

Interment

FOREST LAWN MEMORIAL GARDENS

5600 E Broad St, Columbus, OH 43213

Pallbearers

Michael Tucker ~ Melvin Tucker ~ Stev'n Clayborn
Michael Payne ~ Ira G. Hartway ~ Karsten Ross ~ Tom Feasel

A Word of Thanks

The Family of **Shirley Ann Rhodes** wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, kindness, and support shown to us during this hour of bereavement. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support and comfort. It is immensely appreciated!



MARLAN GARY
FUNERAL HOME
1 FUNERAL HOME | 5 LOCATIONS

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2500 CLEVELAND AVE.,
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614-267-8310

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MANSFIELD, OH 44903
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MY LIFE WAS
BLESSED

Shirley Ann Rhodes

FEBRUARY 17, 1943 — MARCH 17, 2026

CELEBRATING HER LIFE

Saturday, March 28, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

MT. VERNON AME CHURCH

1127 Mt. Vernon Ave, Columbus, OH 43203

Obituary

Shirley Rhodes, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, cousin, and friend, passed away on March 17, 2026, at the age of 83.

Born on February 17, 1943, in Columbus, Ohio, Shirley was the daughter of Emmons and Irene Payne. After Irene's passing, her father remarried Betty, who became a loving presence in the family. Shirley was a graduate of Central High School and built a life defined by devotion to family, faith, hard work, and creativity.

Shirley married Charles, and together they shared 63 wonderful years of marriage—a bond that grew into deep affection, resilience, and joy. She was the cherished mother of Wendell (Alexis), the late David, Tia, and Richard (Yesenia). She was also a devoted and delighted grandmother to Chad, Tovia, Raymond, Briana, Sariah, Ryan (Savannah), Taylor, Johnathan, Kasha, and Tiana, and a loving great-grandmother to Aniyah'Rae, Riley'Mae, Audree'Jai, Jaxon, Judah, and Jia'Rose. Her family was her heart, and she poured her love into every generation, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to grow for years to come.

Shirley is lovingly remembered by her siblings: Phylliss Tucker (preceded in death by her husband Willie); Emmons Payne (Shirley); Paul Payne (Grace); and Sharon Washington (preceded in death by her husband Tim); and late Bernice Payne and David Payne.

Shirley's work ethic and versatility were evident throughout her professional life. She contributed her talents working at Western Electric and McDonnell Douglas. Interesting facts—she earned her beautician license, passed the exam to become a realtor, studied interior design, and became a gifted cake decorator, creating many beautiful cakes that sweetened life's most special celebrations, including wedding cakes for her kids, family, and friends.

Shirley's love for family was captured in her love of taking pictures. Never missing a birthday, Thanksgiving, Christmas, or her travels—Fiji, China, Venice, and many cruises, just to name a few.

Family and holidays were at the heart of Shirley's world. She especially loved Christmas, bringing warmth, wonder, and togetherness to the season year after year. Ceramics were another passion; she crafted detailed painted pieces, most notable holiday pieces. Her creativity, kindness, and steady presence enriched every gathering and left an impression on all who knew her.

Shirley's legacy is one of love, generosity, and quiet strength. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered by her family and friends. Her life was full, and she will tell you she was blessed, and we were blessed to have her. If you knew Shirley, you knew when leaving or hanging up the phone you never said bye; she did not want to ever say or hear goodbye, so we now leave her with see you later.

Loving Tributes

Ephesian 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works

We will love you

Mom was a blessing we will dearly miss. She was the cornerstone of the family, providing endless love, strength and nurturing spirit. She made countless sacrifices for her children because her support was unconditional, guided by her kind loving soul. God made a wonderful wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great grandmother and friend we will not be able to replace. The sun will not shine as bright because heaven will have her light. She left us with love in our hearts, joy in her memory and peace in her passing.

We think of you with love today as we did yesterday and the days before too, we will love you for all the days to come.

Your loving son, Wendell.

'll always carry your love in my heart, Mom.
You're still here as long as you live in my heart.

I still feel your love as it guides me every day. Forever in my soul, forever my home.

Love, Your Daughter ❤️❤️❤️
Let the church say amen



TO MY CHILDREN

*From my womb
you came but
now I'm at rest
While here you
took care of me

you were*

God Said

*The time is now
so I closed my eyes
and went to the
sweet bye and bye*

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FOR I AM AT REST

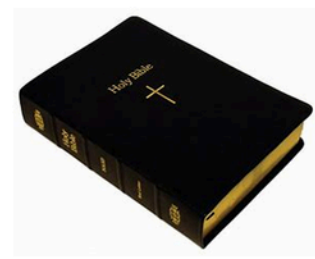


*A Blessing
from the **LORD**
A caretaker and
beyond ...*

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*My love and
memories I leave
You
Share them kindly
let the moments of
sorrow pass and
rejoice
in the **LORD**
Loved you Deeply
Mom*

Mom



Order Of Service

Officiating Minister
Rev. Dr. William S. Wheatley

The Prelude
We are Marching in the Light of God

The Opening Hymn
What a Friend We Have in Jesus

The Prayer of Comfort
Rev. Cheryl Taylor-Carson

The Scriptures
Old Testament: Psalm 90:1-12
New Testament: Ephesians 2:8-9

Violin Selection
Audree'Jai Jones
"I Will Always Love You"

The Resolution/Acknowledgements

Tribute
Reflections 2 minutes

Selection
I Just Want to Praise You

The Eulogy
Rev. Gertrude N. Komani

The Recessional
Let the Church Say Amen

