



Lorraine Washington

September 27, 1937 - June 15, 2011

Lorraine Yvonne was born on September 27, 1934 in Little Rock, Arkansas to the union of Caldonia (d) and Timothy Akins (d) along with 4 other siblings—Dorothy, Vernon, Margaret, & Timothy Jr. She was raised in the prominent Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago at 463 E. Oakwood Blvd. by her mother, Helen Inez Parker who also preceded her in death.

Lorraine accepted Christ at an early age and was a member of Morning Star Baptist Church and a devout congregant of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Lorraine was an avid learner and attended Chicago Public Schools and the University of Chicago. She married Donald Washington (d) in 1962, laying the foundation for future generations.

Lorraine was truly a great humanitarian and led a life dedicated to serving fellow man. In early years, she participated in many Civil Rights actions including sit-ins and marches as well as was active in the Ida B. Wells Club and the VFW, organizations both dedicated to serving the disadvantaged. Lorraine worked for the Department of Human Services as a social worker for over 21 years, where she helped thousands of families and was a local hero to the community of Riverdale. All kids and neighbors knew Ms. Washington as she was a firm believer in education so she made sure that all neighborhood kids had school supplies, sponsored many activities through the Church, and was solely the neighborhood watch for block.

Lorraine was the “great” entertainer, confidante, and friend. Her outgoing personality and fun-loving spirit resulted in people always wanting to be in her company. Our fondest memories include the many family get-togethers, Christmas parties, and social gatherings that Lorraine hosted because anytime was a great time for a celebration. As the matriarch of the family, Lorraine was always willing to lend a helping hand and she the “go-to” person for everything– financial support, business guidance, a non-judgmental ear or for no holds bar advice. She was going to tell like it is, even if you didn’t like the advice, however you still received it. She had a host of friends and developed long-lasting friendships with several co-workers, even after retirement in 1999. Lorraine’s most cherished and significant friendship, spanning over fifty years, was with Shirley (deceased 2009) known as “Aunt Shirley” to all.

Christmas was always a treasured and special time for Lorraine and the joy of giving and seeing the excited faces of children brought her great happiness. She immensely enjoyed spending time setting up her Department 56 Village Collectibles and would lovingly add to this collection each year. Lorraine was a champion scrabble player and enjoyed being on her computer. When she wasn’t on the computer one could often find her scratching instant lottery tickets hoping for a win, but most of all playing for the fun of it. Lorraine loved gardening and took great pride in her yard.

Lorraine lived by the motto “The world doesn't owe me anything” and she believed that she lived her life to the fullest. As she became ill over the past several years, she was also strengthened and comforted by her grandsons, especially Jeremiah whom she believed added years to her life and kept her busy. She even took pride in having taught him to use the computer. To Jeremiah “gamma” was everything and to her he was the same. Lorraine raised three daughters, Lorri, Helen, Lorée and, later in life, a foster parent to

Erica, Regina, and Adrienne.

She leaves behind her daughters, grandchildren, Renee, Raymond, Exavier, Aquila and Jeremiah; 3 great grandsons; goddaughter Megan; one sister Dorothy, one brother Timothy Jr; beloved nieces Donna, Tonya, Kimberly, Trina, Angie and more; beloved nephews Samory (Nancy), Michael & Steven and more as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

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Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **25**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Travis Funeral Home, LLC
14338 S Indiana Ave
Riverdale, IL 60827
(708) 849-2900
info@travisfh.com
<http://travfh.com>

Memorial Service

JUN **25**. 4:00 PM (CT)

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