

A Celebration of Life



Dolores A. Cooke
“Dee-Dee”

October 4, 1931 - April 15, 2022

Funeral Mass
Friday, April 29, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church
219 W. 132nd Street, New York, NY 10027
Reverend Victor Emumwen, Officiating

Obituary

Dolores Athelia Cooke, affectionately known as “Dee-Dee”, was born on October 4, 1931 in Durham, North Carolina to the late Edwin Robert Whitted and Gwinetta Matilda Riley. She was the second of four children born to their union. At the age of 7, Dolores moved with her family to Harlem, New York, where she resided for fifty years.

Dolores, at an early age, began her spiritual journey and further devoted herself to God when she was baptized at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in December 1949. As an adult, she became a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter 25. In pursuit of strengthening her relationship with God, she became a member of St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church in March 1984, where she served as a member on the Parish Council.

Dolores was educated in the New York City Public Schools. Following her graduation from Julia Richman High School, she worked at a law firm as a legal stenographer and later as a typist at Knickerbocker Hospital. Dolores joined the financial industry after discovering her niche in banking. She made her rounds on Wall Street, finding her professional home at the Bank of Montreal, where she retired in 1986.

Dolores married Albert Jefferson on May 27, 1952 at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church. From this union, three amazing children were born—two daughters, Althea “Shuby” Jefferson and Alicia “Missie” Williams (Nathaniel) and one son, Albert “Stooksie” Jefferson, Sr. Dolores divorced in 1964. She remarried later that year to her loving husband, James C. Cooke. From this union, she gave birth to her fourth and last child, an energetic son, Aaron C. Cooke. In 1988, Dolores relocated to the Maryland / Washington, D.C. area with her husband. There, she serviced her community by becoming a member of several organizations: National Institute of Health (NIH), Business League Council for the National Association of Women Business Owners and the President of the Friendship Club, Secretary of the Tenants Association and Chair of the Social Activity Committee for Rollingcrest Commons. In order to be closer to her immediate family, Dolores returned to New York City in 2016.

Dolores was a wonderful and loving mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt, cousin, friend and so much more to so many others. She valued her family, making it a point to create a warm, fun and comfortable environment where honest and open, but respectful, communication was encouraged and received without judgement. Fond memories of the awesome times and lip-smacking food she prepared will always remain with her family—having her grandchildren over for summers, making music videos and doing arts and crafts projects; knitting beautiful clothes and blankets; preparing her scrumptious shrimp scampi for Christmas dinner and mouthwatering pork shoulder for New Year’s Eve; dancing the two step; winning at casinos; and simply being the joy of the party. She will be remembered for her authenticity, vivacious personality, radiant smile and her impeccable flair, Ms. Diva.

After 90 years of living a beautiful and vibrant life, Dolores completed her work on earth and the Lord called her home to rest on Good Friday, April 15, 2022. She was preceded in death by her husband, James, her daughter, Althea and her three siblings, Gladys M. Whitted, Edmond R. Whitted and Jerry M. Whitted. Cherishing her memories and continuing her legacy are: her daughter, Alicia; her sons, Albert and Aaron; her grandchildren, Jevada M. Wright (Diane), Albert “AJ” Jefferson, Jr. (Simone), Jamel Williams, Courtney Jefferson, Nicole Williams, Rashaad Jefferson and Miracle Cooke; her great-grandchildren, Shanel V. Williams, Jamel R. Williams, Althea V. Wright and Matthew L. Brandon; her step great-grandchildren, Jordan Wilson and Kordan Wilson; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended relatives and dear friends.

Dolores “Dee-Dee” Athelia Cooke will continue to be with us in spirit, for she will always be in our hearts.

Order of Service

Processional

First Reading - Psalm 23:1-6.....Albert Jefferson, Jr.

Responsorial Psalm.....Rev. Victor Emumwen

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:50-58.....Miracle Cooke

Gospel.....Rev. Victor Emumwen

Homily..... Rev. Victor Emumwen

Offertory Hymn.....“True Praise”

Communion Hymn.....“Order My Steps”

Meditation Hymn..... Danny Coakley

Obituary.....Aaron Cooke

Reflections (2 Minutes).....Family/Friends

Benediction.....Rev. Victor Emumwen

Recessional

INTERMENT

Calverton National Cemetery
Calverton, New York

REPAST AFTER THE SERVICES

Antioch Baptist Church
515 W. 125th Street, New York, NY 10027

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30



Heavenly Father, thank you for blessing us with our beloved Dolores. Today, we mourn, but also celebrate her full life and the legacy she leaves behind. She is now home, eternally at peace and the joy is hers. We will treasure and honor her memory until the day you call us home and one by one, we are reunited.

Acknowledgement

The family of **Dolores Cooke** acknowledges with deep appreciation the condolences and support of all those who have been touched by her life. With sincere gratitude, thank you for all the acts of kindness, well wishes and prayers that have been extended to them during their time of bereavement.

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