

Phillipians 1:3-7

*I thank my God on every remembrance of you,
Always in every prayer of mine for you with joy
I have you in my heart*

Acknowledgments

Our family wishes to extend our profound and sincere gratitude for the outpouring of love, support, and prayers during this difficult time. Through our cherished memories, **IRENE** will live on in our hearts forever. May we continue to celebrate her life by living freely and with gratitude every single day that we have the ability to take a breath.

Arrangements Entrusted to:



630 St. Nicholas Avenue
New York, NY 10030
Phone: (212) 281-8850
Fax: (212) 234-3600

In Loving Memory of



Irene McKenzie

SUNRISE: MAY 9, 1933 - SUNSET: NOVEMBER 23, 2023

Funeral Service

Friday, December 1, 2023 • 11:00 A.M.

CHURCH OF THE INTERCESSION

630 Saint Nicholas Avenue • New York, NY 10032

FR. JAMES HAGEN, Officiant

Entombment

TRINITY CHURCH CEMETERY

New York, New York

Order of Service

OPENING HYMN “O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST”- HYMNAL, #680

OPENING SENTENCESFR. HAGEN

COLLECTFR. HAGEN

FIRST LESSON ISAIAH 25:6-9 - TEAH WULAH

RESPONSORIAL PSALMPSALM 121 - BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, 779

SECOND LESSON REVELATION 21:2-7 - LA’JUAN SCARBOROUGH

HOMILYFR. HAGEN

THE APOSTLES CREED BCP, 496

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE BCP, 497

HYMN “THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS” - HYMNAL, #646

THE COMMENDATIONFR. HAGEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN “THE STRIFE IS O’ER” HYMNAL, #208

BENEDICTIONFR. HAGEN

COMMITTAL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

Trinity Church Cemetery • 770 Riverside Drive • New York, NY 10032

Repast at 2:00pm

MAISON PICKLE
2315 Broadway (at 84th Street)
New York, NY 10024

Obituary

IRENE DELORES was born on May 9, 1933, the third daughter of Guyanese-born Charles Herman and Irene Alvarez (nee Seely). The family lived in Harlem and the Bronx, NY. Irene’s older sister Marjorie rechristened her “Sister,” and the name stuck.

Sister was quick-witted; her loyalty, especially to family, knew no limits. She was a visionary and no-nonsense type born ahead of her time, a school secretary who played the stock market and used IRAs as stocking stuffers for her children. She loved justice, her grandmother Dixie, word play, sweets, the Anglican form of worship, and beauty.

In 1954, Irene met Leonard Wesley McKenzie, a dashing young service man from Jamaica, WI. The couple married in 1956 and later welcomed two children, Leonard and Caroline. The visionary Irene convinced Leonard, to buy two lots of swampland in West Cape May, NJ and move a decommissioned Coast Guard barracks onto the property. Until their mid-teens, her children never knew a summer in the city. But West Cape May, and Sister herself, were more than a resort for the McKenzies. They were refuge for younger family members in rough family circumstances, whom Irene and Leonard welcomed as their own.

As a youngster, Irene wanted more than anything to attend college. She had graduated with honors from Walton High School and hoped to work in the business sector. Though accepted to Baruch College, she would defer her education at least two decades while she worked to contribute to her parents’ home, married, and raised her two children.

Irene joined the Board of Education as a records secretary at seventeen. Forty-one years later, she retired from Taft High School as a business education teacher and department administrator. Inquisitive and resourceful, Irene taught herself Microsoft Office and a few computer languages, then introduced them to her classroom. She insisted that her students broaden their experiences, and organized field trips to Rockefeller Center and Wall Street. For many, the trips marked their first time out of the Bronx. Several of Irene’s students kept in touch with her, corresponding with her and occasionally visiting her home until 2018, when Irene entered memory care.

For at least a decade, Irene lived through Alzheimer’s with dignity. She was loved abundantly by those who could see her through the last stages. Her children are especially grateful to the staff at Sunrise of Crestwood, who adopted Irene as their “Grandma Grandma.” Irene died peacefully at Sunrise on November 23, 2023, surrounded by new and old family members.

Irene is survived by Leonard and Caroline, their spouses, Michael Taurisano and Kenneth Robinson; Sheryl Tyson Capps and Arnold Lewis, the niece and nephew who call her “Sis,” and treat her as mother; and a host of nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, and godchildren.

The family are grateful to you for celebrating Irene with them.