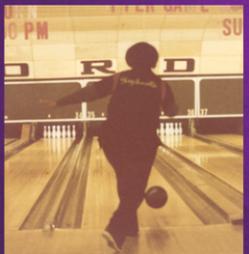




### IN APPRECIATION

The family of Kayreitha Divan Smalls extends our deepest thanks for the outpouring of love, prayers, and support during this time of loss. Your kind words, thoughtful gestures, and comforting presence have brought us strength and peace as we celebrate the life of our beloved Kay. Every memory shared has been a beautiful reminder of how deeply she was loved. May God continue to bless and keep you.



### INTERMENT

**White Plains Rural Cemetery**  
167 North Broadway  
White Plains, New York 10603

### REPAST

Mount Hope AME Church  
65 Lake Street  
White Plains, New York 10604

**FINAL ARRANGEMENTS BY**  
Lee's Funeral Home

# CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR KAYREITHA SMALLS *A Woman of Great Strength*



SUNRISE: AUGUST 31, 1940  
SUNSET: JULY 22, 2025

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025**  
**11:00AM**

**OFFICIATING: REV. DR. GREGORY ROBESON SMITH**  
**INTERMENT: WHITE PLAINS RURAL CEMETERY**



# — OBITUARY —



## KAYREITHA SMALLS

AUGUST 31, 1940 – JULY 22, 2025

Kayreitha Divan Smalls, affectionately known as “Auntie Kay” and “Nana Kay,” was born on August 31, 1940, in Zebulon, North Carolina, to the late Otha and Irene High. She lived a life marked by love, faith, service, and joy. As a child, Kay attended Wakefield Baptist Church and spent treasured time with her grandparents. It was in their loving care that she gained life skills, wisdom, and a deep sense of family and faith. From them, she embraced the values of hard work, hospitality, and resilience; principles that became the foundation of her life.

Kay pursued higher education at the historic Shaw University, earning a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Education. During her time there, she stood out as a high-stepping majorette, was crowned Miss Sophomore, and fulfilled a dream of becoming a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. In 1964, she met the love of her life, Joseph Smalls, Jr., whose dance moves and charm swept her off her feet. Sharing the same birthday two years apart, they married on November 8, 1964, beginning a beautiful union that lasted 61 years. From their love, they are blessed with two children, Daryl and Dara Smalls.

Kay’s passion for education led her to serve over 30 years with the White Plains City School District, where she served as a master educator and mentor, shaping thousands of lives across Westchester County, N.Y.. Colleagues admired her sharp wit, her unwavering commitment to her students, and her legendary insistence on proper grammar. Her legacy lives on in every student she taught and every life she inspired.

Outside the classroom, Kay was a woman of many talents. A gifted seamstress, her skill is treasured by all who benefited from it. She loved puzzles, was a fierce competitor in Scrabble, and especially enjoyed playing Bid Whist with “the girls,” often running a Boston with flair. Kay enjoyed bowling and was a member of many local leagues. Whether aiming for a strike or sharing laughs, the lanes were one of her happy places. Above all, she loved her family deeply, always giving of herself with a generous, fun-loving spirit.

Kay was predeceased by her parents, Otha and Irene High, and her brother, Stanley High (Dotty High of R.I.). She leaves to cherish her memory her devoted husband of 61 years, Joseph Smalls Jr.; her son Daryl Smalls and grandsons Jarren Smalls, Josiah Smalls (great-granddaughter Chloe Smalls), Jordan Smalls, and Darius Smalls; her daughter Dara Smalls; and her beloved godson, Kobie Powell. She is also survived by her sister Judy Jones (N.J.); sisters-in-law Delores Smalls and Norma Smalls-Mantey (Samuel Mantey, of M.D.); and a host of cherished nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and dear friends.

Kay’s unwavering sense of right and wrong, her infectious laughter, her great sense of humor, and her unending positivity will never be forgotten. She loved her family fiercely, shared her gifts generously, and brought light and love into every room she entered. Her legacy is one of love, strength, and service—a life well lived and a heart that touched so many.



# — ORDER OF SERVICE —

### MUSICAL INTERLUDE

- OFFICIANT.....Rev. Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith  
Senior Pastor
- ORGAN PRELUDE.....Mount Hope Center of Joy
- HYMN OF COMFORT.....Blessed Quietness

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

- OLD TESTAMENT.....Psalms 46:1-5
- NEW TESTAMENT.....John 14:1-3
- PRAYER OF COMFORT.....Min. Thomas Kevin Smalls
- SELECTION.....Michelle McKelvery
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....Carolyn Dubois-White
- OBITUARY..... Silent Reflection

### FAMILY TRIBUTE

- SELECTION.....Mount Hope Center of Joy
- EUOLGY.....Rev. Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith  
Senior Pastor

### THE BENEDICTION

- RECESSIONAL.....“Going Up Yonder”

