

Celebrating the life of



*Gwendolyn Mahalia
Brown Ridgway*

SUNRISE: FEBRUARY 5, 1927

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 12:00 Noon



Bethel Baptist Church ~ 1 Fisher Court ~ White Plains, NY 10601
Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Pastor-Teacher

Order of Service

Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Officiating

Opening Hymn - Blessed Assurance

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - Marie Ridgway

New Testament - 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 - Esther Riley

Prayer of Comfort - Apostle Cecil Riley

Musical Selection - Dr. Frozine Reece-Smith

Tributes

The Grandchildren

The Children

Acknowledgements - Deaconess Ministry

Reading of the Obituary - Taylor Ridgway

Sermonic Selection - Rev. Eleanor Ridgway-Riley

Eulogy - Dr. Edward O. Williamson

Final Instructions - Funeral Director

Benediction - Pastor Williamson

Recessional - Lift Him Up

Interment

Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla, NY

The Obituary

Gwendolyn Mahalia Brown-Ridgway was born on February 5th, 1927 to John Brown and Adina Williams in Petersville, Westmoreland, Jamaica West Indies; where she also attended school and completed most of her academic education. Gwendolyn transitioned peacefully from this world surrounded by her family to be with her Lord and Savior on March 3rd, 2025.

Gwendolyn's life was defined by her unwavering faith, her strength of character, and her devotion to family. She was united in marriage to her childhood sweetheart, Edison St. Verley Ridgway for over 50 years, who predeceased her 29 years ago. Together, they raised a beautiful family, and their union was blessed with nine children: Leroy (deceased), Eleanor, Lorna, Lorraine (deceased), Winsome, Marie, Marcia (deceased), Caulette and Erwin.

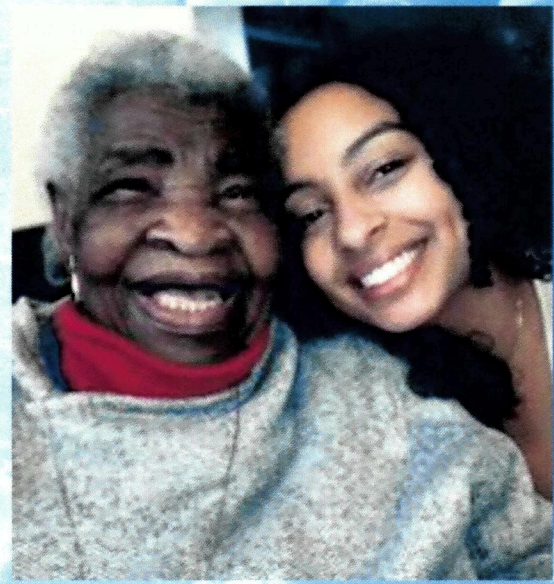
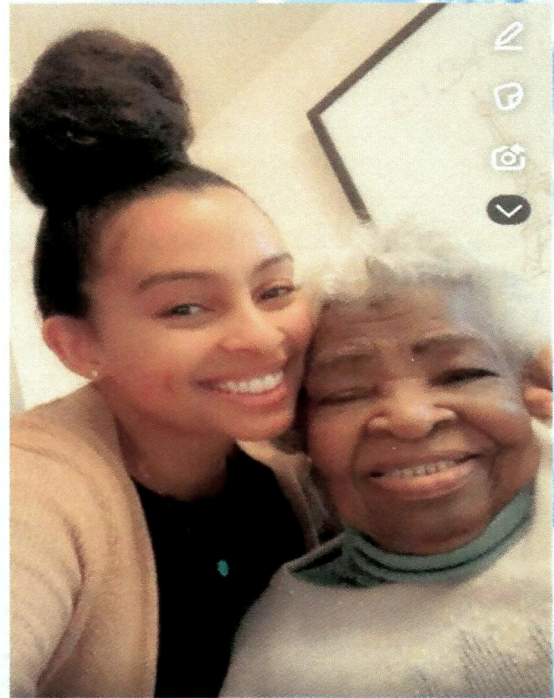
Gwendolyn and her family migrated to the United States where both parents made White Plains, New York their home. Family was one of the most important things to our Mother. She worked in the Healthcare and Hotel Industry until she retired. She was a devoted member of Bethel Baptist Church, where she volunteered in many rolls. Gwendolyn was a Deaconess; active participant of Sunday School; a Missionary; and participated in various auxiliaries. Her love for God, family and her church were immeasurable, and her life was a testimony to her steadfast faith, and dedication to her community.

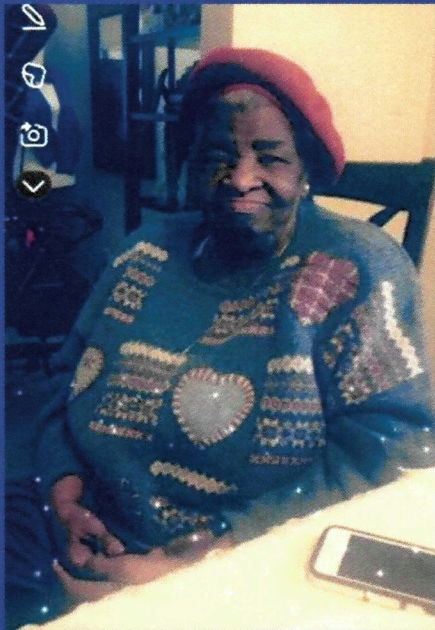
Gwendolyn's faith was a beacon of hope and encouragement to all who encountered her. She would often say to those facing difficulties, "Give the worst thing the best thought" - an enduring expression of her grace, humility, and joyful spirit. Her hobbies were travel; reading, especially the Bible; during her formative years, horseback riding was one of her favorites; cross word puzzles; horticulture; and a host of other interests. When her children would share something exciting, she would immediately begin singing a song, then her well known expression to us would be "And How".

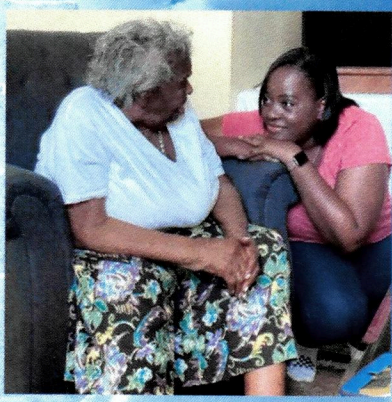
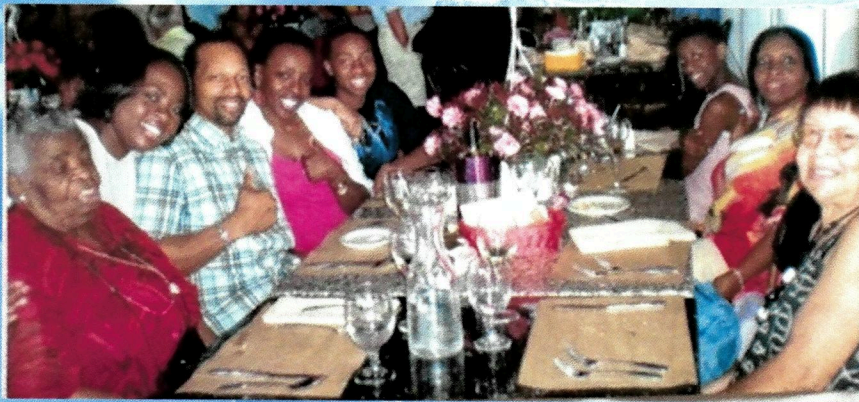
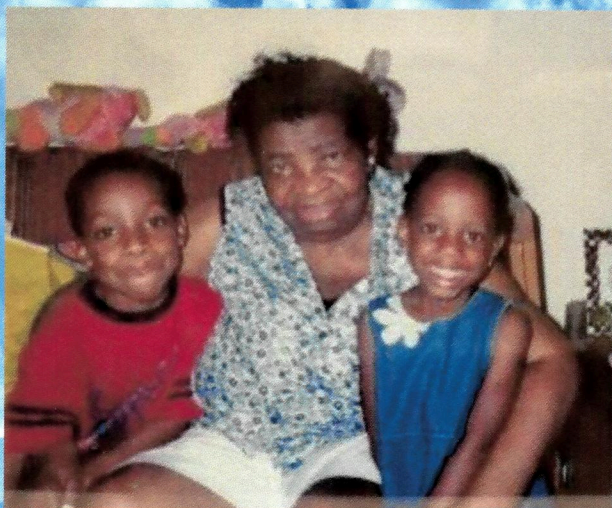
Her sudden departure leaves a deep void in the hearts of her family, friends, and all who knew her. Gwendolyn leaves behind a legacy of love, faith, and service that will continue to inspire generations to come. She will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

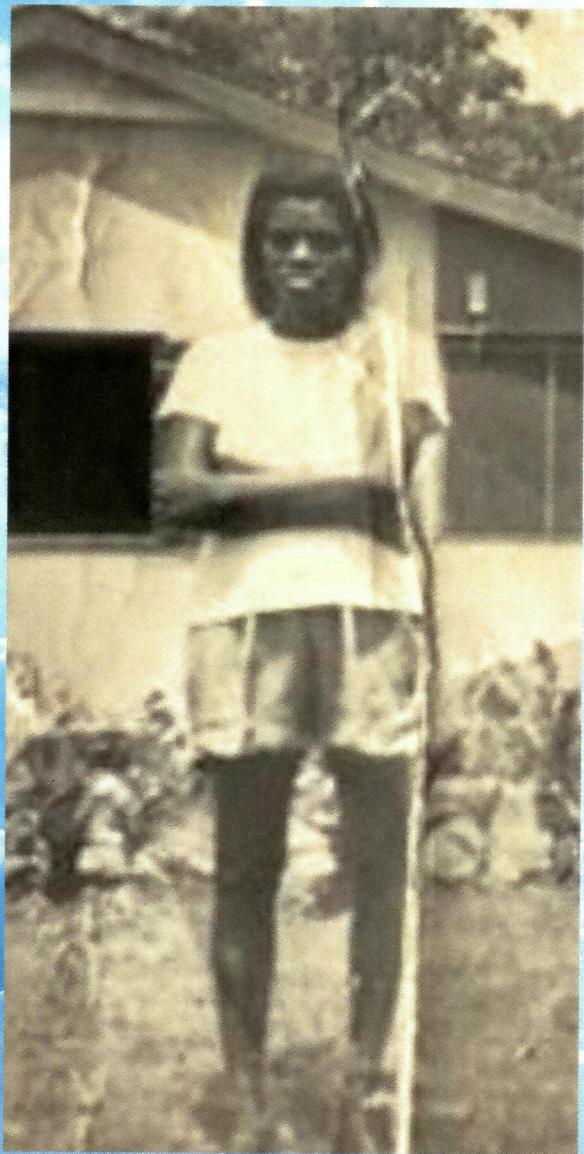
Gwendolyn is survived by her Children: Eleanor, Lorna, Winsome, Marie, Caulette and Erwin; Sister Elva; Daughter-in-law Tanga; Sons-in-law: Apostle Cecil Riley, Errol Hamilton, Roy Leslie; Grandchildren: Leroy Jr, Elizabeth, Nickol, Esther, Diane, Natasha, Cody, Taylor, Tennille, Jamie, John Earle, Hunter, and Rayne; along with her extended family, a host of dear friends and well-wishers. Her passing is a reminder of the precious time we are given, and the importance of living each day with love, joy, peace, and faith.

May she rest in eternal peace!









Words of Wisdom from Mother

"I was waiting to see how long you going to take to call me, because your door bell is going to ring and it would be me standing there"
-Eleanor

"Before any woei woei woei, and any Massiful bawling, tun ebry ting ina starch"
-Winsome

"Bridle your tongue: I never apologize for something that I mean; So, I try not to say or do something I have to apologize for"
-Marie

"If a mi like you, I would Hold your Peace"
-Caulette

"A relationship between a son and his mother, is a battle already won by love."
-Erwin

"Cooking with Mom, I was the only she would ask to help, it made me feel grown like her sister, so from that time on, I would call her Sister instead of Mom"
-Llama

Pallbearers

Erwin Ridgway ~ Cody White
Hunter Ridgway ~ Ryan White

Professional Services Entrusted to:

Lee's Funeral Home
160 Fisher Avenue
White Plains, NY