

*Celebration of Life*  
*For*  
*Shirley Reynolds Kelley*



**Sunrise**|January 20, 1934



**Sunset**|July 13, 2023

**Monday, July 24, 2023 | 11:00am**  
*West End Seventh-day Adventist Church*  
**845 Lawton Street SW Atlanta Ga, 30310**  
**Dr. Patrick T. Carter Sr.**

# Obituary

January 20, 1934, a candle was lit as proud parents Harold and Martha Wilkes Reynolds welcomed their first daughter, Shirley Ann into the world. The candle burned brightly for 89 years, as Shirley made an indelible impression on the world. With her loving family at her side, she accepted God's hand on July 13, 2023. She was a chartered member of The Atlanta West End Seventh-day Adventist Church for over 40 years. **Mrs. Kelley** was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, and devoted friend. She was never tired of giving her time and showing her love to them. Through her strength, talents, and unrelenting fortitude, **Mrs. Kelley** was an example and an inspiration to many who encountered her.

**Shirley Ann Reynolds Kelley** was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in the Historical West End district until her transition. She was a Booker T. Washington High School alum and played the snare drums in the marching band. **Mrs. Kelley** was a proud member of the graduating class of 1952. She matriculated to Clark College (now Clark Atlanta University) where she was also a marching band member.

After marrying Benjamin Kelley Jr., she became a homemaker. **Mrs. Kelley** found much joy in cooking, sewing, and raising her five children. Later, she began working for the Southland Cooperation as a manager until she retired in 1989. **Mrs. Kelley** came out of retirement and began working for Atlanta Public Schools as a bus driver for special needs students. She retired from APS in 2011.

As a trailblazer, **Mrs. Kelley** learned how to fly an airplane and later acquired her Solo Pilot's License; and of course, she had to solo to obtain her wings. To share her love of flying, **Mrs. Kelley** and her husband flew to Arkansas, Florida, New Jersey, and many other states with their children. They were members of the Delta Romeo Flying Club, which is a group of African American pilots. They flew to Tuskegee, Alabama yearly in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen.

**Mrs. Kelley** is preceded in death by her loving husband Benjamin Artis Kelley, Jr., and son Benjamin Artis Kelley III. She is survived by her four loving children: Ardath Kelley, Simeon Kelley Sr. (Michelle deceased), Geneice Kelley, and Seion Kelley (Desni), and two stepchildren, Sheila Kelley, and Robert Kelley (deceased). **Mrs. Kelley** is survived by 18 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren, and 15 great-great-grandchildren. She is survived by three siblings; Brenda D. Reynolds Chaney (William), Donald Reynolds Sr. (Patricia), and Victor Wayne Reynold Sr., (Cynthia) **Mrs. Kelley** also leaves a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and longtime friends near and far.

**Mrs. Kelley** light touched so many lives, and she is irreplaceable. We will greatly miss her. Thank you, Father God, for the time we have had with our angel here on earth.

*"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." ~2 Timothy 4:6-8*



# Order of Service

Officiating, Evelynna Del Valle, Associate Pastor

Musical Prelude.....

Processional.....

Words of Comfort.....

Opening Prayer.....Elder Ethel Williams

Selected Scriptures.....

Old Testament .....Elder Avis Chester

New Testament.....Elder Ethel Williams

Musical Selection                      “Still I Rise”                      Willetta Harris

Expressions of Love (2 minutes).....

La Sandra Brown  
Frankie Riley  
James Hughey

Obituary Reading Silently/ Picture Tribute.....

Instrumental musical playing

Expressions of Love (2 minutes).....

Rita Van Robinson  
David Cantrell  
Eddie Sandiford

Musical Selection                      “Amazing Grace”                      Avis Ledbetter Cleveland

Eulogy..... Elder Marcellus Howard

Recessional.....



# A Grandmother's Love

## Chris

Grandma, words can't explain how much you will be missed. You were the perfect piece to my puzzle and helped fill a void that a child should never have. You taught me so much through our many

conversations reinforced by your actions. What stood out the most was your love for your family and others. You told

me once "Chris, love is a choice" and that's what you chose to do unconditionally. Thank you for being there and being the perfect example. I love grandma.

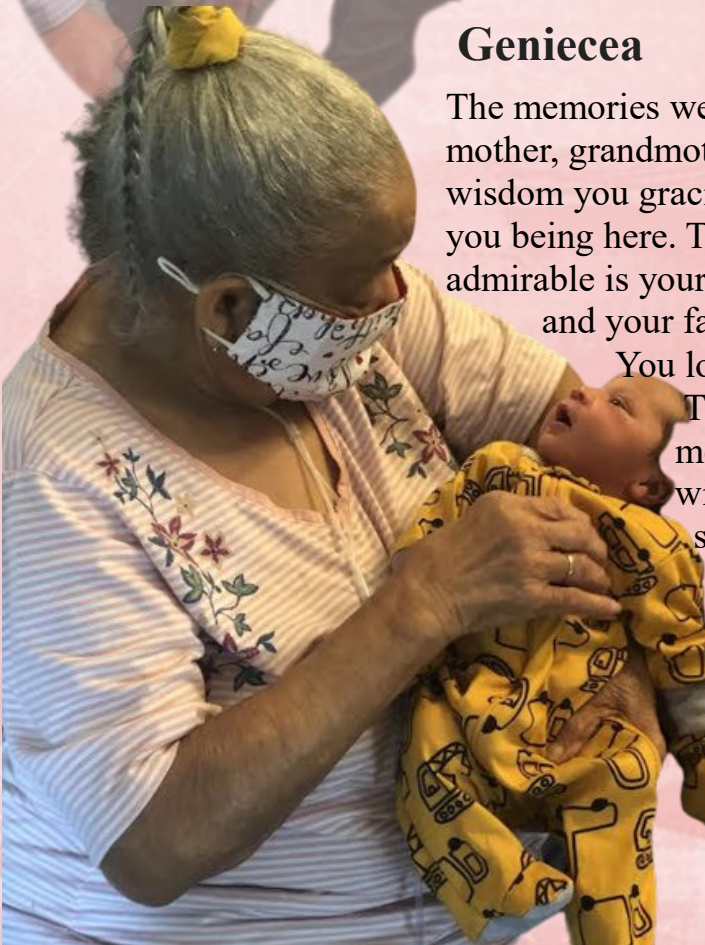


*Love your grandson, -Chris*

## Geniecea

The memories we share are endless and I admire the woman, wife, mother, grandmother, and friend you have been to so many. The wisdom you graciously shared will guide me as I move forward without you being here. There is so much to admire about you, but what is most admirable is your love, devotion, and commitment to our grandfather and your family. Grandpa was your first and your only love.

You loved him selflessly, with forgiveness and a pure heart. Through how you loved and lived your life, you taught me how to be a mother, a future wife, a friend, and even more so, a good person. Thank you for being the definition of love. I love you always and will do my best to love how you did.



*Love, Your granddaughter, - Geniecea aka Snuckie*



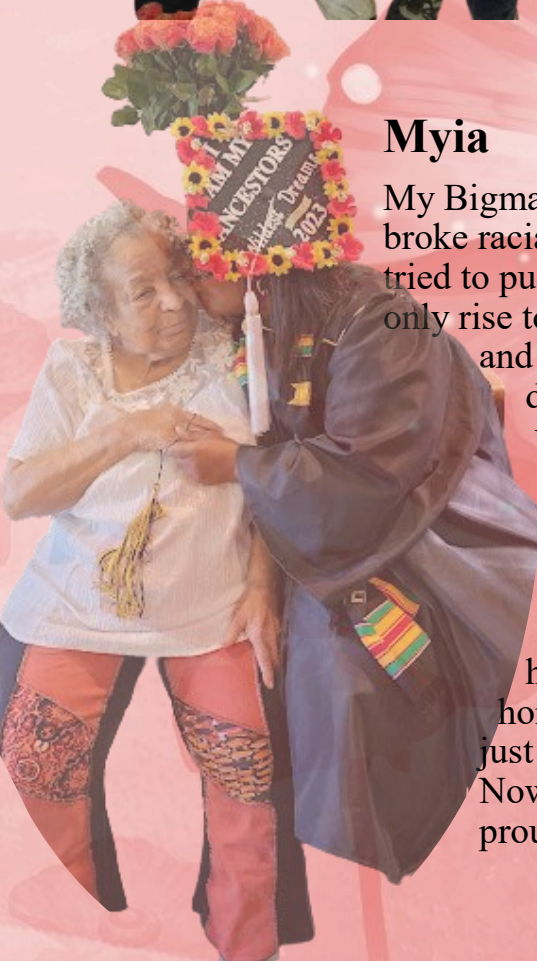
# A Grandmother's Love



## Seth

Throughout the years I've learned that life is a pathway with a lot of unexpected turns and routes. Every time life got a lil bit harder than before hearing grandma's sweet voice made a difference every single time. Being as if a weight was being lifted from my shoulders and feeling great comfort from just hearing her voice and seeing her smile. You've always wanted to watch me at my track meets and you can in the beautiful place up above. I will always love and cherish you forever and always.

*Love- Seth*



## Myia

My Bigma was a true force of nature who broke racial boundaries even when society tried to push her to her knees. She didn't only rise to the challenge; she soared above and became her ancestor's wildest dream. Her fighting spirit was unmatched, and she taught us to never back down from life's challenges. She was a beacon of love and resilience, always putting



family first and bringing us closer together. We were blessed to have her as the glue that held our family together. As we say goodbye, let's honor her legendary legacy by growing even closer, cherishing each other just as she did, burying hatchets, and keeping her love alive in our hearts. Now it's our moment to carry the torch of strength and familial love proudly. Rest easy, Sugah; we've got this.

*Humbled to be your Great Granddaughter, -Myia*



# *"Remembering Momma"*

*Who was once a servant with a heart of gold,  
A nurturer so gentle with a friendly soul.*

*Remembering Momma,  
as we would walk hand in hand\_  
She was my giant angel, my pearl in the sand.*

*A God-fearing woman, virtuous indeed\_  
She welcomed with open arms, no reservation you would need.*

*Watching her every move, as I knew her so well...*

*I was the first one, also known as her Blossom Bell.*

*And when my parents had decided again, there along came her Big, Blazing Ben.*

*Not a moment too soon who else would drop, none other than her Coco Pop.*

*As time would have it, and not too late, to be honest, look who shows up next, her Yeesie  
Yonest.*

*Last but not least, the 5th one to land, her baby boy, who she called Little Man.*

*Remembering Momma and missing the kisses, her warm embrace, and the smell of her dishes.*

*Memories of working in the garden and eating snow cream, dancing, and listening to music  
seem like a dream.*

*Remembering Momma\_*

*From sunsets*

*To vacations*

*To shopping innovations*

*We went from tea sets to coffee cups,*

*We cut out paper dolls and all that stuff...*

*Remembering Momma at the screen door, giving out lunches once more.*

*Picking grapes for her homemade jelly... reminiscing how I used to lay on your belly.*

*My buddy, my friend.*

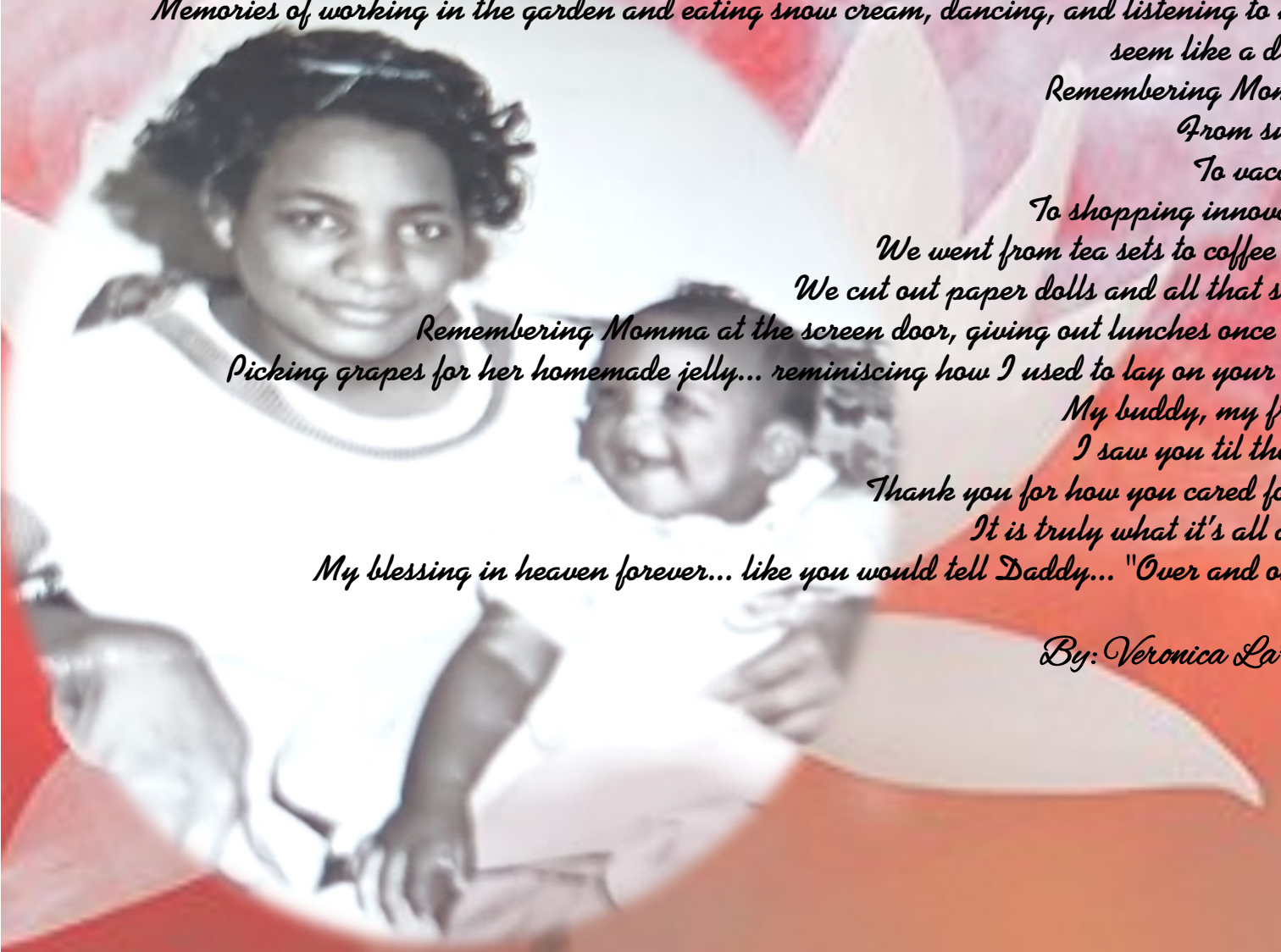
*I saw you til the end.*

*Thank you for how you cared for me.*

*It is truly what it's all about.*

*My blessing in heaven forever... like you would tell Daddy... "Over and out."*

*By: Veronica La'Shon*









**PALLBEARERS**

*Family and Friends*

**FLOWER ATTENDANTS**

*Family and Friends*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*Sometimes when life seems empty and we feel alone,  
we discover the importance of the kindness of others.*

*Thank you for being a light in a dark and difficult time.*

*Your kindness meant so very much  
and will not be forgotten.*

