

A black and white portrait of a woman with short, dark hair styled upwards. She is wearing a light-colored blazer over a white collared shirt with a dark necktie. She has a slight smile and is looking towards the camera. The background is a plain, light color.

*Celebrating  
the Life  
of*

*Rebecca Jean Kirkland*

**Sunrise: August 13, 1947 - Sunset: September 23, 2022**

**Wednesday, October 5, 2022 @ 12 NOON**

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

# Obituary

Let's take a journey through seven decades of a remarkable life in New York City, in the life of **Rebecca Jean Wilson-Kirkland**.

Rebecca was the first born child of Walter and Dorothy Wilson on August 13th, 1947, in Harlem, NY. Beginning life with a wholesome upbringing throughout the 1950's, Rebecca (or Jean, as she was usually called during her formative years) was a dedicated student, a Girl Scout Leader, a "social butterfly" with many of the neighborhood girls, and a Majorette [where she met Jack Kirkland] in a Marching Band. Rebecca was primed and ready for the "turbulent 60's." During these years of "free love," "black power," and revolution, Jean was focused and honed into her family life and her ambitions. She married Jack, becoming Rebecca Kirkland, and gave birth to their first son, Serron Omar in 1967. Jack was drafted into the Vietnam War, and Jean managed things "on the home front." She attended Herbert H. Lehman College and obtained a Baccalaureate Degree in Accounting. While completing her higher education, Jean gave birth to their second son, Lableake Tyra in 1970.

Jean and Jack's 1970's was full of adventure and discovery; they traveled extensively with their "boys" (as Jean came to lovingly call them for decades) and made an extraordinary home life together in Marble Hill. But after nearly ten years together, Jean's and Jack marriage ended. Never one to be deterred by circumstance Jean forged a life for her and her "boys." After several years of working and providing her expertise for corporations, Jean set out to become a successful entrepreneur. She became better known professionally by her given name, Rebecca.

For decades, Rebecca successfully owned and operated Ashanti Business Services near 135th Street in Harlem providing accounting service to local businesses, family members and people in the community. With the beginning of gentrification and the rising costs of Harlem real estate, Rebecca relocated her business to the Bronx and open a new accounting company called Correctax. There she provided accounting and financial services until the early decade of the 2000's. She later continue to provide her tax services from her home office until retiring in 2016.

With a lifetime of family devotion Rebecca Jean became known by many nicknames: Becky; Auntie Jean; and Nana. Many of her closest and lasting friendships were amongst her beloved family. She and her sister Betty had a most unique relationship and impenetrable bond. From the beginning of their close births (the difference of "11 months, 3 weeks, and a day") until Rebecca's passing, the two of them loved and fought through every trial and tribulation ... together. Rebecca sister Felecia always said, "Rebecca is/ was an extraordinary cook and an exemplary mentor;" and in many ways has modeled herself after her eldest sister. From Felecia's birth until Jean's passing, they remained devoted sisters. Rebecca remained extremely close to her former, yet everlasting sisters-in-law Becky and Debra (who called her "Becky"). Rebecca shared an unconditional love for all her brothers Walter, Keith and Darryl now predeceased.

A life we'll lived is afforded much grace. Rebecca Jean (Becky, Auntie Jean, Nana) passed peacefully in her sleep on Friday, September 23, 2022.

Rebecca was preceded in death by many, but a few notables are: Father, Walter Wilson Sr. (1985); Nephew, Lamar Wilson (1991); Mother, Dorothy Wilson (1997); Father-in-law, Jack Kirkland Sr.; Sister-in-law, Denise Smith-Wilson; Sister-in-law, Becky Kirkland; Brother, Keith Wilson (2018); Ex-Husband, Jack Kirkland Jr.; Brother, Walter Wilson Jr. (2020); and Brother, Darryl Wilson (2021).

Jean is survived by her "Boys," Serron Kirkland; Lableake Kirkland; daughter-in-law Julie Kirkland; grandchildren: Servon "YayYay" Kirkland, Serron Green, Jelisa Kirkland, Justin Kirkland, and Jurel Kirkland; Siblings: Betty Dickerson, and Felecia Brockington; Brothers-in-law: Ernest Dickerson, Harry Brockington, and Reggie Kirkland; Sisters-in-law: Debra Kirkland, and Sylvia Wilson; Six Aunts; Two Uncles; Ten Nieces and Nephews; Fifteen Grand Nieces and Nephews; and Six Great-Grand Nieces and Nephews.

Rebecca Jean Kirkland is sorely missed.

# *Order of Service*

**Opening**  
(Pastor)

**Song:**  
Hallelujah (Jelisa Kirkland)

**Obituary**  
(Servon Kirkland)

**Honoring Rebecca**  
(Julie Kirkland)

**Meditation**  
(Julie Kirkland)

**Visual Montage**  
(Jurel Kirkland)

**Original Poem**  
(Jelisa Kirkland)

**Remembrance**  
(Friends and Family)

**Miss You: Message to Loved One's**  
(Servon Kirkland )

**Final Words**  
(Pastor)

**FINAL DISPOSITION:**  
Oxford Hills Crematory  
Chester, New York

# Miss Me, But Let Me Go



When I come to the end of the  
road and the sun has set for me,  
I want no rites in a gloom filled room,  
Why cry for a soul set free?  
Miss me a little-but not too long,  
and not with your head bowed low.  
Remember the love that we once shared,  
Miss me-but let me go.  
For this is a journey that we all must take,  
And each must go alone.  
It's all part of the Master's plan,  
A step on the road to home.  
When you are lonely and sick at heart,  
Go to the friends we know.  
Laugh at the things we use to do  
Miss me-but let me go.  
-author unknown

## Acknowledgement

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and concerns. May God bless you and your loved ones.*

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