



## Rosley Isilda McFarlane

August 23, 1920 - January 25, 2021

Rosley Isilda McFarlane (affectionately called Syl, Rosie, Aunt Syl, Miss Mac) was the youngest of eight siblings born to Merryn and Arthur Donaldson in Walderston, Jamaica. Like her siblings, she had a lifelong commitment to education, dedication to family, unwavering Christian Faith, and a passion for excellence.

While her other sisters pursued careers in nursing, Rosley followed her sister Persis into a career in Education. She graduated from Bethlehem Teachers' College and remained an active member of their Alumnae Association. She won a scholarship to attend Cornell University (one of the first women in Jamaica to receive it). Throughout her career Rosley taught all age groups. She taught at Central Branch Elementary School; was a Training Officer at Kingston and St Andrew Corporation; Training Coordinator at YMCA Bed-Try Brooklyn NY, and an Early Childhood teacher with NYC Board of Education. In later years, she even opened a home pre-school with her sister Persis in Florida.

While she loved teaching, she was fiercely dedicated to her family and friends. She would do anything for them!! If you've heard of the 5 love languages, her strongest would be acts of service. She was always looking to do for others. It was therefore difficult for her to sit back and receive accolades. If her beloved husband George or her sisters needed her, she would drop everything to be at

their side. (She even relocated to Florida in response to a request from her sister Persis.) She was a second mother/ grandmother to her nieces and nephews. We could always count on receiving advice, black cake for Christmas and recently she would ship mangos from the tree in her backyard to relatives in the Northeast.

Rosley was just as dedicated to her spiritual and church families. Whether it was Church of the Ascension in Mona, JA, St. Mark's in Brooklyn, NY or Church of the Atonement in Lauderdale Lakes, FL, she dove in headfirst to serve - including planning fundraisers and bus trips. At Church of the Atonement she served for years as Chaplain to the Episcopal Church Women and the Order of the Daughters of the King. After her sister Persis passed, God provided her additional spiritual "family members" through Donna and her family/friends and Theresa & Fitz and their family to support Rosley, as her capabilities began to slow down. They even took her on vacations with their families, including trips to Jamaica, Orlando and Caribbean Cruises. Since her nieces and nephews did not live close by, we were comforted to know others were there to ensure Aunt Syl "did not miss a beat!"

Similar to her sisters, Rosley never discussed her age. We now understand they did not want that number to be a limiting factor. We were blessed last August when she allowed family and friends to join her to celebrate her 100th birthday on Zoom calls! During the virtual celebrations, her friend Joyce mentioned Aunt Syl's encouragement "... Continue to improve yourself and to learn. Don't just sit back and accept things, do something!"

Rosley I. McFarlane went on to her eternal life on January 25, 2021. She leaves behind many friends, cousins, nieces and nephews including Derryck, Robin, Jennifer, Clayton, Evan, Nichola, Richard, Chandra, Colleen, Marilyn, Dave and Andrea. As we celebrate her life, we thank God for her many vibrant, action-packed years and the positive impact she had on us. In her

honor, we will keep reading... keep traveling ... keep politically active ... and keep striving for excellence! May she REST IN PEACE.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 2. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Grace Funeral Chapels  
5980 West Oakland Park Blvd.  
Lauderhill, FL 33313  
(954) 484-1833  
info@gracefuneralchapels.com  
<https://www.gracefuneralchapels.com>

## Funeral Service

FEB 2. 5:30 PM (ET)

Grace Funeral Chapels  
5980 West Oakland Park Blvd.  
Lauderhill, FL 33313  
(954) 484-1833  
info@gracefuneralchapels.com  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Rosley Isilda McFarlane*

October 06, 2023 at 12:11 AM



“ *Carole Stewart-Heron lit a candle in memory of Rosley Isilda McFarlane*



**Carole Stewart-Heron** - March 06, 2021 at 07:30 PM



“ *I continue to be grateful, moved and so inspired by the strong, impactful, brilliant women in our family. What a life you led, making an impact on, caring for and be of service to so many.  
Rest In Peace, Aunt Syl. Your work is done.*



**Lori-Ann Cox** - February 05, 2021 at 02:05 AM



“ *The Aunt that I shared the most memories of - from my return to Jamaica as a twelve year old to my postgraduate days. Well do I remember my times with her at Keble Crescent!! Her life was long and dignified, & she has been preceptor and mentor to many. She lived in the bosom of her beliefs, now may she rest in the bosom of the Lord.*

*Evan*

**Evan Donaldson** - February 03, 2021 at 05:44 PM

GK

“ *Gloria James-Williams (formerly Of KSAC) lit a candle in memory of Rosley Isilda McFarlane*



**Gloria James-Williams (formerly of KSAC)** - February 02, 2021 at 05:38 PM

MH

“ *Marilyn Hayre lit a candle in memory of Rosley Isilda McFarlane*



**Marilyn Hayre** - February 02, 2021 at 05:15 PM

JB

“ *Jennifer Burnett lit a candle in memory of Rosley Isilda McFarlane*



**Jennifer Burnett** - February 02, 2021 at 04:39 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Rosley McFarlane Funeral Program



Nichola Cox - February 02, 2021 at 03:26 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rosley Isilda McFarlane.



February 02, 2021 at 09:20 AM



“ Deepest Sympathy - Michael and Patricia Cox purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Rosley Isilda McFarlane.



Deepest Sympathy - Michael and Patricia Cox - February 01, 2021 at 10:56 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rosley Isilda McFarlane.*



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February 01, 2021 at 05:08 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Rosley Isilda McFarlane.*



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February 01, 2021 at 03:00 PM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Rosley Isilda McFarlane.*



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February 01, 2021 at 12:28 PM

JB

“ *My dear aunt Syl.  
My heart is so very sad to know you are no longer here with us.I find comfort in knowing that you are no longer suffering and in pain.but have gone home to be with the Lord for your eternal rest.It is so very true tommorow is not promised to anyone,so we should shower our love ones with love,when they are here with us.,and let them know how much we care.  
To know you was to love you.  
Your humor and wit was contagious,not to mention your beauty and grace.  
Sleep on my dear aunt,and may your soul rest in eternal peace,until we meet again  
Peace and Love.  
Your niece,Jennifer.*

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**Jennifer Burnett.** - January 30, 2021 at 08:19 PM

FW

*Dear Rosley  
You will be missed by myself Fay Walker and your fellow ECW sisters. Rest In Peace and may the angels of heaven come to meet you at the gate. Remember to tell your sister I send hello for her. 🙏🙏🙏🙏❤️*

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**Fay Walker** - February 01, 2021 at 04:55 PM

TT

*RIP Rosley McFarlane love you and miss you*

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**Theresa Thomas** - February 01, 2021 at 10:47 PM

DC

*RIP Aunt Syl...the fond memories live on.*

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**Del Crooks** - February 02, 2021 at 08:37 AM