just like you. I love you with everything that I am and all that I hope to be. I'll love you forever and a day and every fiber in my being. The world is definitely a better place because of you. You did more than you could, gave all that you had and because of your love I'm able to stand. Mommy you get to rest, no worries, pain or stress. I know that there's a place for you in God's mansion. You're the best thing that ever happened to me and I will never be the same without you. You only get one Mother, well I'm sorry to brag but I got the BEST!!!! Thanks be to God for the life of Charlene Nelson.

With Infinite Love,
Your One And Only Daughter Aleaya

Sisters

First, you are special to me in each and every way.

So, let's try not to let anything get in the way of us keeping in touch.

Second, we are all joined together even though we live apart.

For we'll always stay right there in each others heart.

Third, though we don't share our thoughts, worries and fears.

It's always good to know we still care.

Forth, let's take to make a call, send a card or write a note that will express our feelings inside.

Fifth, we are not too old to learn from our mistakes and change before it gets too late and we regret that we didn't take the time to say, "I love you, Sis." I took the time and I know how much we cared for each other and I am so glad we ended our phone calls saying those three words, "I love you, Sis."

Your Sister Jen Heyward

Poem from Son

I can sit here forever and a day and write about what you meant to me, but respectfully, let me simply honor you for who and what you truly are, "A Queen to Me", Charlene! Good ol girl, kept me warm inside and held me the whole nine to introduce me to this cold world. Taught me right from wrong allowed me to grow... Watched me fall and get up, patch me up and say now you know. You told me don't try do it, when they won't you get to it. You said there's nothing you can't do...my biggest cheerleader who made me believe I can too. It was you who showed me kind words and a smile, can make someone's day in ways you can't imagine how. It was your light that gave me sight through my darkest days allowing me to shine no matter how lost I was I'd find my way. So thanks for being you. Appreciate and love you always, all praises due

Rest In Peace,
My Queen Charlene!

Letter from Granddaughter,

Dear Nanny,

As I sit here writing you this letter, I feel overwhelmed with sadness, but not anger. You provided comfort throughout my life until this point, and I am forever grateful for that. I thank you for being there at my darkest moments, for being the listening ear whenever I felt overwhelmed, for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself, for being gentle, kind, patient, and sassy at the right times. I thank you for all the trips to the flea market as a kid, for buying my first pair of light up sneakers, for all of our lunch dates after school, and for allowing me to lick the spoon and bowl at the times we baked cakes together. You were the greatest grandmother anyone could have asked for, I'm so blessed to have shared so many memories with you. I want you to know that you are my best friend and although I drove you crazy you were the light in my life that always told me where home is. Home was you! Now that you're gone I question, how to go on without you. You made being a single mother a lot easier. You made getting my degree possible. You made getting into an honor society a reality. You made this version of the Asia I am today possible. I cannot thank you enough Nanny for being my and Calla's rock. And I want you to know that caring for you in your last years was never a burden for me. It was my way of reciprocating the love you gave me. I'll miss all of our sleepovers, bickering, car karaoke, and movie nights. Please understand that I may be sad, but I am not angry because you gave me light. Shine bright baby, I love you deeply.

P.S. who am I going to complain about your kids to?

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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