



Shirley C. Swafford

October 23, 1929 - September 24, 2018

Shirley Dean Lee Crawford Swafford was born to John and Grace Landry Lee on October 23, 1929 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

During her formative years, Shirley lived in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana with her grandparents, Lawrence and Emily Landry. She attended the public school system in Jefferson Parish; Dayton, Ohio and New York City where she was graduated from Julia Richman High School. Shirley attended Morgan State College in Baltimore, Maryland and was graduated from Morgan in 1952. She would go on to earn a Master's Degree from that same Institution.

While at Morgan Shirley met and married Orville A. Swafford. To this union a daughter Alisa Diane Swafford was born. She was the apple of her parent's eye and remained so until their deaths. Shirley also reared two other children: April N. Burroughs an adopted son LeRoy Cunningham.

After briefly being employed by the Department of Social Services, Shirley chose a job as a teacher in the Baltimore City Public School System. Being a teacher was Shirley's calling in her professional life. Her career as a teacher spanned close to forty (40) years. As an elementary educator, she spent a number of years in the classroom, which she enjoyed immensely. She was subsequently elevated to the position of Master Teacher. She completed her career with this title.

Besides educating children, Shirley's other passions were community development, maintaining her large circle of friends, and nurturing her spiritual development. To those ends, Shirley was a member of at least six organization: The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, The Gems (a social club), Chums Inc. (a women's friendship organization), WoBeCo (a community development organization), Spockettes (a childhood learning and development organization), and the Red Hatters (a social group). She variously served in officer positions as a member of these organizations.

In practicing her religious faith, Shirley was an active member at least four churches: St. James Episcopal, Holy Trinity Episcopal, Heritage United Church of Christ, and The Open Church (which she co founded). Most recently, Shirley visited and participated in the Mount Washington Methodist Church.

Shirley also enjoyed social events, music, travel (especially cruising), and fishing.

On September 24, 2018, at 10:30pm, Shirley passed away peacefully after a brief illness. By her side were her son Le Roy Cunningham and her minister Rev. Dr. Arnold W . Howard.

She is survived by: a son Le Roy Cunningham; a son-in-law Jesse Murphy, two grandsons Jason and Justin Scott; five great grandchildren; cousins Yvonne Richardson-Dixon, Brett and Carol Richardson, Thelma and Wanda Richards and their families; as well as a host of godchildren.

Shirley has directed that her estate be converted to a scholarship fund for students at Morgan State University and that those wishing to make contributions do so to The United Negro College Fund.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Cemetery

2130 Woodlawn Drive
Baltimore, MD 21207

Previous Events

viewing

OCT 3. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Family Hour

OCT 3. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Wake

OCT 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Enon Baptist Church
601 N. Schroeder Street
Baltimore, MD 21217

Service

OCT 4. 12:00 PM (ET)

Enon Baptist Church
601 N. Schroeder Street
Baltimore, MD 21217

Tribute Wall



“ Shirley C. Swafford

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ Miss Swafford was a significant influence in my early childhood as a teacher at Victory Elementary School in Fairfield in the 50s. My younger sister and I often speak of her! A teacher is a beautiful thing because they leave an impact and a legacy that they can never know... thank you Miss Swafford! May you Rest In Peace!

Velvet

Velvet - July 30, 2019 at 04:19 AM



“ You was such a beautiful loving neighbor who cared about me and my family. I am forever grateful for your words of encouragement. My you rest in peace.



Frances - October 04, 2018 at 01:48 PM



“ Gopaul Family, Joseph Family and all TCF members purchased the Pink Potpourri Bouquet for the family of Shirley C. Swafford.



Gopaul Family, Joseph Family and all TCF members -
October 03, 2018 at 12:23 PM

BM

“ My life was genuinely touched the day we met. In your eyes, I could see your strong, gentle nature. I could see how that was also given you your son, who means the world to me. I am deeply saddened that Karen and I will not be able to have dinner with you, hear your incredible entertaining stories or have you join us again at a future gala. But, you have left your imprint on us. Our lives are better for knowing you. Thank you for that! You are a true original. Someday we will meet again, in paradise with God. Until then, rest in peace, knowing the wonderful legacy that you left on earth. We will miss you, Mom!

Bob Michelin - October 03, 2018 at 08:00 AM

LM

“ Love, Bob and Karen Michelin purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Shirley C. Swafford.



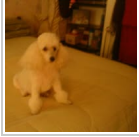
Love, Bob and Karen Michelin - October 03, 2018 at 07:53 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Shirley C. Swafford.



October 02, 2018 at 11:42 AM



“ *May the Lord God grant you His peace, and strength at this time of grief.*

Love, joy, and Peace

Elizabeth Hayes,

Chattanooga, Tn

Elizabeth Hayes - September 30, 2018 at 07:13 AM



“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

March Funeral Homes - September 28, 2018 at 08:42 AM