



## Alberta "Shirley" Rowland

January 22, 1939 - June 7, 2024

Alberta Rowland, fondly known as Ms. Shirley to many, was born on January 22, 1939, to Adel and Percival Archer in Colon, Republic of Panama. She was the second of four siblings: Lydia, Alfonso, and Floricia. She attended Liceo de Señoritas, a distinguished high school/college for young ladies. Shortly after graduation, she was introduced to the love of her life by Phil's sister, Barbara. When Barbara met Shirley, she told her brother, "I have a good girl for you!" That was the beginning of a wonderful love story that withstood the test of time. Phil and Shirley celebrated 61 years of a beautiful covenant relationship.

In 1963, Shirley, the first of her siblings, received an invitation from her mom to come to America to make the most of its opportunities. Soon after, Mama filed for Phil as well. They started at the bottom and worked very hard—Shirley in Healthcare and Phil in Banking. Together, the family bought a piece of land and built a beautiful two-family home in Richmond Hill, Queens, NY.

Countless family members and friends were housed there and then went on to purchase their own homes and live productive lives. This heritage of love, selflessness, and generosity is the essence of who Ms. Shirley was. From her home in Richmond Hill to that in Georgia, you could always find welcoming arms, a listening ear, and a hot plate of food.

Shirley's true joy came from spending time with her family. She loved to host weekly Sunday dinners as well as holiday gatherings. There were 30+ for dinner at any given time, with room always for one more. She was an EXCELLENT cook who embraced her Hispanic heritage. Much to the dismay of her grandchildren, she never wrote any recipes or measurements for her delicious dishes. However, a select few do know the secret ingredients for Shirley's renowned iced tea!

Ms. Shirley was a friend to many young ladies. She was wise, quiet, warm, and trustworthy. Those qualities made her a confidant to them.

Twenty of their twenty-one years in Georgia were spent at Victory Church, where they quickly became members. Shirley had a heart for missions and the youth and gave generously to both causes. She loved Jesus with all her heart. On a Sunday, while cooking, she could be found blazing the songs of the church and singing at the top of her lungs, while Phil quipped with a hug, "Shhh... let's keep the stormy weather away, honey." She was never deterred. Shirley is a beautiful soul that is now at rest with her Maker.

We love you, Bubi, Mother, Madre, Mommy, Grammy, Grandma, Abue, Tía, Comadre, Suegra, Auntie, Friend.

"Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her: 'There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!' Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised. Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise." —Proverbs 31:28-31 NLT

Shirley is survived by her husband, Phil; her children: Delita Eneida (Andrew), Yolanda, and Mark Anthony (Keila); Grandchildren: Sean (Kismet), Chris (Regina), Destiny, and Cameron; Great-grands: Mason and Dillon; Siblings:

Lydia, Alfonso, and Floricia (Pooch); and a vast host of nieces, nephews, cousins, sisters and brothers-in-law, godchildren, and dear family friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made In Memory of Shirley to charities that were dear to her heart:

Victory Church - Heart of the House Initiative

<https://victoryatl.com/heart-of-the-house/>

or

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in memory

Shirley Rowland

<https://www.stjude.org/donate>

Arrangements by Tim Stewart Funeral Home, 300 Simonton Road SW, Lawrenceville, GA 30046. 770-962-3100. Please sign the online guest registry at [www.stewartfh.com](http://www.stewartfh.com).

He Only Took My Hand

By

Dr. Lennox Graham

Last night while I was trying to sleep my mother's voice I did hear. I open my eyes and looked around but she did not appear.

She said, "My family you must listen and try to understand God did not take me from you He only took my hand.

My search is really over now I've found happiness within. All the answers to my empty dreams and all that might have been. I love you all and miss you so and will always be nearby. My body is gone forever but my spirit will never die.

And so you all must go on now just take one day at a time. Just remember

God did not take me from you He only took my hand."

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN **22**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Victory Church  
5985 Financial Drive  
Norcross, GA 30071

# Tribute Wall

PJ

“ Priscilla J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.

Priscilla J. - July 08, 2024 at 08:36 AM

BJ

“ Barbara "(Tuffy)" James planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.

Barbara "(Tuffy)" James - June 21, 2024 at 05:04 PM

BJ

“ Barbara "(Tuffy)" James purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.



Barbara "(Tuffy)" James - June 21, 2024 at 05:04 PM

DC

“ Dr. Maurice & Faye Clarke planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.

Dr. Maurice & Faye Clarke - June 20, 2024 at 09:51 PM

DC

“ Dr. Maurice & Faye Clarke purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.



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**Dr. Maurice & Faye Clarke** - June 20, 2024 at 09:51 PM

RA

“ Ricardo A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.

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**Ricardo A.** - June 20, 2024 at 11:08 AM

RH

“ Ricardo A. Hudson lit a candle in memory of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland



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**Ricardo A. Hudson** - June 20, 2024 at 11:03 AM

RH

“ *Tia, Te quiero muchismas!*

*The thoughts and memories of you will be with me forever. My auntie Shirley was always looking out for me from I was a little boy. She was always there for me. In many ways Shirley was one of the corner stones of our extended family. She gave so much of herself to everyone, her loving and caring heart was who she was, she would not hesitate to help anyone. One of my fondest memories I have of her is the good times we had on our many family road trips and outings. Another memory was that our three family house was always full with family, friends, and neighbors. Shirley was there welcoming all and making everyone feel at home. Auntie Shirley I miss you so much, I'll never forget you.*

*Love you, Ricky*

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**Ricardo A. Hudson** - June 20, 2024 at 10:53 AM

FF

“ *From The Daniels Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.*

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**From The Daniels Family** - June 20, 2024 at 08:46 AM

FF

“ *From The Daniels Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.*



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**From The Daniels Family** - June 20, 2024 at 08:46 AM

NG

“ *Neva Bryant, Clyde and big Sis Gloria! purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.*



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**Neva Bryant, Clyde and big Sis Gloria!** - June 19, 2024 at 06:54 PM

SH

“ *Shirley was truly a remarkable woman who touched the lives of so many with her kindness, love, and grace. As a wife, mother, and friend, she was always there to offer support, guidance, and a listening ear. Her presence will be greatly missed, but her legacy of love and compassion will continue on. Rest in peace Shirley. Phil, Eneida, Yoli, Mark and family may God's comfort and strength be your portion. Love you.*  
*Your Tammy (Shamekya)*

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**Shamekya** - June 19, 2024 at 05:28 PM

KN

“ *Kimberley N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.*

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**Kimberley N.** - June 19, 2024 at 10:55 AM

KN

“ *Shirley will be greatly missed. I am grateful to God for allowing me to spend some time with Phil and Shirley during the Christmas holiday. She cooked one of her famous dinners for my family. We loved Shirley and Phil. Accept our deepest condolences. With much love , Kimberley and Sean Faulkner* ❤️

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**Kimberley A Nevers** - June 19, 2024 at 10:55 AM

DG

“ A kind and caring mother is like a gentle beacon of love and warmth in her children's lives. She embodies unconditional love, selflessness, and unwavering support in everything she does. Her nurturing nature knows no bounds, as she goes above and beyond to ensure the well-being and happiness of her children. Ms. Shirley was such a person.

*Lennox & Avis Graham*

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**Drs. Lennox & Avis Graham** - June 19, 2024 at 10:35 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.



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June 17, 2024 at 05:24 PM

SC

“ Stanley, Natalia, & Nathaniel Cheek planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.

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**Stanley, Natalia, & Nathaniel Cheek** - June 17, 2024 at 12:18 PM

NC

“ We wish there were a way to say a proper goodbye. Now what is left are the good memories of you. We will forever miss you. You were a pillar of strength and love in our family. Your absence leaves a void, but your spirit and the love you gave us will remain in our hearts. Your wisdom and advice were invaluable. We will miss our conversations and the way you always seemed to know just what to say. Please know that we're thinking of you.



*Family: Let us know if there is anything we can do to help during this difficult time as you're going through the grieving process. Our heart goes out to you as you grieve. We have only happy memories of Shirley and our times all together.*

*May you find strength and peace during this difficult time. Shirley was an inspiration to so many, and her spirit will forever live on. We are so sorry for your loss, and we are here for you. Please accept our deepest condolences.*

*Rest in Peace, Auntie Shirley.*

*Love you,*

*Stanley, Natalia, and Nathaniel Cheek*

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**Natalia Cheek** - June 17, 2024 at 12:10 PM

JJ

*Our sincere condolences and deepest sympathies are with the Rowland family and friends at this time. Remember God took her hand but her everlasting love, laughter and fondness memories are with you eternally.*

*Jacqueline Samuels and family*

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**Jacqueline Jones** - June 18, 2024 at 01:58 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.



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June 16, 2024 at 07:36 PM



“ Dolla & Lisa Toppin and Crystal Hudson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.

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**Dolla & Lisa Toppin and Crystal Hudson** - June 16, 2024 at 07:36 PM



“ Cliff & Ella Langston lit a candle in memory of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland



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**Cliff & Ella Langston** - June 15, 2024 at 03:41 PM



*Years ago, before Phil and Shirley moved to Georgia, she came to visit me with my friend Rose Martin, we instantly became friends and had a wonderful visit like we were friends forever. Rose & Bob always kept us up to date with Shirley and Phil. What a beautiful spirit that God has taken, Phil, keeping you and the entire family in our prayers, always hold on to the many fabulous memories. LOVE NEVER DIES! In Sympathy and Friendship, Cliff and Ella Langston*

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**Cliff and Ella Langston** - June 15, 2024 at 03:53 PM

EA

“ We will always remember her welcoming smile whenever she greeted you. She was loved by everyone who met and came to know her. Our deepest condolences to her family. May she rest in eternal peace. Errol & Shirley Archer



Errol & Shirley Archer - June 15, 2024 at 01:42 AM

FA

“ Fina, Belinda, Cente & Greg Anderson purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.



Fina, Belinda, Cente & Greg Anderson - June 14, 2024 at 11:40 PM

RS

“ Too many memories too share... Mrs. Shirley and Mr. Phil are like my parents in Atlanta. My heart is broken. She will be sorely missed... I will pray for Mr. Phil and the family. I love you all! 🙏❤️

Renee Smith - June 14, 2024 at 09:09 PM

BS

“ Mrs. Shirley was full of kindness and treated people like family. She knew no strangers. Our prayers go out to Mr. Phil and her entire family. Bennie & Cynthia Smith



Bennie & Cynthia Smith - June 14, 2024 at 08:47 PM

LG

“ Linda G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.

Linda G. - June 14, 2024 at 07:59 PM

CA

“ Carlos and Yolanda Anderson purchased the Encanted Cottage for the family of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland.



Carlos and Yolanda Anderson - June 14, 2024 at 07:27 PM

RM

“ Roberto & Rose Martin lit a candle in memory of Alberta "Shirley" Rowland



Roberto & Rose Martin - June 14, 2024 at 01:58 PM

EA

*She was a beautiful soul with a kind and big heart. She always, always greeted you with a smile and ready to feed you. Our heartfelt condolences to her family. May she rest in eternal peace and rise in glory. Errol & Shirley Archer.*

Errol & Shirley Archer - June 15, 2024 at 01:30 AM

DG

“ Quiet strength; that’s the way I will always remember Shirley. She was patient, pleasant and kind. She loved to open up her home and feed the entire community with her delicious cuisine. She and I would always argue when I stepped forward to help with the clean up after the “soup to nuts” feast she had just provided. She said “leave that, I got it “. However, I felt that was the very least I could do to show my gratitude for her gracious hospitality. Shirley was a quiet, gentle, generous soul. May her sweet soul rest comfortably in the arms of Jesus. I will miss you, but look forward to the great reunion up there. RIP Shirley. My deepest condolences to Phil, Eneida, Mark, Yolanda and the entire family.

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Dallas H George - June 14, 2024 at 12:59 PM