

-With Heartfelt Gratitude-

The family of Mrs. Shirley Stevens wishes to thank the community for the intentional acts of love & outpouring of kindness which have been extended during this time. *God is not unrighteous to forget your labor of love.* Her spirit lives in the hearts of all who loved her—and though she may have left our sight, her love will forever continue to surround us.



Rose Garden

FOR A GARDENER.

If I grew a rose garden,
It would have bush for Mom
Of the whitest roses I could find,
The whitest, purest, most perfect roses in the world.
But in the center, I would grow
A single red rose,
The pulsing, living heart of the garden.
The white roses I would pluck, occasionally,
To leave on her grave,
But the red rose would stay protected,
Guarded by loving thorns,
A heart living on.

Comfort Ministry and After-Care Transitional
Arrangements Entrusted To
J.E. Washington Funeral Services
2234 Glenwood Ave., Youngstown OH 44511
330.782.8500

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



SHIRLEY ANN STEVENS

1937 - 2025

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2025

Calling Hours: 10:00am
Services: 11:00am
Jaylex Event Center
2110 Glenwood Avenue
Youngstown, Ohio 44511



- Order of Celebration -
Pastor Raymond Austin Jr., Officiant



Prayer of Comfort Rev. Lewis W. Macklin II

Reading of Sacred Text

Selection Minister Gaye Woodberry

Public Tributes & Expressions Mrs. Chinra Austin

Poetic Expressions Ms. Jewel Stevens

Words of Encouragement
 Evangelist Selena Shirelle Pegues
 Missionary Bruno Maleeou

Selection Carthell Stevens

Eulogy Pastor Austin

 Committal Ceremony
 Recessional to Tod Homestead Cemetery
 Benediction



*Family & Friends will return after the
interment to the Jaylex Event Center for a
repast meal and fellowship*





Celebrating a Life Well Lived & Loved

The Legacy of Shirley Ann Stevens

Shirley Ann Stevens, born on August 5, 1937, to the union of Nellie (Woods) Matthews and Lebron Matthews Sr. in Youngstown, Ohio, obtained her ultimate healing on December 16, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

An alumna of East High School, Shirley's life was a melody of love, laughter, and compassion. A dedicated mentor for youth in foster care, she opened her heart and home with a nurturing spirit touching the hearts and lives of over thirty children, offering them stability, encouragement, and unwavering support.

Shirley was a true matriarch—generous, discerning, and full of warmth. Bonded with love, she was the glue which held her family together. The gatherings she orchestrated were filled with joy and laughter, underscoring her role as the heart of the family. Family gatherings brought her boundless joy, often accompanied by laughter and delightful meals.

A beacon of kindness and strength, Shirley was known for her vibrant personality and love for the Christmas holiday season. Anyone who knew her would undoubtedly remember the joy she radiated during this festive time of year, often adorned in her favorite color, red, which mirrored her warm spirit.

Shirley radiated light in the lives of many, always sharing truth in love, and encouraging those around her to pursue their dreams. Her compassionate spirit resonated deeply, making her more than a caregiver; she was an empowering guiding force for individuals learning independent living skills, especially the youth and young adults.

Shirley was demonstrative of her faith in God through her intentional acts of service to humanity. Accompanied by her husband, the late Rev. Arthur Stevens, she would liberally share her delicious culinary creations as expressions of love for the homebound and needy, sharing nourishment with a generous spirit.

Shirley approached life with a sense of humor and a warmth that drew others to her, enriching their lives with her wise and discerning heart. She generously shared her talents, time and treasury which embodied her love for community and charitable giving.

Faith was tantamount to Shirley, and she found solace in reading the Word of God, cherishing wholesome Christian programming, and indulging in Hallmark movies and soap operas. Movie nights with her loved ones brought her great happiness, and her decades of attending women's retreats presented by her daughter were a testament to her dedication to empowering others.

Shirley's passion for life was palpable—she danced with grace, once serving as a majorette for the VFW, and her creative hands crafted beauty in her surroundings, evident in her love for decorating. As a trained medical assistant and a dedicated nurse's aide, she touched many lives with her elegance and skill, ultimately leaving an enduring legacy of care and compassion.

Shirley's legacy is entrusted to her beloved daughter Tawina Ragland, whom she shared an unbreakable bond. As Shirley's primary caregiver, Tawina often referred to her mother as her Precious Baby Doll. Shirley's memory will also be embraced by her stepdaughters Nalungo Lee (Ode) Aduma, and Jewel Stevens; sister Betty Jones and a cadre of nieces and nephews, with special appreciation for her nephew Alfred Davis RN who skillfully shared his medical expertise on her behalf.

As her faith became sight, Shirley was reunited in eternity with her husband, parents, son-in-law Dr. Thomas Ragland; stepsons Ronald Stevens, Lamont Stevens, Carlton Stevens and siblings Dorothy Hudson, Barbara Johnson, Judith Ann Underwood, Joseph Alexander and Lebron Matthews, Jr.

As we reflect on her life, we remember a woman bursting with humor and love and a spirited dancer who reveled in every moment. A true embodiment of grace, Shirley Ann Stevens leaves behind a legacy of love that will continue to inspire all who knew her. It is in the words and deeds of Shirley Ann Stevens, we find a vivid tapestry woven from compassion, strength, and love that transcends time. May her spirit continue to guide and inspire us all.

Lovingly Shared By The Family