

*In Loving
Memory
of*



Ophelia Miller

Sunrise
August 29, 1936

Sunset
May 7, 2020

Service:
Monday, May 18, 2020 - 11:30 am

MCCALL'S BRONXWOOD FUNERAL HOME
4035 Bronxwood Avenue • Bronx, New York 10466
Rev. Naomi Tyler-Lloyd, Officiating

The Inspiring Life of a Great Teacher

(The Legacy of Mrs. Ophelia Miller)

Ophelia Miller was born on August 29, 1936, the second of four daughters, to the late Elizabeth Evans Price and Willie Lee Price in a segregated Montgomery, Alabama during the height of Jim Crow. Ophelia developed a love of reading and a yearning for learning at a very young age. As she grew up Ophelia emulated her Aunt Ora Bell who was a K - 8 Grade Community Teacher and would take Ophelia to her one-room school with her. As she observed her aunt, Ophelia began to formulate a concept of the type of teacher she wanted to become. After completing high school, Ophelia took educational courses at Alabama State Teachers College and she married the late Charles Miller. From that union four children were born. Ophelia relocated to New York City where she studied at Lehman College and obtained a Bachelors of Science Degree in Education with a minor in Sociology. Ophelia then secured part-time work at a local school in the Bronx, working through a parent workshop organization as a Para-Professional. That program inspired her to continue her education, which she did, obtaining a Master's Degree in Education at Lehman College. Ophelia applied for the NYS National Teacher's Exam, and after successfully passing that exam she received a permanent NYS teacher's license for Grades K - 8. She was finally and officially a teacher! Ophelia also met and fell in love with the late Alfred Daniels. From that union one child was born.

Ophelia taught for thirty-five (35) years. She was well-known and respected throughout the educational community and was asked to join the National Council of Negro Women's (NCNW) Saturday School in her local community. She taught for fifteen years before taking over the helm as Director of the NCNW Saturday program. Ophelia was a dynamic and prolific educator, and had been such an inspiration to her students that one of her top students nominated Ophelia as the best teacher she had from kindergarten through twelfth grade. It was this nomination that led the Best Teacher of the Year National Committee to select Ophelia's name to be listed in the **Who's Who Among American Teachers' Almanac - Fifth Edition 1998** which is housed in the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. It is a distinguished and elite honor, one that few teachers across America get to experience in their lifetime. Ophelia received her beautiful plaque from the National Committee and she proudly displayed it in her home. This was only one of several recognition's Ophelia received during her career. Among others, she received: Mother Electa's Grand Chapter (OES)

Worthy Matron (several awards)

National Council of Negro Women Community Service Award

Lady Ruth #398 Dedicated Service

Williamsbridge Club Sojourner Truth Meritorious Service Award

Ophelia's love of education extended to her spiritual life. The only thing greater than her passion for teaching others and her love of her family was her love of the Lord. Ophelia gave her life to Christ at a young age at Ebenezer A.M.E. Zion Church in Montgomery, AL and was baptized into the faith. Ophelia lived her faith every day of her life. It was how she raised her children and what she taught her grandchildren. When Ophelia moved to the Bronx she joined Loyal Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School and sang with Senior Choir No. 2 for years. After she moved to the North Bronx, Ophelia transferred her membership to Trinity Baptist Church where she continued to be active in the senior choir and educational ministries. One of Ophelia's most treasured moments occurred during her final years at Trinity when Pastor Naomi Tyler-Lloyd, appointed her Director of Children's Ministry and Director of the R.O.C.K. program (Raising Obedient Christian Kids). It was a program that Ophelia was fiercely passionate about. She

had an everlasting love for every single child in the program.

And she loved to travel! Ophelia had a desire to see and experience the world and her wanderlust took her to destinations of a lifetime, including South Africa where she visited the beautiful Victoria Falls in Zambia, Israel/Jerusalem where she had the most transformative experience of her life being baptized in the Jordan River, Alaska where she saw the magnificent glaciers, Hawaii where the spirit of Ohana abounded, Paris where she visited the great Notre Dame Cathedral, Belgium where she tasted the world's finest chocolate, Victoria, British Columbia/Canada, many of the Caribbean Islands, Mexico and Haiti. And Ophelia travelled often all around the United States. One of her most precious trips was always to Montgomery Alabama, where she would sit and visit with her beloved sister, the late Alfreda Law. Lastly, Ophelia proudly traveled to Washington, DC in January 2009 to witness in person the swearing in of her beloved President Barack Hussein Obama.

Ophelia was never one to sit still. She served as Worthy Matron of The International Order of Eastern Star, Lady Ruth Chapter 389 for over 25 years. And Ophelia became an entrepreneur. She owned her own hand-made jewelry business, *Loving Hands Jewelry*. The business started after Ophelia took a beading course and realized that she was blessed with talent for this craft. She soon developed a love for making jewelry for others and began her business by making over fifty sets of earrings, necklaces and bracelets, many of which were sold in Atlanta, GA on her behalf by her daughter. Ophelia also gave away a lot of the jewelry as gifts, and also taught her grandchildren and nieces how to make jewelry. Loving Hands Jewelry was so aptly named because Ophelia suffered with severe rheumatoid arthritis in her hands. Yet, each piece was delicately and uniquely crafted and was a one-of-a-kind original.

In her retirement years, Ophelia worked on completing her first novel titled *Wait Until Spring*. She also told her children she was inspired by God to write two songs, *"If I Could I Surely Would (Stand on the Rock where Moses Stood)"* and *"Open Your Eyes and You will See,"* the latter of which was written and sung at her mother's bedside when her mother was preparing to transition. Ophelia later recorded both songs on cassette tapes which she presented to each of her children. Ophelia was also an avid collector of elephant figurines and amassed a beautiful collection over the years which she was so proud of and always wanted to pass on to her family.

With her radiant smile and unwavering faith Ophelia left an indelible impression on everyone she met. Her kindness, unconditional love and sweet spirit endeared her to all. In the last five weeks of her life Ophelia valiantly fought a stealth illness that became insurmountable. And at 83-years-old, on **May 7, 2020** in the quiet of the evening Ophelia heard Jesus' voice softly and tenderly calling her to come home. She took His hand and stepped into Glory.

Ophelia was preceded in death by her beloved son, Demetrius (Paula) Miller and her dearest friend and travel companion, Ursela McBride. Ophelia leaves to cherish and honor her memory one daughter, Gail (Kevin) Fitch of Atlanta, GA, one daughter of the heart, Bridget (Mark) Lovell, three sons, Vincent (Lynette) Miller of Sterling, VA, Michael (Cheryl) Price of Staten Island, NY, and Victor (Tammy) Miller of Bronx, NY, one son of the heart, John (Antoinette) Thilletd, three sisters, Gertrude Watts, LaVerne Gamble and Audrey Coretta (Augustine) Angba, ten grandchildren, Marcus (Tia) Miller, Toccara (Steven) McCoy, Tiye Fitch, Parris (Victor) Pellicia, Yachne Miller, Andre (Kathy) Anderson, Andre (Kim) Barker, Rashaan Barker, Ta'Neal Osborne and Courtney Brown, ten great grandchildren, Gwen, Ellington, Khari, Kirah, Stevie Denise, Apollos, Victor, Jr., Jackson, Nyla Mae and Bryce, adored nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and neighbors, and a multitude of well-loved students that Ophelia had the joy of teaching throughout the years.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude
Organist

Invocation
Rev. Audrey Coretta Price

Scripture – Old Testament
Min. Vincent K. Miller

Scripture – New Testament
Gary Hazzard

Selection

Reading of the Obituary
(Silently)

Reflection
Michael Price

Eulogy
Rev. Dr. Naomi Tyler-Lloyd

Selection

Final Viewing & Recessional

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Weep Not For Me

By an Unknown Author

Weep not for me though I have gone
Into that gentle night
Grieve if you will, but not for long
Upon my soul's sweet flight
I am at peace, my soul's at rest
There is no need for tears
For with your love I was so blessed
For all those many years
There is no pain, I suffer not
The fear is now all gone
Put now these things out of your thoughts
In your memory I live on
Remember not my fight for breath
Remember not the strife
Please do not dwell upon my death
But celebrate my life

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