



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



*Diane E. McCants*



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2024  
 VIEWING: 3:00 P.M.  
 FUNERAL SERVICE: 6:00 P.M.

BENTA'S FUNERAL HOME  
 630 ST. NICHOLAS AVE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10030



IF ROSES GROW IN HEAVEN

IF ROSES GROW IN HEAVEN LORD PLEASE PICK A BUNCH FOR ME. PLACE THEM IN MY SISTER'S ARMS AND TELL HER THEY'RE FROM ME. TELL HER THAT I LOVE AND MISS HER AND WHEN SHE TURNS TO SMILE, PLACE A KISS UPON HER CHEEK, AND HOLD HER FOR A WHILE. REMEMBERING HER IS EASY, I DO IT EVERY DAY. BUT THERE IS AN ACHE WITHIN MY HEART THAT WILL NEVER GO AWAY.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF SHAW

YOUR PRESENCE WE MISS, YOUR MEMORY WE CHERISH,  
 LOVING YOU ALWAYS, FORGETTING YOU NEVER.



## OBITUARY

**DIANE E. McCANTS**, a native of Harlem, New York, was a remarkable woman whose life was characterized by resilience, love, and a spirited personality. Born to Daisy Tillman (deceased) and Phillip Shaw, Diane grew up in the George Washington Carver Houses in Manhattan. She cherished the vibrant community, often spending time outside with friends and enjoying life's moments. Known as "Pugg" for her street smarts and a direct, tough demeanor that belied her loving heart, Diane's early years were filled with strength and compassion. During this time, she met her childhood sweetheart, M. Anthony McCants.

Diane's educational journey began at Jane Addams Vocational High School, where she studied nursing and made lasting memories with her sister, Yvonne Vailes. In 1979, Diane and M. Anthony McCants embarked on a lifelong journey raising their twin daughters, Shakima & Shalima. Diane's professional career as a collection agent spanned many years, marked by dedication and hard work, culminating in her well-deserved retirement in 2018. Her legacy is one of unwavering love, strength, and the many lives she touched along the way. In addition to her career, Diane also dedicated several years of part-time work at Hamilton Grange Center, where she spread love and laughter among the seniors. In her spare time, she enjoyed listening to music, cooking, playing cards, baking her famous sweet potato pies, and spending cherished moments with family and friends. Diane was a beloved figure in her Bronx community, always making new friends and leaving a positive impact wherever she went.

Diane's caring nature was evident in everything she did. She consistently found ways to uplift those around her, demonstrating boundless generosity and kindness. Known affectionately as everyone's "aunt," she had a deep love for children and wasn't afraid to offer a hug, love, or discipline when needed. She was also an enthusiastic conversationalist, always staying informed about her community's happenings through her many phone calls.

In recent years, Diane found solace and spiritual growth through her involvement in the Prayer Line of Love, a vibrant community she deeply cherished. The daily gatherings at 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M. became essential to her life, providing much-needed encouragement, love, and support. These moments nurtured her emotionally and spiritually, reinforcing her sense of connection and growth.

Diane E. McCants was born on July 24, 1957, and departed this life on August 1, 2024, at 67. She leaves behind her father, Phillip Shaw; her twin daughters, Dr. Shakima M. Clency and Shalima L. McCants; her siblings, Kenneth Shaw and Nicol Shaw; her beloved granddaughter, Raven M. Clency (affectionately known as Cupcake); her husband, M. Anthony McCants; and a multitude of aunts, nieces, nephews, godchildren, cousins, in-laws, and friends. Diane's outgoing personality and caring nature endeared her to all who knew her, and her memory will continue to bring comfort and joy to those she touched.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

**OFFICIANT**  
MINISTER, AUDREY JONES  
FRIENDLY BAPTIST CHURCH

**ORGANIST**  
EUGENE TOLBERT, JR.  
FRIENDLY BAPTIST CHURCH

**INVOCATION**  
MINISTER, AUDREY JONES

**READINGS OF THE SCRIPTURE**  
OLD TESTAMENT PSALM 23  
NEW TESTAMENT JOHN 14:1-3  
DEACON, PAMELA BARNWELL  
FRIENDLY BAPTIST CHURCH

**PRAYER OF COMFORT**  
MINISTER, AUDREY JONES

**TRIBUTES AND REFLECTIONS**  
MONIQUE COLLEY  
M. ANTHONY McCANTS  
NICOL SHAW

**READING OF THE OBITUARY**  
DR. SHAKIMA M. CLENCY  
SHALIMA L. McCANTS

**EULOGY**  
MINISTER, AUDREY JONES

**COMMITTAL AND BENEDICTION**  
MINISTER, AUDREY JONES

**RECESSIONAL**  
"TAKE ME TO THE KING"

## A LETTER FROM HEAVEN



WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME,  
AND I AM NOT HERE TO SEE,  
IF THE SUN SHOULD RISE AND FIND YOUR EYES,  
FILLED WITH TEARS FOR ME.  
I WISH SO MUCH YOU WOULDN'T CRY,  
THE WAY YOU DID TODAY,  
WHILE THINKING OF THE MANY THINGS  
WE DIDN'T GET TO SAY  
I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE ME,  
AS MUCH AS I LOVE YOU,  
AS EACH TIME YOU THINK OF ME  
I'LL KNOW YOU MISS ME TOO  
WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME,  
DON'T THINK THAT WE'RE APART,  
FOR EVERY TIME YOU THINK OF ME,  
I'M RIGHT THERE IN YOUR HEART.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE FAMILY OF **DIANE E. McCANTS** IS GRATEFUL FOR THE EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE, CONCERN, AND KINDNESS SHOWN DURING DIANE'S TIME OF NEED AND TRANSITION.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE STAFF AT REGEIS CARE CENTER AND MONTEFIORE HOSPITAL, WHO PROVIDED CARE AND SUPPORT TO DIANE AND HER FAMILY.

### PROFESSIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

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630 ST. NICHOLAS AVE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10030