



*In Loving Memory of
Vivian Gittens*



VIRTUAL MEMORIAL GATHERINGS
A PLACE TO GATHER AND REMEMBER

2:30-3:00 VIRTUAL SLIDE SHOW

Media Slide Show & Music Selections: Cheryle Gittens-Bailey & George Bailey
Hosted by: Virtual Memorial Gathering Announcement

3:00-4:00 LIVE STREAM SERVICE: THE CLIFFS CHAPEL @ EAGLE ROCK

Opening Remarks: Reverend Maria Compton

Opening Song by: "Silky"

Reading of Scripture:

Psalm 23 Old Testament: Reverend Maria Compton

Solo: *Summertime* from the Opera *Porgy & Bess* by Gershwin

Sung by "Silky"

Reading of Scripture

Revelations 21:1-7 New Testament: By Reverend Maria Compton

Solo Music Selection: *O Mio Bambino Caro* from the opera *Gianni Schicchi* by Puccino

Sung By "Silky"

Obituary & Reflections: By George Bailey & Cheryle Gittens-Bailey

Comments & Reflections: By Neville O. Gittens

In Chapel Closing Remarks Words of Comfort by: Reverend Maria Compton

4:00 - 5:00 VIRTUAL RECEPTION - OPEN MIC BRIEF TESTIMONIALS

Moderated by Virtual Memorial Gathering

Technical Services Provided by Tevon Miller

Still Photography by David Hanley

Cremation Services by Cushnie-Houston Funeral Home, East Orange, NJ 07018

Obituary

Vivian L. Gittens was born on February 26, 1932 to Edward Armstrong and Vivian Sawyer. She departed this life on November 16, 2020 at Overlook Medical Center in Summit, NJ. She was cremated at the Rosedale Cemetery in Montclair, NJ.

Vivian lived a full and meaningful life.

She grew up in Brooklyn, NY and attended Bushwick High School. Vivian married to Neville O. Gittens, Jr., in Brooklyn on July 12, 1952. They were not only a loving husband and wife, but also friends who shared a joyous and beautiful life together for over 70 years. Vivian and Neville lived at 228 Clairmont Terrace in Orange, New Jersey for 32 years.

Vivian was a devoted wife to her husband, Neville, retired from EXXON & Bloomfield College, and mother to her children: Cheryle Gittens-Bailey, educator, founder/CEO of a global institute, and Neville Gittens III, deceased, retired lieutenant and spokesperson for the San Francisco Police department. Vivian inspired her family to overcome societal challenges, and modeled the discipline, values and traits required for excellence.

In her work life, she held administrative positions throughout her career at JCPenny and ESSO. She worked as a claims representative for the Social Security Administration for over 32 years, and retired from that position in 1981.

Her love of learning led her to pursue and receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from the Brooklyn College in New York on June 12, 1979, at the age of 47; and to earn a certificate as a Master Gardner from Rutgers University.

Vivian was a talented soprano who sang opera, played the piano and loved music. She was a member of the New Jersey Symphony Choir and the Elmwood United Presbyterian Choir, where she also served as a deacon. She traveled throughout America and the world to several countries in the Caribbean, Europe and North Africa. She always accompanied her husband and children to the endless special events, conferences, and celebrations that marked her family's lives. All anyone had to say was "Do you want to go...?;" and she would say yes before you could complete the sentence.

Vivian was a positive woman who was always enthusiastic, loving and adored by many. She was admired for her sense of beauty. She expressed this love in everything that she did.

Vivian patronized the arts, played contract bridge, was an avid gardener, interior decorator and swimmer. She was an excellent cook and loved dining at fine restaurants. She also belonged to clubs and routinely attended many social affairs like the Ebony Fashion Fair, the Beaux Art Ball, Standard Oil Club of Jersey Art, Brooklyn Reunion and Edges, countless other professional clubs that served a higher purpose to uplift others.

Vivian is reunited with previously departed parents Edward and Vivian, her son Neville, and sister Millicent Patrick. Vivian is survived by her husband Neville Jr., her daughter Cheryle and son-in-law George F. Bailey, his three children and grandchildren; brother-in-law Guy Lee; aunt Sybil Daniels, many cousins here and overseas. Although her presence will be missed, her kind and passionate spirit will never be forgotten and will be memorialized forever in the hearts of those who love her deeply.

Lovingly Submitted, The Family

In Appreciation

First and foremost I want to acknowledge the endless love and support that I receive from my husband and father. George's black and white drawing of my mother gives me an ongoing feeling of her presence and my dad all 91 years old continues to provide me with advice. Their ongoing love nourishes my spirit and helps me to overcome all difficulties.

Due to COVID, this Memorial Event could not have been made possible without the work and support of the following institutions and individuals.

The Members of the **Cliffs At Eagle Rock** for permission to use the Chapel along with maintenance, technology and the administrative support to plan, and implement our program

The Founder and Staff at **Virtual Memorial Gatherings** including Willis Turner and Sergei
For support in organizing, planning and implementing all aspects of the virtual service

**The Staff and Members of Elmwood United Presbyterian Church
Including:**

Anna King: for ongoing administrative support
Pastor Compton for her guidance in the selection of the scriptures and program consultations

Silky: for her beautifully inspirational voice
Tevon Miller and Shaymaa Saunders: for onsite
Video Streaming and Technical Support

John Houston Funeral Home for Cremation Services and Star Ledger Posting
Lisa Aprile: ongoing inspiration and comforting support

Ollie Hartsfield: Obituary Editing Support

Guests for their participation, endless words of comfort, cards and flowers

SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS

Thank You for Donations for the Vivian Gittens Scholarship Fund. Status Update of the Criteria and Recipient names will be provided. This includes any donations made before February.