

Celebrating the Life of



Shirley Diane Shepard

SUNRISE: August 19, 1946

SUNSET: August 21, 2022

Friday, September 2, 2022 - 10am

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Obituary

Shirley Diane Shepard was born on August 19, 1946. She was the second of seven children, and the first girl born to Gladys and Raymond Mickey. A “Daddy’s girl,” Shirley quickly excelled in elementary school. Her favorite subjects were English and Orchestra, where she, along with her sister, Patty, played violin. In junior high school, Shirley shifted to baritone. Though the horn was bigger than she was, Shirley was committed to playing and mastering it, which she did. Her favorite musical instrument, however and without a doubt, was her voice.

To know Shirley is to know she was a singer, first and foremost. One of the greatest and most consistent joys in this committed, servant of the Lord’s life was serving as an alto in her church’s choir. Whether it was at her first church home, Beulah Baptist Church, or at the Philadelphia Baptist Church, under one of Harlem’s first Black Baptist woman ministers, Reverend Carolyn Knight, or in her final church home, the Baptist House of Prayer, Shirley was passionate and diligent about worship and helping others proclaim His goodness through the ministry of song.

Shirley was also an excellent, hard worker. At age 14, she landed her first job as a photographer assistant at Woolworth’s famous photography studio on 125th Street. After high school, Shirley, a natural whiz with numbers, began working as a bank teller at Chemical Bank for over 20 years. She also worked as a service agent at British Airways and as a bookkeeper for the East Harlem Block Nursery at 1199 Plaza.

In 1968, Shirley married Henry Shepard. The couple had one son, her “Lil Man,” Henry “Hank” Shepard, Jr.

Shirley’s greatest joy was as a mother to Hank and as a daughter to Gladys. She may have been a daddy’s girl as a child, but her adulthood was marked by her deep devotion to her mother. In Shirley’s later years, the two were inseparable. And, as sad as her family is to see her depart, there is comfort in knowing that they are now reunited, as Gladys preceded Shirley in death. Shirley also joins her father, older brother Ronnie and youngest sister Barbara Ann in Glory.

Shirley, who fought a valiant and brave battle against Parkinson’s Disease for over 25 years, entered into eternity on August 21, 2022.

Shirley is survived by: Hank; Jacqueline Gray; her sister, Patty; brothers, Phillip, Gregory, and Bobby; sisters-in-law, Lois and Doris; nieces, Monique, Katrina, and Jasmine; nephews, Ronnie (Jr) and Robert; her granddaughter, Courtney; son-in-law, Everette; great grandchildren, Jae, Elijah and Ava; and a host of cousins, including Reverend Donald Adams, who officiated today’s service.

Order of Service

Reverend Donald Adams, Officiating

Processional

Selection

“My Help” by Bam Crawford

Scripture Readings

Psalm 90:10 & John 10:10

Selection

“Soon and Very Soon” by Andrae Crouch

Obituary

Remarks

Monique Matthews

Selection

“I Can Only Imagine” by Tamela Mann

Eulogy

Reverend Donald Adams

Final Viewing

Recessional

RESTING PLACE:

Kensico Cemetery
Valhalla, New York



Life

Life is just a stepping-stone
A pause before we make it home
A simple place to rest and be,
Until we reach eternity.
Everyone has a life journey,
A path to take with lots to see
God guides our steps along the way,
But we were never meant to stay.
Our final destination is a place
Filled with love, His majesty and grace.
Today we celebrate the life of a loved one
Who has gone before us, the race he has won.
His journey has now ended,
His spirit has ascended
Claiming the great reward
With Jesus, our Lord.



Acknowledgement

The family of Shirley Shepard would like to extend our deep and heartfelt appreciation to everyone for their kind words, prayers and gestures of love during this tender time of bereavement.

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