

*Celebrating  
the Life  
of*



*Kate Black*

**SUNRISE: February 15, 1936**

**SUNSET: August 19, 2023**

Saturday, September 16, 2023 - 4pm

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

# Obituary

**Kate Black**, born February 15, 1936, daughter to Rufus (deceased) and Martha Reid (deceased) and sister of Daisy, Harry (deceased), Joseph (deceased) Reid. Kate was raised in Moncks Corner, South Carolina in a small town name MacBeth. Kate early years of education was Berkeley Elementary Middle and High School.

In 1952, Kate gave birth to her first child, Margaret Reid-Jackson. When she turned 18, she decided to explore bigger and better opportunities, so she left the small town of Macbeth and migrated to New York in January 1956. This was during the time when most people were looking for new beginning from the deep south and away from the "Jim Crow" era. Kate's first job was a domestic worker in Hempstead, NY. There she was provided with an income along with room and board. As Kate's life started to take stride, she met a man by the name of Eddie Black (deceased). At age 24 she married Mr. Black on May 20, 1960, in the town of Hempstead, NY. In this union she had three children: Joann Reid (deceased), Dorothy Ann Black, and Ronald J. Black (deceased). Both Eddie and Kate moved from Long Island and relocated to Manhattan, New York. It was in NYC that Kate worked for a cleaners that specialized in cleaning and pressing men's dress clothes. For over 40 years, she hand-press and starched men's dress shirts until she retired in the early 1990s. Both Eddie and Kate Black continue to reside in NYC until their final days.

Grandma Kate, as we all called her, was a beautiful woman. "The camera just loved her". Grandma Kate bought her first Polaroid Camera; instant pictures in the early 1980s, and she was hooked. We believe she was the first person to invent selfies. Her photo album to this day still contains self-portraits! In her early years, Kate had a talent for sewing. She was a great seamstress and would love to make her own clothes. She had an eye for fashion, makeup, and hair. Always looking her best at family functions.

She had a passion for music and her favorite artist was Nate King Cole and Gladys Knight. On some rare occasions she would sing the Christmas song "Merry Christmas to You" by Nate King Cole. This was usually petitioned by her eldest daughter, Margaret, who loved to hear her sing. Kate was not too much of a dancer, but would cut a rug when asked too. She would enjoy watching people at parties do the "Electric Slide". She loved it so much she went out and bought the CD! Grandma Kate loved movies and late-night TV shows such as Carol Burnett Show and The Honeymooners. In her later years she would love to watch game shows. Her favorite show was "Let's Make a Deal" hosted by Wayne Brady. She would always say "That's my guy". Grandma Kate had a great sense of humor, and she still tried to keep that attitude even during her end of days.

On August 19, 2023, Mrs. Kate Black (Grandma Kate) gained her wings and was called home to be with the Lord. She leaves to watch over from above: sister, Daisy Reid; two daughters, Margaret Reid Jackson and Dorothy Black Brown; nine grandchildren, Rochelle Jackson-Rivera, Camella Jackson, Rapheal R. Jackson, Roderick T. Brown, Yanja Brown, Ronald Brown, Aaron Brown, Devon Brown, Anthony LaPrince, and Marla Brown; grandson-in-law, Luis Tony Rivera; great-grands to name a few: Ebony D. Gibson, PeJeen I. Rivera, Patience Makacla Meyers, Jackson EN Rivera with blessings of eight more; along with a host of great, great, grands, nieces, cousins, nephews, and friends.

# Order of Service

- Introduction/Prayer.....Minister Rochelle Jackson-Rivera  
(Granddaughter)
- Eulogy.....Ebony D. Jackson (Great Granddaughter)
- Song.....“They Won’t Go When I Go” (Stevie Wonder)
- Poetry Reading.....Patience M. Meyers (Great Granddaughter)
- Spoken Words.....Ralph R. Jackson (Grandson)
- Spoken Words.....Jackson E-N Rivera (Great Grandson)
- Poetry Reading.....Camella Jackson (Granddaughter)
- Obituary Reading.....Minister Rochelle Jackson-Rivera
- Scripture/Committal.....Rev. Pope
- Song.....“Walk Around Heaven” (Patti LaBelle)
- Conclusion.....Minister Rochelle Jackson-Rivera

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



## *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.*

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