

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION

The family of *the late* **Deacon Vanessa Burkett** wishes to express deep and heartfelt appreciation for your loving thoughtfulness and concern, including cards, flowers, phone calls, emails, texts, Facebook tributes, visits, your presence here this morning, and especially the comfort of your continuing prayers. We also appreciate those who sent their love from near and far to encourage us during this time. May God bless and keep each of you in His loving embrace and care.



Professional Services Entrusted To:



*Frank R. Bell
Funeral Home, Inc.*

536 Frank & Doris Bell Way
(formerly Sterling Place, corner of Classon Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11238
(718) 399-2500 ~ Fax: 399-2565
www.frankrbellfh.com

Frank R. Bell, *Founder* ~ Doris D. Bell, *Co-Founder*

Executive Directors:

Frances Bell Henry ~ Eric D. Garnes ~ Robert L. Henry

Celebrating The Life And Spirit Of



Deacon Vanessa Burkett

Sunrise

April 29, 1958

Sunset

April 17, 2020

Saturday ~ April 25, 2020 ~ 10:00 a.m.

at

FRANK R. BELL FUNERAL HOME, INC.
536 Frank & Doris Bell Way
(formerly Sterling Place, corner of Classon Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11238

*"... I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me,
though he were dead, yet shall he live:" ~ St. John 11:25*

OBITUARY



Vanessa Burkett was born April 29, 1958 to Richard Baldwin and (the late) Ernestine Baldwin in Brooklyn, New York. She was the eldest of her four siblings. **Vanessa** attended Walt Whitman Junior High School where she met the love of her life and her future husband Charles Burkett, Jr. (affectionately known as “Dobie”). She also attended John Dewey High School, and later graduated from The College of New Rochelle with a degree in Psychology.

On June 28, 1980, **Vanessa** married her childhood sweetheart Charles Burkett, Jr. (she called him “My Dobie”). From their union came three children: Jasmin (affectionately known as her precious child), Violet (known as her love child) and her son Charles Burkett, III (her pride and joy known as her Stinker).

Vanessa had a passion for teaching children. She opened and operated her own day care center for many years. Her thirst was not quenched, so she went back to school and obtained the necessary degrees to teach with the New York City Board of Education. She taught at Public School 372 -- “The Children’s School” in Brooklyn.

Vanessa also served as a faithful Deacon at First Baptist Church of Crown Heights. She sang on the choir, and wore many hats. She was an awesome cook and baker (known for cakes). She was a fashion diva -- always runway ready even when she was just going to the mailbox.

Vanessa leaves to cherish her memories, her husband of forty years Dobi; her three children: Jasmin (*Reggie*) Blakey, Violet, Charles, III (*Chaka*) Burkett; ten grandchildren: Tiara, Brionni, Reginald, Corey, Jessica, Trevonne, Reginald, III, Reginald Joshua, Teniyah and Charlie Hope; her father Richard (known as Dickey (*Edith*)), her sister Celeste (*Ray*); her brother Gary (*Andrea*); a sister-in-law Janine (*Maurice*), brothers-in-law: Erik (*Bridgette*), Tarone and Willie (*Gloria*); and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. She also leaves fond memories with her spiritual mother Sandra Greenwich; her spiritual brother and sister: Ron and Edith Newman; and her BFF Felice Carter-Rucker.

Vanessa was a selfless, beautiful, smart, kind and loving person whose smile would light up a room. She will be greatly missed!

ORDER OF SERVICE

[As you enter this chapel, please reverence the family by silencing all electronic devices.]

OFFICIATING MINISTER:

The Reverend Rashad Raymond Moore, *Senior Pastor*
First Baptist Church of Crown Heights
 450 Eastern Parkway ~ Brooklyn, New York 11225

Musical Prelude

Processional // Final Viewing (*Friends of family, please stand.*)

Selection

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort Rev. Rashad R. Moore

Obituary

Brief Remarks

Selection

Eulogy Rev. Rashad R. Moore

Benediction

Recessional (*Friends, please remain standing as the family leaves the chapel.*)

INTERMENT:

Pinelawn Memorial Park
 2030 Wellwood Avenue
 (Exit 35 off Southern State Parkway)
 Farmingdale, Long Island

We are closely monitoring the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic. With that in mind and the safety of all concerned, we must adhere to the recommended guidelines of the CDC and the NYC Health Department. Thus, although it is unnatural and difficult, especially during this time when the family needs you most, physical contact with family, and with one another as well as the body is prohibited. Social distancing (keeping 3 – 6 feet apart) is required. Also, the complete service must be contained within **one hour** for the sake of limited exposure. Your cooperation is most appreciated during this temporary disruption of life as we know it.