



In Loving Memory of

Shirley Ann Coley

August 25, 1943 - September 23, 2019



Obituary

Shirley Ann Coley was born August 25, 1943 in Prentiss, Mississippi to the parents of RC and Joanna Polk. Shirley was the 5th child of ten children.

In 1957 The Polk Family moved to Long Beach, CA where Shirley attended L.B. Poly High School. She met a young man by the name of Leroy Coley on June 21, 1961. They had a two-year courtship when Leroy asked Shirley to marry him.

Shirley married Leroy on June 16, 1963. They raised six children together and Shirley was a stay at home mom. Shirley began working at the Long Beach VA Hospital as a Cook in 1966. The couple worked and saved their money in order to buy a home for their growing family. So, in 1969 The Coley's purchase their first home on the Westside of Long Beach. Shirley retired from the VA Hospital in 1986 and spent her later years enjoying life. Shirley loved her husband, her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She never forgot a birthday or special occasion where they were involved.

Shirley received Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age. She joined New Hope Baptist Church in or around 1965. Sis. Coley loved the Lord and loved serving in the church. She served as Sunday School Secretary, Discipleship Training Secretary, A Willing Worker, and Served in the Kitchen Ministry. The Lord blessed Sis. Coley with the gift of cooking. She was always willing to cook for many events at the church whether it was the church picnic, anniversaries, and for bereavement. Sis. Coley loved to cook, and she cooked with SOUL! She always cooked from scratch and rarely used a recipe. One of her favorite sayings was, "Anyone who thinks they can beat me cooking, better go bed early and get up before the Sunrise!" Not only did Sis. Coley cook for her family, and church family but she also cooked for her community. She was asked by various City Council and School Board Candidates to cook her famous Collard Greens and Cornbread, Mac and Cheese, 7-up Pound Cakes, and let us not forget her Sweet Potato Pies!! (Just to Name A Few) Sis. Coley would also volunteer to cook cakes and pies for the PTA School Carnival.

Sis. Coley also had a love for Hats! She would adorn a beautiful hat almost every Sunday for Church. When her daughters would borrow one of her hats she would say, "Don't Forget to Bring My Hat Back!" Note: The ladies of the Coley Family will be wearing one of Sis. Coley's hats in her honor.

Sis. Coley loved sports. It did not matter what type of sport it was, she watched it on television. However, she was a true Lakers and Sparks fan, win or lose she was with them all the way! Yes...she had a Lakers Hat as well!

Sis. Coley loved people and invited them to her home. She was loved by her neighbors and their children. Everyone was welcomed at The Coley Home at any time. The neighborhood children gave her the nickname Mamma Coley because she was like a second mother to them. She got on their case when they did something wrong and praised them when they did something good.

Fighting the Good Fight: Sis Coley was diagnosed with Congestive Heart Failure in 2013 and Stage 4 Breast Cancer in 2017. Sis. Coley remained strong in her faith to the Lord. When people would ask her how she was doing she would say, "I Won't Complain." She knew every day was a blessing; and did not want the focus on her but on the Lord. The Lord allowed Sis. Coley to function everyday without pain or suffering (You wouldn't even know Sister Coley was sick). She knew it was because of God's Grace and Mercy towards her. We knew it was the Beauty of the Lord, which shined upon her.

On Monday, September 23, 2019 the Lord called Sis. Coley home to be with her Heavenly Father.

Sis. Coley leaves to cherish her memory, her Loving and Devoted husband Deacon Leroy Coley Sr, six children: Jeffery K, Polk, Terry R. Boyd, La Rhonda Y. Coley, Leroy (Dawn) Coley, Anita S. Coley, and Sherie (Larry) Gordon; 11 Grandchildren- Jonathon M. Polk(Idalia), Le Keda L. Coley, De Andre Coley, Brittney Coley, Marques J. Roy, Ostin J. Thomas, Tori N. Starke, Jordon Polk, Justin Coley, Lindsey Polk, and Gary Turner Jr., 14 Great-Grandchildren., three brothers: Charles Ray(Sara) Polk, Roger(Alice) Polk, Joe(Dorothy) and Craig Polk, one sister: Anna Jean Polk, and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Sis. Coley was preceded in death by her parents, RC and Joanna Polk, three brothers: Marvin Polk, James Polk, and Larry Polk, and one sister: Eula. Smith.

Sister and Deacon Coley enjoyed 56 years of marriage together and to this we say, "To God Be The Glory!"

Order of Service

Saturday, October 5, 2019 • 11:00am

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

1160 E. New York St. • Long Beach, CA 90813

Officiant: Dr. Ronald Bridgette (Pastor Belmont Baptist Church)

Organ Prelude

Processional

Call to Worship Dr. Ronald Bridgette

Congregational Hymn “By and By”

Old Testament Reading Ecclesiastes 12 Minister Jermaine Smith

New Testament Reading Revelation 21: 1-7 Minister Rickey Brown

Prayer of Consolation Pastor Dwayne Drear

Selection The Smith Family

Acknowledgements & Resolutions Atlay Owens

Reading of Obituary Katonja Neal

Selection The Smith Family

Special Remarks: Esther Vokovjich
Deborah Crockett
Keith Lilly
Rhonda K. Gatlin
Kisha Polk-Rice
Evangelist Sarah Polk

Selection “Walk Around Heaven” Ehmandah Ramsey

Special Remarks: Jeffery Polk
Terry Boyd
Leroy Coley Jr.
Sherie Gordon
Deacon Leroy Coley

Selection “I Won’t Complain” Ehmandah Ramsey

Pulpit Remarks Pastors & Ministers

Pastoral Remarks Pastor Coleman L. Hart Sr.

Sermonic Solo “When I See Jesus” Rashaad Williams

Eulogy Rev. R.R. English Sr, Pastor Emeritus

Final Glimpse Medley of Songs Ehmandah Ramsey

Recessional

Organ Postlude

Active Pallbearers

David Spencer
Al Jackson
Bobby Edmondson
Ashley Williams

David Flippin
Kevin Lewis
Roy Ambrose
Horace Burns

Honorary Pallbearers

Leroy Coley Sr.
Terry Boyd
Jonathon Polk
Marques Roy
Justin Coley
Ellis Robinson
Glen McCraw
Deacon Board of New Hope Baptist Church

Jeffery Polk
Leroy Coley Jr.
De Andre Coley
Ostin Thomas
Gary Turner Jr.
Roy Wade Sr.
Larry Gordon

Interment

Forest Lawn – Long Beach
1500 E. San Antonio Drive
Long Beach, CA 90807

Repast

St. Mark Baptist Church
1703 Lemon Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90813

Acknowledgments

The Family of Shirley A. Coley would like to send their sincere gratitude to the following:

Dr. Matthew Long- Primary Care Doctor Health Care Partners Long Beach. Dr. Long truly cared for Shirley every step of the way. He was a strong advocate for her care and when we needed anything he was always there. Thank you, Dr. Long for your support throughout the years.

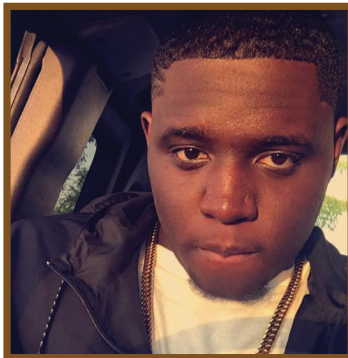
Bridget Smith N.P.- Cardiology Health Care Partners, Long Beach. Thank you Bridget, for always being there for Shirley. You were never too busy to address any questions and concerns we had. Thank you for your wonderful words of encouragement it means so much to our family.

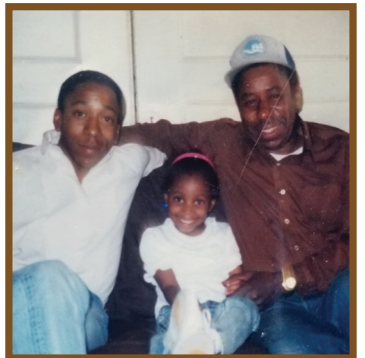
Thank You to the Love and Unity Christian Fellowship for their outpouring of love and support to our family.

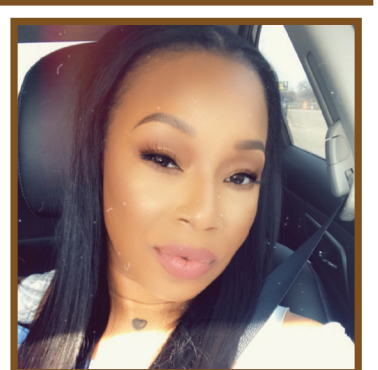
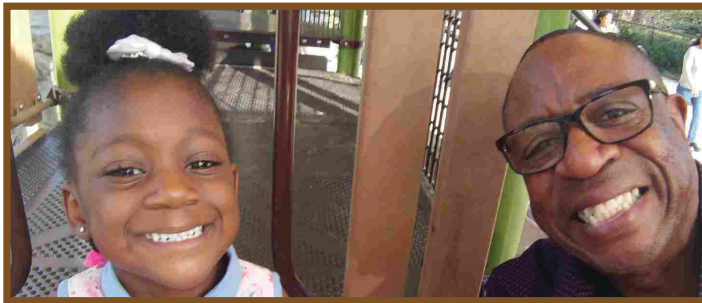
Thank You to the Lakewood Church International for their outpouring of love and support to our family.

A special Thank You to the New Hope Baptist Church Family! Your continued prayers, and visits throughout Sis. Coley's sickness truly meant a lot to her and to our family.

The Coley Family would like to thank Everyone which there are too many people to name but please know; that we love you and appreciate your kind deeds. You have been a blessing to our family and your kindness will always be remembered!







Through the Years



Tributes

Shirley, after all these years, I still love you. Rest in peace my love until we meet again,

Leroy

"I'll Always Love My Momma!"

Jeff

Mom, I thank you for all the love you have given freely. I thank you for giving the strength, courage, and understanding. You always said, "You were raising strong sons and daughters. You always provided an awesome hot meal for whoever stopped by. I will miss your own "special" words of encouragement such as, "Been There Done That" and "That Stick Your Trying To Walk With, I Broke It Years Ago!" I Love You Mom

Terry

Mom,

Who would have known, when I left you late Sunday afternoon, it would be our last time together? We were watching television, laughing, and talking. I commented on how you had a beautiful glow on your face. On the day you transitioned, it was difficult for me. Mom, you were a strong woman and I thank you for being my Mom! Until we meet again. I love you!

La Rhonda

Mom,

When you took your last breath at 12:52pm my heart dropped but then I started to think of the good times we had. I am going to miss you saying, "Hey Leelee What's Going On?" That always brought a smile to my face. Mom, I'm going to miss you and you will always be in my Heart!

Lee-Lee

Mom,

The bible taught me to honor thy father and mother. It has been a privilege to help take care of you. I will miss our Special Sunday Morning Praise and Worship Time. I love you with all my heart!

Anita

Mom,

It was a blessing and an honor to have you as my Mother. The love I have for you will forever live in my heart. Until we meet again...Rest well my dear Mother!!

Sherie

Woman of Many Hats



We'll Understand It Better By and By

We are often tossed and driv'n
On the restless sea of time.
Somber skies and howling tempests
oft succeed a bright sunshine.
In that land of perfect day,
When the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by.

Refrain:

By and by when the morning comes,
When the saints of God are gathered home,
We will tell the story how we've overcome;
For we'll understand it better by and by.

We are often destitute
Of the things that life demands.
Want of food and want of shelter,
thirsty hills and barren lands.
We are trusting in the Lord,
And according to his Word,
We will understand it better by and by. [Refrain]

Trials dark on ev'ry hand,
And we cannot understand,
All the ways that God would lead us
to that blessed Promised Land.
But he guides us with his eye
And we'll follow till we die.
For we'll understand it better by and by. [Refrain]

Temptations, hidden snares
Often take us unawares,
And our hearts are made to bleed
for some thoughtless word or deed.
And we wonder why the test
When we try to do our best,
But we'll understand it better by and by. [Refrain]

Services Entrusted to:

Destiny Funeral Home & Crematory • FD2301
5443 Long Beach Blvd. • Long Beach, CA 90805
(562) 912-7977
Jonathon M. Polk
COO