

CELEBRATING
the *life* of



Shirley J. Wilson

SUNRISE: SEPTEMBER 14, 1938 - SUNSET: JANUARY 21, 2024



J.B. JENKINS FUNERAL HOME

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Worship Leader (Deacon: Deborah E. Snipes)

Words of Welcome (Grandson: Melvin L. Johnson, Jr.)

Scripture (Brother-In-Love: Irving W. Wilson, Jr.)

Prayer (Cousin: Rev. Frenchettia C. Payne)

Musical Selection (Niece: Valda T. Johnson)

Acknowledgments (Assistant Church Clerk: Charlotte W. Gray)

Reflections (Daughter: Helene A. Johnson)

Eulogy/Life Tribute (Pastor: Robert J. Williams, Jr.)

Musical Selection (Niece: Valda T. Johnson)

Benediction (Pastor: Robert J. Williams, Jr.)

Obituary

Shirley Jean Smith-Wilson, 85, of Upper Marlboro, MD, went on to be with the Lord on Sunday, January 21, 2024. Shirley was born on September 14, 1938, to Oakley Smith, Sr., and Helen Lucille Turner in Kansas City, Kansas.

Shirley's childhood was rich, with an extensive and loving family that helped to support and raise her. She joined the First Baptist Church (Kansas City, Kansas) at an early age, where she attended Sunday school. She attended public school in Kansas City, Kansas, graduating from Summer High School in May 1958. After Shirley graduated from Sumner High School, she studied education at the University of Denver, Colorado. She furthered her education by attending Prince George's Community College and George Washington University. She received a degree in elementary education with a concentration in special education from George Washington University.

1959 Shirley met Robert Arthur Wilson at the Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Shirley and Robert wed on May 17, 1960; they almost had sixty-four years of wedded bliss! Shirley and Robert went on to have one child, Helene Antoinette Wilson-Johnson.

Upon arriving in the Metropolitan area, Shirley joined Salem Baptist Church in the Northwest District of Columbia. She loved to sing and became a member of Choir Number One, singing second soprano. Shirley was a Blue Bird Group Leader. Bluebirds are the younger version of the Campfire Girls. Also, she became the Queen Mother of the Red Hat Society (Upper Marlboro, MD Chapter).

While at Salem Baptist Church, she joined the Deaconess Board, where she chaired the annual Kwanzaa celebration for over ten years. Shirley decided to spend more time with her daughter and grandson by attending the same church. So, on the first Sunday in January 1999, she joined St. Paul Church in Capitol Heights, MD, where she remained a member until her death. While at St. Paul Church, she became a candidate for the Deacon Ministry. Shirley accompanied her husband to the St. Paul Chapel when he became Chaplain.

Shirley began her educational journey in 1967 as a District of Columbia Public School System employee. She was employed with the Prince George's County Public School System three years later. In 2005, Shirley retired after thirty-five years with the Prince George's County Public School System.

During her retirement years, Shirley enjoyed traveling, attending plays on Broadway, and going to various five-star restaurants in the DC Metropolitan area before her health declined. Shirley was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, daughter, sister, cousin, and friend. Family meant everything to her, and she did her best to always lead by example; she taught us well! Shirley enjoyed teaching and creating her clothing patterns from scratch using newspaper and sewing outfits. Anyone who knew Shirley would agree she was fiercely independent right up to the end of her life!

Shirley is preceded in death by her grandparents, parents, great aunts, great uncles, brothers-in-love, sisters-in-love, and cousins. She is survived by her husband of almost sixty-four years (Rev. Robert A. Wilson), daughter (Helene A. Wilson-Johnson), Grandson (Melvin L. Johnson, Jr.), Great-Granddaughter (Maya D. Yull-Johnson), Aunt (Christine Johnson), Sister (Stella Thompson), Brother (Glen Smith), Brother (Darin Smith) Sister (Marcia Smith), Sister (Jackie Smith), Brother (Kenny Smith), Sister-in-love (Margaret Coates), Brother-in-love (Irving Wilson, Jr), Brother-in-love (James Johnson), and Sister-in-love (Ruby Wilson), along with a host of cherished nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.





Pallbearers

*Keith C. Brooks
Thomas L. Copeland
John F. Jackson
Melvin L. Johnson, Jr.
Tracy D. Proctor
G. Kemet Uhuru*

Gratitude

The family of Shirley J Wilson would like to sincerely thank each of you for the many acts of kindness and support during our bereavement. Words cannot express our gratitude and appreciation for the outpouring of love, generosity, prayers, and words of comfort. May the Lord bless each of you as he has richly blessed us.

No Empire Lasts Forever

*"No empire lasts forever; no dynasty continues unbroken. Someday, you and I will be mere legends. All that matters is whether we did what we could with the life given us."
Krishna Udayasankars*

Interment: Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery