

*A
Celebration
of Life*



*Linda Lee
Roberts Franklin*

May 6, 1954 - April 15, 2024

Memorial Luncheon

Wednesday, May 1, 2024
97 Wilson Place, Orange, NJ 07050
12pm

Acknowledgments

We would like to express our deep and heartfelt appreciation for your loving thoughts, prayers, acts of kindness, and support during this difficult time. Your encouragement has meant more than words can express. May God bless each of you, and may His peace be with you always.

With love,
Linda's kids



Weep Not For Me

Weep not for me though I have gone
Into that gentle night
Grieve if you will, but not for long
Upon my soul's sweet flight

I am at peace, my soul's at rest
There is no need for tears
For with your love I was so blessed
For all those many years

There is no pain, I suffer not
The fear is now all gone
Put now these things out of your thoughts
In your memory, I live on

Remember not my fight for breath
Remember not the strife
Please do not dwell upon my death
But celebrate my life

Obituary

Linda Lee Roberts Franklin was born in Orange, NJ on May 6, 1954 to the late George Roberts and Martha Sanford. Linda was the oldest of 6 siblings, and was spoiled by her large family of 13 aunts and uncles. She was so proud to be one of the Roberts from Orange.

Linda graduated from Orange High School in 1972. She was a hard core Orange Tornado and loved the City of Orange “so hard”! Growing up, she was known as a double dutch queen. She enjoyed playing games, especially jax and bid whist. Linda loved football and basketball, and was a big fan of LeBron James and the Kansas City Chiefs. But she really loved to dance and listen to music.

Linda met her husband, Edgar, while at a club on Central Place in Orange with her best friend, Debbie Singleton. It was then that their love story began. Together they raised 3 beautiful children—Tamika, Tanya & Trent, and were officially married on August 23, 1986 in West Orange, NJ. Edgar aka “Pumpkin” was the love of her life and she cherished their time together. She loved her kids even more. She would often say that her children bring her so much joy and laughter. She loved being their mom.

Linda experienced one of the most painful experiences in her life by the untimely death of her husband. She was completely devastated. Later, she would find love again. She met Trevor Lingham and remained in a long-term relationship with him for over 20 years.

For most of her career, Linda worked as a medical secretary at Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark, NJ. She relocated to North Carolina for a few years, and then lived in Nashville, Tennessee for a few years, but ultimately returned back to her home in New Jersey.

During her time in Tennessee Linda began to attend church regularly and accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior at Strong Tower Bible Church in Nashville.

Linda was a true and generous friend. Even though she was not very ‘peoply’, she loved hard and unconditionally. She saw many of her kids’ friends as sons and daughters, and they all called her ‘Ma’. She would give a stranger the shirt off her back. But if you hit the wrong button, she would let you have it, but you would never doubt her love.

She had a great sense of humor. She would often call or make a post with “it’s a funny.” She had style and was always looking ‘sharp’.

Linda passed peacefully at home in Chicago on Monday, April 15, 2024 with family by her side.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Edgar K. Franklin, Jr.; long-time companion, Trevor Lingham; brothers, James and Kevin Sanford; sisters, Barbara Sanford and Terry Grubbs; granddaughter, Imani and great-granddaughter, Sariyah.

Linda leaves to cherish her memory, her children, Tamika Johnson (Joseph), Tanya Whitten (Ocie), and Trent Franklin (Myesha); grandsons, Alfred Haygood and Justin Haygood; granddaughters, Kaylen Haygood, Nailah Raab, Alyce Haygood, Ahziah Haygood, Malia Johnson, Amirah Franklin, Madison Franklin, Milan Franklin; her favorite great-grandson, Zahir Vincent; sister, Sharron Sanford; sisters-in-law, Gwen Franklin and Sharon Franklin; brother-in-law, William Franklin, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends that she loved so dearly!

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

- Jesus (Matthew 11:28-30)



God's Garden

God looked around his garden, and he found an empty place.
He then looked down upon this earth, and saw your tired face.

He put his arms around you, and lifted you to rest.

God's garden must be beautiful, he always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering, he knew you were in pain.

He knew that you would never get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough, and the hills were hard to climb.
So he closed your weary eyelids, and whispered "peace be thine."

It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone.
For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.



Special Thanks

Mom truly received her flowers while she was alive at the farewell celebration our family had before she came to Chicago. She told me "I've never experienced so much joy in my life!". Thank you family for celebrating mom so well and letting her know she is loved!

Much love,
Tanya



"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

- Jesus (Matthew 11:28-30)

