



CELEBRATING THE LIFE *of*  
**ZYVONNE**  
**LAUGHLIN**

*Sunrise: July 24, 1943*

*Sunset: August 28, 2024*

**“EVIE”**

Saturday, September 28, 2024 - 3PM  
**ST. PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH**  
6910 New Kings Road | Jacksonville, Florida 32219  
Rev. Dr. Willie N. Barnes, Jr., Senior Pastor

THE LIFE & LEGACY OF

# YVONNE LAUGHLIN

YVONNE LAUGHLIN was born on July 24, 1943, in Newark, New Jersey to the parents of Marion and Ola D. Laughlin. She departed this life and entered eternal life on August 28, 2024.

Yvonne was educated in Newark and East Orange School Districts in New Jersey. Later, she attended college in Essex County of Newark, New Jersey and obtained certification in Leadership and Management Skills. She was a member of Queen Esther Chapter #4, The Order of the Eastern Star.

Yvonne established her initial profession at Lerner Shops (store#1) in Newark, New Jersey where she worked for twenty-seven years. In Yvonne's words, she "climbed up the corporate ladder from a Wrapper, Cashier, Head Cashier, Department Manager, Assistant Store Manager to being promoted to Store Manager in East New York". Yvonne was responsible for making that store profitable, in which she was recognized with many awards and gifts, along with financial bonuses from the Lerner Shops Company compensating her for all her hard work. She would be sure to share portions of her financial bonuses with her team to display her appreciation, emphasizing "teamwork does make the dream work".

Yvonne left Lerner's to take a managerial position with the Strawberry Company acquiring a few stores under her management in New York City. She retired a few years later from the fashion retail industry to begin another career as a Commercial Teller at PNC Bank in East Orange, New Jersey where she met co-workers that had become family. Yvonne worked at PNC Bank for fifteen years before deciding to take the opportunity to retire early.

Yvonne grew up going to church every Sunday with her mother where they were members of St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church in Newark, New Jersey. Yvonne's favorite hymns were Blessed Assurance and Holy, Holy, Holy that she learned at church with her mother as a young girl. Yvonne continued her membership at St. James as an adult where she followed in her mother's footsteps by serving God's people as an usher on Usher Board #2. She was also appointed as a Steward under the Pastoral Leadership of Rev. Dr. William D. Watley. Yvonne prayed for a Christian service to be instituted where she was living then God sent a husband-and-wife team by the names of Lily and Roy to begin a bible study. Yvonne quickly went from an attendee to assisting as a servant to God's people. Lily and Roy had become like her family as they supported her as a good friend along with Yvonne joining them every week at church.

Yvonne was a pillar of strength and beauty. She was the illustration in her daughter Yvette's life of what a lady should be, which was intelligent, assertive, respectful, discerning, no nonsense while being calm, cool and collected. Yvonne was always stylish from head to toe with her makeup always flawless as she would take care of her business, good or bad. These were the moments when her cousins, Kellie and Kelly would call her "Ms. Yvonne"!

At an early age, Yvonne developed a passion for writing short stories and poetry. She was the Editor and Chief of her school newspaper, "The Clarion". Yvonne's love of poetry resulted in her writing and publishing a book of poems which is housed at the Library of Congress.

Yvonne loved to read, go to the movies, and watch television. Some of her favorite shows included All My Children, The Young and the Restless and Family Feud. At family gatherings, she had to have her shrimp and yellow cake with chocolate icing. Yvonne was a great dancer along with being a lover of music, especially Doo-wop. Yvonne and her sister-friend (Aunt Geri), who had been friends since the age of five, began the business of hosting Oldies but Goodies Dances. Yvonne's favorite songs to play were Glory of Love, Gee, Earth Angel, Why Do Fools Fall In Love and In the Still Of The Night. Due to her love of the Doo-wop era, she enjoyed teaching her daughter, Yvette, how to swing dance.

Yvonne knew when to give her great advice or when to listen. Her dear children Durand, Anthony, and Yvette were sure to receive one of her wisdom sayings like, "Let Paul be persuaded by his own decision" which means figure it out. Yvonne raised her children with sayings from her mother for everything, sayings like birds of a feather, flock together, every goodbye ain't gone or if you can't say it twice don't say it once. These conversations would always end up with a song that was based on the last word she stated. It was always amazing how she knew a song to sing every single time.

She was preceded in death by her mother: Ola D. Johnson Laughlin; father: Marion Laughlin; brother: Chauncer Laughlin and sisters: Chiquita and Mericka Laughlin.

Yvonne leaves to mourn her passing her two sons: Durand Howard and Anthony Howard (Annette); one daughter: Yvette Richardson-Hauser (Pierre); twelve grandchildren: Derrice Howard, Shyah Rivera (Samad), Charles Ellis (Jelisa), Tyrone Davidson (Tiare), Alicia Bailey, Ashely Wimbush (Austin), Justin Howard, Sandryl Yvonne Howard, Asia Leeann Howard, Kevin Butler Jr. (Alexa Rae), Piera Hauser and Nyla Hauser; thirteen great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild and another great-great-grandchild on the way (affectionately known as Candy Corn); cousins: Louise, Lamar, Evon, Carolyn, Terry, Cecelia and Claire and a host of nieces, cousins, relatives and friends.



# THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Reverend Karl Brown, Presiding  
Rev. Dr. Willie N. Barnes, Jr., Officiating

Processional/Viewing

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Solo

*Blessed Assurance*

Sister Deborah Harris

Scripture(s):

Old Testament: Psalms 139: 1-18

New Testament: Revelation 21: 1-7

Reverend George Pratt  
Sister LaVonne Mitchell

Invocation (Prayer)

Reverend Brittany Bryant

Reflections- *(As a courtesy to the family, please remember the two-minute rule)*

Acknowledgements and Resolutions

Church Steward

Solo

*Goodness of God*

Sister Deborah Harris

Eulogy

Rev. Dr. Willie N. Barnes, Jr.

Recessional

*Why Do Fools Fall In Love*



# TRIBUTE

## TO MY BIG BROTHER

This is me, is that you?

As the story was told, I looked at you  
Standing by my crib, I would cry, and you would pretend to.

Then I would laugh and begin to coo.

Took my candy from my jacket pocket full and plenty,

Because when I was asked, I said

I didn't have any.

Roman Notation, you were stern

Through continuous repetition, I did learn.

Beat my butt when I stayed pass Mommy's curfew

From that experience, I really grew.

This is me, is that you?

A pillar of communicative strength

I thought there wasn't anything you, didn't know

This was vital, as I continued to grow.

Explain away all my trials, worries, and problems

Giving me the edge on how to solve them.

Keeping me on the right track

So, I didn't fall flat on my back!

I love you Big Brother on your 75th birthday

I want you to know

This is me, is that you?

Hello.

*Author: Yvonne Laughlin*









# YVONNE LAUGHLIN

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Yvette Richardson-Hauser

Jocelyn Suttle

Merline Benton

Johnna Kaufman

Sharla Johnson

Eric Reese

Kevin Butler, Jr.

## FLOWER ATTENDANTS

Piera Elise Hauser

Nyla Yvette Hauser

Florine Cutliff - Outlaw

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We, the family of Yvonne Laughlin, would like to thank everyone with a deep appreciation for the prayers, expressions of love, along with the kindness shown to our family during this heartbreaking time. I pray God continues to bless all of you with good health and happiness today and tomorrow.

-The Family

*"There are no limits or boundaries with God's strong arm of protection around us. Dear God in Heaven, I pray for your blessed assuredness, your anointing, your healing hand, and your guiding light. Let not the adversary have his way in my life, but only you, Dear God. Lead me, Dear God, in the way in which I should go with your strong arm of protection around me in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen."*

- By Yvonne Laughlin

# Q.L. DOUGLAS

FUNERAL HOME

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