



### *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, **SHIRLEY** 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

*The Loving Memory of*



# *Shirley Jean Woods*

SUNRISE: MAY 30, 1941 - SUNSET: DECEMBER 4, 2024



## *Funeral Service*

Friday, December 20, 2024 • 11:00 A.M.

**BENTA'S FUNERAL HOME**

630 Saint Nicholas Avenue • New York, NY 10030

REVEREND SANDRA HARPER WILLIAMS, *Officiant*

ALSON FARLEY, *Minister of Music*

## *Interment*

**KENSICO CEMETERY**

Valhalla, New York

# Order of Service

**MUSICAL PRELUDE**

**INVOCATION**

**MUSICAL SELECTION**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**PRAYER OF COMFORT**

**MUSICAL SELECTION**

**REFLECTIONS**

FAMILY & FRIENDS  
(TWO MINUTES PLEASE)

**OBITUARY READING**

**MUSICAL SELECTION**

**EULOGY**

**BENEDICTION**

**RECESSIONAL**

# Obituary

Devout Christian, Loving Mother, and Loyal Friend, **SHIRLEY J. WOODS**, God's gift, was born in Sarasota, Florida, on May 30, 1941, to the late Leroy Woods and Mabel McElvy. Up to the age of 14, she was raised by her maternal grandparents, King & Nettie McElvy.

In 1955, Shirley accompanied her mother when she relocated from Quincy, FL. to Harlem NY, in pursuit of new opportunities. She achieved a personal milestone by completing her high school education, a testament to her resilience and commitment to self-improvement.

In her twenties, Shirley moved to the infamous 140th Street in the South Bronx, NY, where she met the love of her life, late Levi Black, in 1966. Together, they built a beautiful home filled with love and laughter.

As a devoted, stay-at-home wife and mother, Shirley dedicated herself to raising her six cherished children: John A. Woods, Sadie E. Jones (Diego), Joan P. Woods, Mark A. Black (Cynthia), Nicole M. Black, and Stacie L. Black. Each child was a testament to her love, care, and devotion, as she was fully committed to raising them with wisdom, guidance, and unwavering love.

Shirley was a blessing to her large, loving family. Her legacy continues through her grandchildren: Quincy Jones (Krystle), Kalema Newkirk, Shanel Smith (Shamell Sr.), John Woods Jr., Junior Guevera, Shanese Woods, Marcus Woods (Adrian), Christopher Quevera, Qua'Nasia Boschulte (James), Auniahné Williamson, Shalieza Jones, Mark Black Jr., Shakera Jones, Angelina Jones, Monique Jones, Jhalil Burroughs, and Dariana Black. She was also the proud great-grandmother of 23 great-grandchildren and cherished godmother to Cheryl Covington, Lee Grant, and Colleen Emanuel.

Shirley also leaves to mourn her passing, two loving aunts, Beverly Mayo and Ally Mae Woods, one uncle John Smith, and a host of cousins, family and friends. She will forever be remembered as a pillar of strength, a beacon of love, and a matriarch who devoted her life to her family and friends.

Shirley is now reunited in heaven with the beloved father of her children, Levi Black, her daughter-in-law, Sharon Woods, her granddaughter, Shantel Jones, her sister friend, Shelba McKenzie, and a host of relatives and friends.