

# HOMEGOING SERVICE

**Shirley Buena Rogers Salley**

*November 9, 2018*



**Sunrise**  
January 8, 1936



**Sunset**  
November 1, 2018

Lee's Funeral Home  
160 Fisher Avenue  
White Plains, NY

# OBITUARY



## *In Loving Memory* **Shirley Buena Rogers Salley**

Shirley Buena Rogers Salley was born on January 8, 1936 in Montevallo, Alabama. She departed this life on November 1, 2018 in White Plains, New York. She was the eldest daughter born to the late James De Rogers and Buena Vista Rogers. She was preceded in death by her husband, Albert Salley, and her youngest brother, Robert Rogers.

She attended school in Tuskegee, Alabama at Chambliss Elementary School and Tuskegee Institute High School, where she was a member of the Honor Society for receiving high grades.

Shirley migrated from Tuskegee to New York soon after graduating from high school. She was one of seven children. Being part of a large family made it necessary for Shirley to work at an early age. She had a live-in job with a family in New York. Later, she also worked at a dry-cleaning business and greeting card factory. She sent most of the money she earned to her mother. She hoped that she could raise enough money from this job to go back to Alabama for college but ended up staying in New York.

Shirley attended Westchester Business School in White Plains. In 1962, she was hired as a telephone operator by AT&T, where she eventually was promoted to international telephone operator. On many occasions, she would connect celebrities and important leaders via telephone. At AT&T, she received recognition for perfect attendance, various achievements and dedication to her job.

As an example, she received the following accolades from the company:

December 1962:

“The week of the Cuban crisis was one of international anxiety and personal concern. It was not surprising that the number of overseas calls made during this period far exceeded those of a normal week. Only the extra effort on the part of such people as yourself made it possible for us to handle the increased traffic.”

November 1963:

“Yesterday culminated a weekend of monumental shock and sadness – our President was buried. You were one of those people who could not be relieved from a vital job to pay your last respects. I am sorry about this, but I want you to know that because of your extra efforts, 180 of your coworkers did get that opportunity. The tribute paid to the late President Kennedy by these people is as much yours as it is theirs.”

(She retired from AT&T in March 1998 after 36 years of employment)

Shirley married Albert Salley in April 1978. From this union was born one daughter, Linda Alberta.

Shirley is survived by her daughter, Linda Alberta Blake; two granddaughters: Hope Salley and Precious Blake; two brothers: James Rogers, Gerald Rogers (Delores); three sisters: Bertha Rogers, Faye Hutchinson, Nina Maxwell (Stanley); two step-daughters: Laurie Walker (William), Darlene Salley; one stepson: Glenn Smith; 15 nieces and nephews, as well as many step-grandchildren, step-great grandchildren, cousins, grand-nieces and nephews and friends.

Shirley is joined in Heaven with her late husband and mother, who she always had fond memories of during her life. At one time, she said, “I thought my mother was an angel. She raised us to be good citizens, good human beings. She would hug us and kiss us when we needed it. My mother, to me, was just beautiful.”

# ORDER OF SERVICE



Processional

Opening Prayer

Scriptures: Old and New Testament

Hymn

Eulogy

Acknowledgments

Closing Prayer

Recessional

*Committal & Benediction at Graveside*

*Interment*

*Kensico Cemetery*

# DEAR GRANDMA



To our dearest grandma. It's hard to believe you're no longer here. I can't imagine how it will be now without you – not being able to surprise you for lunch with Chinese food (Lo Mein) or take you out to your favorite restaurant (Cheesecake Factory), or just stay in the nursing home's café for those fried chicken wings – with lots of ketchup! We always had the best times eating our favorite foods together, or just simply being together. We could sit in silence and it would be so peaceful, sitting with the TV on but with no sound. And, when the sound was on, you'd always beat me in Jeopardy, but I think I was pretty good when it came to Wheel of Fortune and Family Feud. We would have long conversations about your childhood, your life, the books you were reading – and I would find it so remarkable. You were so intelligent, grandma. Most of all, you were my friend. You loved me unconditionally from the time I was born. You spoiled me with love and hugged me so hard it made my shoulders hurt. From the beginning, I was always your “Hopie” and you were my “Grandmawwww.” I will miss you so much. I'm going to miss checking on you every week, stopping by the grocery store to get your Townhouse crackers, pecans and sugar-free cookies (and even the sugar-filled oatmeal raisin cookies you weren't supposed to have). I'm just going to miss making sure you're okay. I always thought you were the bionic woman as you faced so many health challenges. However, I find peace in the fact that you are now no longer suffering – no more pain in your body, no more medications, no more depression, no more! You are now with our precious Lord, and with Pop-Pop and Mama, who you had missed so much. Smile and rest in their comfort. I will love you always and I will keep the memories we had close to my heart, forever and always.

Love Always,  
Hope

Our moments together were filled with indescribable, lovable, tenderness. Sitting down for dinner I'd notice your careful attention to stirring your tea just right for the dark brown steep to mend with your sugar. Your wide big eyes would open up with excitement when I told you about a new accomplishment in school or when I had stern advice coming to me. We even enjoyed the still moments of quiet as Golden Girl re-runs played in the background, you working on your crosswords and I was drawing your picture. You always pushed me to work hard and gave me the encouragement or reality check I needed. Your realness and authenticity grounded me and lives through me every day. Now that you have ascended to another form of living that is peaceful and still, I will always honor your spirit in this life and the next.

With Love,  
Precious

## *With Grateful Appreciation*

The family acknowledges with gratitude, the many kind expressions of sympathy, the concern, and love shown by so many wonderful family and friends. May God keep each of you in His Love and in His care forever.