

*Celebrating
the Life
of*



Barbara Williamson

Sunrise: September 19, 1949 - Sunset: May 10, 2022

Wednesday, May 25, 2022 - 5PM

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.
2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Obituary

Barbara Louise Guinyard Williamson was born on September 19, 1949 in New York City – the only child of the late Luther Guinyard and Mercedes Marie Dawkins Guinyard.

Educated in NYC public and parochial schools, Barbara was always very smart, and a quick study who developed a life-long love of reading. When Barbara was 16, she moved with her parents to Hollis, Queens and lived there until the mid-1980's.

In addition to reading, Barbara developed a great love and interest in African and African American traditions, history, and cultures. Even as a young mother, Barbara was always dressing her 4 young children – Anthony, Mercedes, Ronald, and Juanita in some type of African clothing, and taking them to experience ceremonies and celebrations where they could be exposed to African singing, dancing, literature, art, and culture. She was insistent that they read up on Black history (as well as other things), so that Black pride would be a part of their character and moral fiber early in their lives.

In 1975, Barbara married Ennis Williamson. After many years, they separated. In 2001 Barbara married Kevin Rollins. He passed away in 2021. Being extremely family oriented, (and being a great cook) Barbara lived for family get togethers! As long as health permitted, Barbara could always be found in the kitchen cooking for holidays, birthdays, and other family gatherings.

In addition to being passionate about reading, cooking, and her ancestry, Barbara was passionate about education and her community. Barbara worked for many years as a substance abuse counselor – a job from which she retired. As a community activist and advocate, the words that best describe Barbara are: “dedicated”,

“determined”, “fierce”, “tireless”, “committed”, “tenacious”, “effective”, “impactful”, and “successful”. She was voted president of her building’s residents’ association. She spent much of her time raising community awareness, promoting community education, writing petitions, sending texts and e-mails, making phone calls, and doing whatever was necessary to ensure that her residents and her community received all of the rights and services due them. Despite various obstacles, challenges, and struggles, Barbara was always strong and resilient! In 2004 (at age 55), she obtained her Bachelor degree in Liberal Arts from the College of New Rochelle; and then in 2007, went on to earn her Master of Public Administration degree from Metropolitan College. Just this year (2022), she became an associate of Legal Shield, an organization that locates attorneys and other legal services for those in need.

On May 10, 2022, our mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, auntie, cousin, neighbor, champion, and friend made her transition at her home in Bronx, New York. She is surely joining her parents, eldest son Anthony, and all of her beloved ancestors.

She leaves behind to mourn her passing, yet celebrate her life, 3 of her 4 children: Mercedes, Ronald (Ronde), and Juanita; 9 grandchildren – Michael, Andrea, Juanita, Malik, Morris (Poppy), Morrisha, Andrew, Marquis, and Juan; 7 great-grandchildren: Makayla, Jahmir, Marcus, Meliah, Amaya, Jacob, and Jeremiah; uncle - Clarence Dawkins, godmother – Atilah Kadijah Wilson Odedefaa Manyansa; and a host of cousins, neighbors, and friends. Barbara will truly be missed, but be assured that it won’t be long before she’s about her business of watching over and protecting us, and making sure the residents of Heaven get it together!

Go ahead, Barbara; take your rest. We love you dearly, but God loves you best!

Order of Service

Prelude.....Pastor Matthew N. Greaves
Opening Prayer.....Evangelist Ann Reed
Scripture ReadingJuanita M. Wright
Song..... Sheherazade Holman
Reading of the Obituary..... Atilah Kadijah
Minister in Flag.....Tracy Bell
Remarks.....Family & Friends
Michael Guinyard (Oldest Grandson)
Jermaine Dawkins (Cousin)
Enrique Colon (CASA)
3 Children- Rondu, Mercedes, Juanita
Song..... Sheherazade Holman
EulogyEvangelist Sandy Hayling-Sabater
Prayer.....Evangelist Sandy Hayling-Sabater
Benediction

" We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." (2 Corinthians 5:8)

FINAL DISPOSITION:
Oxford Hills Crematory
Chester, New York



Psalms 23

The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

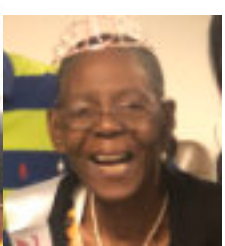
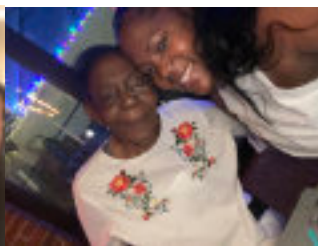


Asleep

I've closed my eyes and fallen asleep,
So there's no reason for you to weep;
 This is a debt we all must pay,
 You will see me again someday.
I've endured pain and sometimes sorrow,
Now I don't have to worry about tomorrow.
 But life for you must go on,
 You must not worry because I'm gone.
 You stood beside me all the way,
When I was down, you knew what to say ...
 You always told me, "get some rest,"
 Let me sleep now, I've done my best.
 So please let me rest in peace,
The tears you're shedding soon will cease.
You'll soon realize this was meant to be, I
 thank God because He came for me.

-Emily Dickinson





Don't

Don't spend too much time in mourning,

Tears are for the sad;

I left to be with Jesus

And this should make you glad.

Don't waste your hours in grieving,

No need to feel distress;

I'm tired of life's frustrations

And had to get some rest.

Don't puzzle yourself with questions

Or try to reason why

Life here for me was ended,

It came my time to die.

Don't lose the love I gave you

Feed it with your care;

Grow it with devotion

And spread it everywhere.

Don't fret because my leaving

Came in such a way;

We'll have another meeting

In God's eternal day.

-Author unknown

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day.
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it up with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much.
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free!

-author unknown

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.

**2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300
1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY • (718) 774-1023
1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833**



Clifford V. James, President & CEO

www.unityfuneralchapels.com

[email: unityfc@aol.com](mailto:unityfc@aol.com)

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