



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, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've now found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah 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, and I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all to brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift-up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, and He set me free.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our family wishes to extend its profound and sincere gratitude for the outpouring of love, support, and prayers during this difficult time. Through our cherished memories, Vernell 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

VERNELL *Gaffney*

SUNRISE: JULY 4, 1942 - SUNSET: MARCH 18, 2022

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022
FUNERAL SERVICE - 11:00 A.M.

BENTA'S FUNERAL HOME, INC.
630 SAINT NICHOLAS AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10030

PASTOR TORY J. LIFERIDGE, *Officiating*
DANTE HAWKINS, *Minister of Music*



Interment

GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARK
PARAMUS, NEW JERSEY



Obituary

We honor and celebrate the life of, **Mrs. Vernell Gaffney**. Vernell was born on July 4, 1942, in Chester, (Dodge County) Georgia, as the youngest of eight children, to the late Dave and Bessie Jordan.

On Friday, March 18, 2022, the Lord called her to eternal rest and peace.

As a youth, Vernell was very ambitious and desired to relocate to the North in pursuit of opportunity and equality. As a result, when she graduated from Peabody High School in 1960, Vernell followed her intuition and courageously migrated to New York City. This move not only provided Vernell with greater career options, but she also found love. In 1962, Vernell was united in Holy Matrimony to Robert Earl Gaffney (deceased). She resided on 149th Street, aka "the block" in Harlem, New York City for 61 years. She was a loving neighbor, trusted friend, and mother figure to many on "the block". Vernell enjoyed her position as one of the pillars of strength in her community.

As an entry-level employee, Vernell began her career at Chase Bank. Hard-work and dedication led Vernell to supervisory roles in banking and she later retired from Chase Bank after 33 years of service. After retirement, Vernell enjoyed volunteering at the St. Nicholas Senior Center. She enjoyed planning all activities but coordinating bus rides were her favorite pastime. Vernell's commitment to living a full and joyous life is a small glimpse of her character and love for people. The love she shared will forever be etched in our hearts.

Vernell passionately left a legacy of love, honor, and commitment to family as evidenced by the strength and resilience of her daughters: Renee Gaffney, Valarie Gaffney-Greene (Bernard) of New York, Teresa Jeter-Gaffney (Maureece Jones) of South Carolina, one grandchild: Shatina Jones of South Carolina, two great-grandchildren: Leyah Jones and Mia Biving of South Carolina, sister-in-law Susie Mae Jordan of Georgia. Nephews: Leslie Gray (Deborah) of New York, Ernest Lee Allen, Randy Allen, Grady Forris of Georgia, Terry Allen of New York, Roderick Mack of Texas, Daryll B. Davis (Angela) of Ohio. Nieces: Victoria Fruitway (Billy), Erica Mack and Terica Mack of Georgia. Gi'A Ofori of New York. Great-nieces: Tara James, Cassandra Turner-James, and Kysha Gray of Georgia. Great nephews: Kendel Gray, Antron Turner of Georgia. Goddaughters: Rosalyn M. Price (Danny), LaTashia J. Penick-Liferidge (Tory), Jamieshia M. Womack, Carlie-Jai Georges and Marchany Harrison of New York. Special friend Bill Parker. Lifetime friends: Mary Johnson, Ann Long, Beatrice Waton, Carrie Floyd and Bernice J. Miller-Lecounte. The B.W. Players: Shiril Holmes, Juanita Deavers, Daisy Watson, Valerie James, Lynn Casters, Donna Hogan, Yvonne McDowell, and Izzy Minns. She also leaves a host of other relatives and friends.

Order of Service

MUSICAL PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

INVOCATION - Pastor Tory J. Liferidge

MUSICAL SELECTION - Dante Hawkins

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament - Psalm 23

New Testament - 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

PRAYER OF COMFORT - Pastor Tory J. Liferidge

MUSICAL SELECTION - Tanisha Waring

TRIBUTES & REMARKS - Family & Friends (2 Mins. Please)

OBITUARY READING - LaTashia J. Penick-Liferidge

MUSICAL SELECTION - Dante Hawkins

EULOGY - Pastor Tory J. Liferidge

COMMITTAL & BLESSING - Pastor Tory J. Liferidge

RECESSIONAL

REPAST

LT. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY JR.

Community Center
34 W. 134th St
New York, NY 10037
2p.m - 6:30p.m

