

## *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, or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way  
I've found that peace at the close of the 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, I savored much  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me  
God wanted me now, He set me free.*

## *Acknowledgements*

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, Virginia 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*



## *Virginia N. Griffen*

SUNRISE: JUNE 20, 1952 - SUNSET: JUNE 29, 2020

### *Funeral Service*

Monday, July 6, 2020 • 11:00 A.M.

**BENTA'S FUNERAL HOME**

630 St. Nicholas Avenue • New York, NY 10030

**REVEREND DR. DEBORAH L. STAPLETON**, *Officiating*

ASSOCIATE PASTOR, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LINCOLN GARDENS SOMERSET, NJ

**ALSON FARLEY**, *Minister of Music*

### *Interment*

**WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY**

Mount Sinai, New York

# Order of Service

ORGAN PRELUDE

INVOCATION . . . . . REV. DR. DEBORAH L. STAPLETON

MUSICAL SELECTION . . . . . “HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW”  
ALSON FARLEY

SCRIPTURE READING . . . . . REV. DR. DEBORAH L. STAPLETON

OLD TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT

PRAYER . . . . . REV. DR. DEBORAH L. STAPLETON

REFLECTIONS . . . . . FAMILY & FRIENDS  
(PLEASE LIMIT TO TWO MINUTES)

OBITUARY . . . . . ROSLYN GAYNOR

MUSICAL SELECTION . . . . . “I’M GONNA BE READY”  
ALSON FARLEY

EULOGY . . . . . REV. DR. DEBORAH L. STAPLETON

BENEDICTION . . . . . REV. DR. DEBORAH L. STAPLETON

RECESSIONAL

# Obituary

VIRGINIA NAOMI CHAMBERS GRIFFEN, affectionately known as “Dumpy” was born on June 20, 1952 to the late James E. Chambers and Mary Frances Chambers. She was the fifth born child, out six children. She passed away peacefully in her sleep on Monday June 29, 2020 with her family by her side. She was preceded in death by her parents James and Mary Chambers and her brother Ronald Dix.

Virginia was raised in Harlem New York, within the Lincoln Projects that she grew to love and had a great childhood. During her childhood years she went to P.S. 197, J.H.S 136 and successfully graduated from Taft High School in Bronx NY. She would reminisce about the time she thought she would become famous as a Lincolnette, a singing group her and her childhood friends created. If “Don’t Mess With Bill” by the Marvettes came on she was always ready to give an impromptu concert.

Virginia was known for her affectionate laugh, clever sense of humor, spicy character, classy verbal comebacks, but she was most known for the love she gave to others as a daughter, mother, sister, aunt, godmother, and friend. If anyone needed advice, she was the go-to person. She was always there for her loved ones, no matter day or time.

Virginia worked for the Federal Reserve Treasury Bank straight out of High School. She went on to work and retire from St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital where she acquired other extended friend and family members.

Virginia loved to hang out in her younger days. She could sit for hours and talk about all her fun times at the Lenox Lounge. She enjoyed life to the fullest and could often be found enjoying a Margarita while listening to her favorites, such as Gladys Knight, Teddy Pendergrass and most Motown artists.

Virginia had one daughter, her pride and joy, Nicole. They journeyed life together through various vacation trips, family outings, dinners, and celebrations. Virginia was cared for during her challenging health condition by Nicole. The care and love that Nicole provided for her mother was touching, beautiful and unconditional.

Virginia had a long battle with lung cancer. She was 68 years young and she proved it every day. It would be wrong to say that Virginia lost her battle because she never stopped fighting. No matter how sick she was, she was always determined. When anyone else would have broken, Virginia stayed strong. Through her, we know what resilience and perseverance truly looks like. There was no quit in Virginia. Just because she is no longer here, it doesn’t mean she lost her fight.

Virginia leaves to cherish beautiful memories, her daughter Nicole Renee Parrilla, her sisters Carrie Meacham (Stanley), Roslyn Gaynor, Beatrice Brown (Douglas), Mary Solomon, her “other child” Dwayne Chambers and a host nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, god-daughters and many dear friends.

There will always be a void in our hearts for Dumpy. I’ll love you forever mommy.