

## *Afterglow*



*I'd like the memory of me  
to be a happy one.  
I'd like to leave an afterglow of  
smiles when day is done.  
I'd like to leave an echo whispering  
softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times  
and bright and sunny days.  
I'd like the tears of those who grieve,  
to dry before the sun;  
Of happy memories that I leave behind  
when day is done.*



## *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, **RHODA** 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:*

  
**BENTA'S**  
Funeral Home, Inc.  
630 St. Nicholas Avenue  
New York, NY 10030  
Phone: (212) 281-8850  
Fax: (212) 234-3600

## *In Loving Memory of*



## *Rhoda Wynn Wells*

SUNRISE: JULY 10, 1927 - SUNSET: JANUARY 16, 2024

## *Funeral Service*

Thursday, February 8, 2024 • 10:00 A.M.

**BENTA'S FUNERAL HOME**

630 St. Nicholas Avenue • New York, NY 10030

**REVEREND JAMES LOGAN**, *Officiating*

**BRVON NEAL**, *Minister of Music*

## *Interment*

**CALVERTON NATIONAL CEMETERY**

Calverton, New York

# Order of Service

INVOCATION ..... REVEREND JAMES LOGAN

HYMN ..... “THE OLD RUGGED CROSS”

SCRIPTURE READING

OLD TESTAMENT: PSALMS 100: 1-5 ..... MONIQUE WELLS,

NEW TESTAMENT: 2 CORINTHIANS 5: 5-9 ..... SUSAN PLEASANTS,

PRAYER OF COMFORT ..... REVEREND JAMES LOGAN

HYMN ..... “HOW GREAT THOU ART”

OBITUARY ..... READ SILENTLY

SOLO..... “IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL”

REMARKS. .... EARLEDEAN BURKS

SUSAN PLEASANTS

MONIQUE WELLS

WILLIAM “BILL” PLEASANTS

HYMN ..... “PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND”

EULOGY ..... REVEREND JAMES LOGAN

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL ..... “GOING UP YONDER”

# Obituary

**RHODA WYNN WELLS** was born in Atlanta, Georgia on July 10, 1927. She grew up in the same neighborhood and attended elementary school with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She attended Morris Brown College, part of the Atlanta University Center, a Historical Black College and University, which included Spelman, Morehouse and Clark College, and was part of the college marching band as a majorette. She graduated in the same era that many great black Americans whose contribution to history and the world is indelibly etched into our conscience to this day.

Rhoda was that special blend of woman, not only brains, but blessed with beauty, but too modest to use to her advantage, but was approached by a local photographer, who steered her into part time modeling. Her confidence grew and she became a very stylish woman about town, and would encourage other women who looked to her, like an early influencer, “...have a few simple nice things to fit your personality”.

Rhoda moved to New York City in the early 1950's and worked at Harlem Hospital. She joined Abyssinian Baptist Church and was a member until her last days. She enjoyed her independence and was part of the many burgeoning Civil Rights organizations of the day, then later married Dr. William Pleasants in 1957, moving to St. Albans, Queens and was blessed with two sons, William in 1958 and Stephen in 1959. She was a doting mother, and happily raised her children full time, ensuring they had as many opportunities that life had to offer.

Rhoda was an avid golfer; she played from the 1960s where few black women were represented, but excelled at it, winning numerous trophies at local tournaments.

Rhoda remarried in 1976 to Dr. Aaron Otis Wells, and gained a stepdaughter, Suzanne Monique Wells. They resided at West 88th St. in Manhattan, where they both spent their remaining years. Rhoda was an exceptional hostess; she was a great cook and storyteller. She welcomed everyone to their home, and when you entered, you were embraced physically and spiritually, you were loved.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Dr. Aaron Otis Wells and her son Stephen Pleasants. She is survived by her son, William “Bill” Pleasants, stepdaughter, Suzanne Monique Wells and daughter-in-law, Susan Malcolm Pleasants.

To her dying day, people praised her for her dignity, manners, style, and class. She was truly a gem. She will be missed and remembered.