

"The Second Mother"

She didn't birth him, yet her care took root, In every smile, in counsel resolute.
Her hands, once strangers, now feel known, Their warmth no different from his own.
She guards her daughter's joy with grace, Yet finds for him a mother's place.
No blood connects, but hearts entwine, Through shared tomorrows' gentle line.
Her wisdom hums in every word, Soft lessons felt, though seldom heard.
And gratitude blooms, quiet but clear, He loves her deeper, year by year.
Not duty, not debt, but honest art, A chosen love, from heart to heart.
His mother-in-law – not bound by name. But by the love that feels the same.

Sincerely,
Her "Big Baby" Terence

Pallbearers

Anthony Merriwether | Quid Gill | John Dillard
Juleon Dillard | Sean Tyler | Darron Hersey

Honorary Pallbearers

Michael Merriwether | Terence Purifoye
Frank James | Norman Hayes

Interment

Mount Moriah Cemetery
10507 Holmes Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64131

Repast Celebration

United Believers Community Church
5600 E. 112th Terrace | Kansas City, Missouri 64134



SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:
SERENITY
FUNERAL HOME

1101 E. Bannister Rd. | Kansas City, MO 64131 | SFHKC.com



"Homegoing
Celebration"

"BUTCH"

Shirley Jean
MERRIWETHER

May 05, 1942 – November 28, 2025

Friday, December 19, 2025
Visitation 10:00 A.M. Service 11:00 A.M.

Serenity Funeral Home

1101 E. Bannister Rd. | Kansas City, Missouri 64131

Pastor Darron Lamont Edwards, Officiant

Life Reflections

Shirley Jean “Butch” Merriwether entered this world on May 5, 1942, in Kansas City, Missouri, and departed peacefully on November 28, 2025, surrounded by love. Her life was a beautiful blend of strength, compassion, creativity, and unwavering faith.

Shirley was a proud graduate of Manual High School and earned a degree in Chemistry, using her gifts to serve others throughout an extraordinary career. She began her journey as a Navy Corpsman, continued as an LPN in Labor and Delivery, and later became a Laboratory Scientist whose work contributed to pediatric health and vaccine development. Her final professional chapter as Executive Director of St. Mark’s United Inner City Services reflected her lifelong commitment to uplifting her community.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Shirley expressed her heart through art, travel, and culture. She was known for her stunning designs featuring African textiles and for her unforgettable dishes, seasoned with natural herbs and rooted in ancestral inspiration. Her travels to West and Central Africa shaped her creativity, her identity, and her joy.

Shirley was the life of every gathering, honest, witty, warm, and deeply rooted in her love for God. She cherished her family, embraced her friends as family, and built a circle of love that extended across generations. Her presence was a gift, her laughter a comfort, and her spirit a force of grace.

Her legacy will continue in the hearts of all who were blessed to know her. She lived fully, loved deeply, and left behind a legacy rich with beauty, wisdom, and strength.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Lorraine Merriwether; her sisters Betty Jean Merriwether, Ruby Russell, and Lilly Logan; her daughter-in-law, Tamiko Merriwether; and her granddaughter, Marietta

Her legacy continues through her beloved children, Micheal Merriwether and Terra Purifoye (Terence); her cherished niece, Tanice Logan; her grandchildren: LaTrenda Ndinwa, Aleasa Merriwether, and Anthony Merriwether (Katherine); and her great-grandchildren, Daniel and Her Ndinwa. Each carries forward her strength, her creativity, her humor, and her unwavering love.

You are welcome to read all about Shirley Jean “Butch” Merriwether’s abundant life, in its entirety on her webpage at: SFHKC.COM

Celebration Of Life

Processional

“There’s A Leak In This Old Building”
Grace Mercy

Scripture

Old & New Testament
Minister Brenda Hicks-Wiggins

Prayer

Rev. Dr. Vernon Howard

Musical Selection

“A Sweet Medley”
Sister Eloise Anders

Special Remarks

“2 Minutes Please”
Anita Crayton
Grandchildren

Video Tribute

Tribute To Terence
Dr. Kathryn L. Ridley

Musical Selection

“Safe In His Arms”
Grace & Mercy

Words Of Comfort

Pastor Darron Lamont Edwards

Benediction

Recessional

“I Just Wanna Praise You”
Grace & Mercy

