

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION

The family of *the late* **Iretha Parker** 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*



Iretha Parker

Sunrise

February 12, 1931

Sunset

December 3, 2020

Monday ~ December 14, 2020 ~ 11:00 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

Iretha was born to *(the late)* Willie Oscar Whigham and Zelma Mitchell Whigham on February 12, 1931 in Lyons, Georgia. Nicknamed "**Reet**" (her brother Jake called her "Pete"), **Iretha** was educated in the Lyons public school system.

In 1949, **Iretha** left Georgia for New York City in search of better employment opportunities. After working several domestic jobs, **Iretha** found a career as a printer for Sterling Mounting Printers in New York City. She worked for Sterling for many years until the company closed. After her tenure as a printer, **Iretha** found employment as an institutional aide in the pharmacy department at Jacobi Hospital in the Bronx. **Iretha** was known for being a hard worker, and was often sought out by her co-workers for advice.

Iretha was married to Willie Parker, Jr. She raised four children: Anthony, Willie, Melvin and Vanessa in the Abraham Lincoln Houses in Harlem. She was one of the beloved mothers of "2175" (Lincoln Houses). She would often take her children and their friends on various outings to such places as Orchard Beach, The Bronx Zoo and Coney Island.

During the 1970s, **Iretha** became a member of the Metropolitan A.M.E. Church in Harlem under the leadership of The Reverend Robert Pruitt. She was a faithful member of the Pastor's Aide Ministry and the Organized Lay Ministry. In 2014, she was one of the senior members honored by the church. **Iretha** was supportive of the entire church community both financially and spiritually. She often blessed the church with her baking delights. Right up until her death, **Iretha** remained a faithful member of the church under the leadership of The Reverend Dr. Kim W. Anderson.

A master chef and baker, **Iretha** was often in demand to utilize her culinary skills. From her fried chicken, macaroni & cheese, and carrot salad to her caramel and chocolate cakes (to name a few), she created lasting memories for many. And who could ever forget the variety of cakes she baked every Christmas? **Iretha** was a confidante and mentor to many. The doors of her home were always open to family and friends.

On Thursday, December 3, 2020, **Iretha** became absent from the body and present with the Lord. She leaves to mourn her passing, her sons: Anthony (Beatrice), Willie (Anne) and Melvin (Doris); grandchildren: Marlon, Cory, Erika, Nicole, Justin and Jessica; great-grandchildren: Ma'Rae, Aniah, Brooke, Monay and Olivia; her aunt Alzona (Connie); Willie Parker, Jr.; extended family: Alfonso Owens, Ronald (Carol), and Pat (John); and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends and her Sunrise Assisted Living Community.

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

OFFICIATING MINISTER:

The Reverend Dr. Kim W. Anderson, *Senior Pastor*
Metropolitan A.M.E Church ~ New York, New York



Musical Prelude	Min. David E. Sayles
Processional // Final Viewing	Clergy and Family <i>(Friends of family, please stand.)</i>
Invocation	Rev. Dr. Ruby M. Wilson
Scripture Readings	
Old Testament (<i>Psalm 91:1-2</i>)	
New Testament (<i>II Timothy 4:7-8</i>)	
Selection	Min. David E. Sayles
Prayer of Comfort	Rev. Dr. Ruby M. Wilson
Brief Remarks (<i>limited to only 3 persons</i>)	
Obituary	Ms. Sherry Aldridge
Selection	Min. David E. Sayles
Eulogy	Dr. Kim W. Anderson
Benediction	
Recessional (<i>Friends, please remain standing as the family leaves the chapel.</i>)	



INTERMENT:
Rosehill Cemetery
Route 1 - 9 South
Linden, New Jersey



Though restrictions are being modified, we are still closely monitoring the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic. With that in mind and the safety of all concerned, we are still recommending adherence to the recommended guidelines of the NYC Health Department and the CDC. Thus, all who enter this chapel must be wearing a mask; and 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 not suggested. Social distancing (keeping 6 feet apart) is still 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.