



Alma Sherlene Pettiford

November 14, 1934 - March 4, 2022

Alma Sherlene Pettiford of Hyattsville, MD entered this life on November 14, 1934 and transitioned on March 4, 2022.

Affectionately referred to as mom, Boogie, Aunt Shirley and Shorty, she was the living matriarch of the Williamson family. As the matriarch, she “mothered” all of her nieces and nephews and their children after her siblings (Willie Dorcus, John Wesley, Arthur Bernell, and Barbara Jean), all passed away. She was our anchor and the phone number that we could all call with good news or to seek help with concerns.

Born in Buffalo Springs, Virginia to Thomas and Alma Williamson, she received her schooling primarily in the Washington DC area.

As a military wife, she was able to travel the world with her husband Walter Pettiford and their two children Walter Jr. (Duke) and Yolondo. After settling in Landover, Maryland, she set her sights on being: a loving wife, a mother, a caregiver for her beloved grandson Demetrius, and a career woman.

Professionally, she was an accomplished entrepreneur, who created and successfully operated a home-based childcare business until her retirement. Her passion for children helped her shape the young lives of those entrusted to her care. In our family, she was one of the first examples of someone who

made a career out of something that she loved! Several have followed her entrepreneurial example in Construction, Cleaning, T-Shirts, and more. She truly showed us that being your own boss was hard but worth it!

Personally, she loved and cared for her family. She supported us all through good times and bad times. She knew all of our trials and tribulations and offered firm advice and guidance, when it was needed. When visiting her at home, you were likely to find her reclining in her favorite chair while watching a western or sci-fi show or on the balcony feeding her birds.

During vacations to the Dominican Republic, New Jersey, Florida, and North Carolina, she always had funny stories to share about her and her siblings. On her last road trip to North Carolina, she revealed her childhood nickname "SHORT TAIL."

She is survived by many loving family members.

While we understand that her time here has ended, we believe that she has been reunited with loved ones who have transitioned before her. We find comfort in knowing that she no longer has to contend with sickness and discomfort. We thank everyone for the outpouring of support, comforting words, and gestures of kindness.

Tribute Wall

AH

“ Aunt Shirley You are missed Your loving Neice Alma Vernell

Alma Harley - April 19, 2022 at 05:36 PM

DW

“ Ms. Shirley (as she was affectionately called) was the caregiver for my two children; Shirley and Joshua Ross who are now, 30 and 29 years old respectively. We have always spoken fondly of her and always will! Shirley used to have bad nose bleeds, and Ms. Shirley was so patient and loving to her, but Joshua was her "little man"! She had him from three weeks old until he was about 10 years old, and he adored her! She is forever in our hearts! Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. May God bless and keep you!

Danette J. Ross Watson - April 07, 2022 at 03:40 PM

GW

“ Alma Sherlene Pettiford

Gwendolyn williamson - March 26, 2022 at 01:13 PM

KT

“ We promise to honor your memory and all that you have meant to us. We know that you are at rest and no longer contending with pain or discomfort. May you enjoy a seat at the table with other loved ones and your personal savior. You have earned your wings.

Kris Tucker - March 24, 2022 at 09:35 PM

AP

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ *Simplicity Cremation & Funeral Services*

A Memorial Tree was planted for Alma Sherlene Pettiford - March 24, 2022 at 10:09 AM