

The Homegoing Celebration for

Shirley B. Ragland

SUNRISE
JULY 2, 1935

SUNSET
MAY 21, 2024



FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024

FAMILY HOUR 10:30 A.M. | SERVICE 11:00 A.M.

**FROM THE HEART CHURCH MINISTRIES®
5055 ALLENTOWN ROAD | SUITLAND, MARYLAND 20746
BISHOP JOHN A. CHERRY, II - PASTOR**

Obituary



Shirley Joanne Ragland entered eternal rest on May 21, 2024, in Bowie, Maryland.

On July 2, 1935, Shirley Ragland was born to the late John and Eurlena Burgess in Northfork, West Virginia. She was the eldest daughter of two children. Her sister, Linda Brooker preceded her in death.

Shirley was also raised in Northfork, and was educated in the McDowell County, West Virginia schools. She was an intelligent woman who graduated from Bluefield State University in West Virginia, where she obtained a degree in chemistry. Shirley married her childhood sweetheart, the late James Walter Ragland on June 27, 1957, and had two children. Shirley used to say that she married her husband because he was so smart. She loved spending time with her family. They moved to Washington, D.C. in 1958, where she held jobs throughout her career at Georgetown University, Howard University, and retired from D.C. General Hospital.

Shirley's mother passed away when she was seven years old. However, she taught her how to play the piano; and as an adult, over the course of 10 years, she played the piano and organ in several churches.

Shirley gave her life to the Lord Jesus Christ at an early age. She joined From Heart Church Ministries® (FTH) in April 1993 and was actively involved in the life of the ministry. She participated in the Women of God Lifegivers Fellowship regularly and served in the Membership Care and Seniors Ministries for many years. Even while she was recovering from one of her hospital visits, she continued to prepare ministry reports and made calls to check up on members. She also enjoyed celebrating birthdays with her FTH friends and going out to lunch with her friends who attended Wednesday Noonday Bible Study. Prior to joining FTH, Shirley was a member of New Anacostia Methodist Church and St. Paul United Methodist Church.

Additionally, Shirley dedicated her time to serving the Girl Scouts of the Nation's Capital for 46 years and was a member of many committees. She received numerous awards including a Certificate of Longevity in recognition of her 45 years of Girl Scout Membership, and a Lifetime Membership Certificate from The Girl Scouts of America. She served as a Girl Scout leader, Association Treasurer for Associations 40 and 44, and Association Cookie Manager. She worked primarily with girls in DC's Ward 7 in Anacostia and enjoyed showing them how to camp and do other activities that they had not been exposed to. Her children, Renee and Sharon remember the Girl Scout cookies stored in their apartment when they were growing up, as they were stacked up to the ceiling until the leaders picked them up. Shirley was very independent, took great pride in being organized; was meticulous with bookkeeping, and frugal in her finances.

Shirley will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. She leaves to cherish her memory her daughters, Sharon Bond and Minister Renee Rowland (Reverend John Rowland); grandchildren: Faith Kelley (Peter), Joy Rowland, Eric Bond, and Janel Bond; nephew, Kevin Ragland (Ingrid); brother-in-law, Nathaniel Brooker; niece, Natalie Brooker; a host of friends and relatives; and her From the Heart family.



Order of Service

Invocation

Congregational Hymn "When We All Get to Heaven"

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 23
New Testament: John 14:1-6

Prayer of Comfort

Selection FTH Psalmist

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Ms. Sharon Bond, Daughter
Dr. Faith Kelley, Granddaughter
Mr. Kevin Ragland, Nephew
Ms. Annette Rollins Riley, Girl Scouts of the Nation's Capital

Poem Ms. Joy Rowland

Obituary (Read Silently)


Song of Preparation FTH Psalmist

Message of Hope Reverend John Rowland

Call to Christ

Recessional

Interment:
Washington National Cemetery
4101 Suitland Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746



Family Sentiments

To my Aunt Shirley,

***I said a prayer for you,
To thank the Lord above,
For blessing me with a lifetime,
With your tenderhearted love,
I thanked God for the caring you've shown me
throughout the years,
For the closeness we enjoyed,
In time of laughter and time of tears,
And so, I thank you From the Heart for all you've
done for me,
And I bless the Lord for giving me,
The best aunt there could ever be!***

***Love always,
Your favorite nephew,
Kevin Ragland***



Family Sentiments

To my Grandma Shirley,

Laughter, all the joyous laughter. Laughter through life's ups and downs. Laughter for a rainy day, laughter at a silly moment, laughter to keep the boredom away.

Music, it was your music. I learned how to harmonize by listening to Take 6 cassettes in the back seat of your car. I taught myself how to play the first 2 pages of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata on your electric piano.

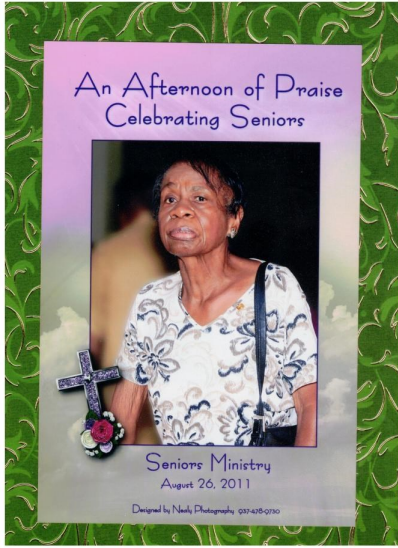
Experiences, all the new experiences. You filled my D.C. summers with trips downtown to the Washington Monument, flying kites at the National Mall, choir practice where you played the organ, rehearsals, music classes, trips to school, and a baseball game.

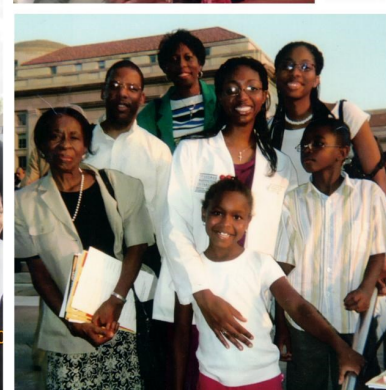
Love, it was your love. You showed me what it meant to love unconditionally and not to judge others. More importantly, you showed me how to never waver in kindness and my faith in God.

Hope, your beautiful hope. The hope that you had in Jesus allows me to rejoice in your new heavenly home through my tears.

Laughter, Music, Experiences, Love, and Hope. What a beautiful legacy Grandma Shirley.

***I love you,
Joy Rowland***





Congregational Hymn

When We All Get To Heaven

*Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,
Sing His mercy and His grace;
In the mansions bright and blessed
He'll prepare for us a place.*

Refrain

*When we all get to heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory!*

*While we walk the pilgrim pathway
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when trav'ling days are over
Not a shadow, not a sign*

Refrain

*Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving ev'ry day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory
Will the toils of life repay.*

Refrain

*Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open
We shall tread the streets of gold.*

Refrain

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgment

*The family of Shirley Ragland acknowledges with deep appreciation every act of kindness and expression of love shown to us during our time of bereavement.
May God richly bless you. We love you all.*

Services Entrusted to:

*Hodges and Edwards Funeral Home
3910 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746*