



## Lorraine Crawford

June 12, 1937 - August 12, 2022

### “Celebrating the Life of Lorraine Crawford”

Lorraine, who was the second oldest of four children, was born to George & Inez Titus in Albany, New York and later moved to Schenectady, NY., when Lorraine was just a toddler. Inez later married James Mahar, who Lorraine referred to as her beloved Dad. She was affectionately known to her daughters, granddaughters & closest friends as Rainy, affectionately called “Grandma or Grannie by her other grands & great grands.

Lorraine was always a diligent, industrious worker, starting at the age of 5, having to help Inez provide care to the residents of her nursing home. Lorraine loved singing and often told stories of getting paid “a nickel,” for each song she performed for the doctors & residents of the home. She always enjoyed school because for her, it was “fun & not work.” She was known as a jokester, prankster, and daredevil, often claiming to be able to “do the same or better than any boy” in her class, which she replicated throughout her life. As a teenager, she worked on a farm before & after school in exchange for room & board when she left home at 14 years old. That hard-work ethic, personality and attitude allowed Lorraine to be independent and able to support herself as a waitress; she stated that she made more money than most adults as a teenager and decided to drop out of school.

Lorraine then married Kenneth Mann, having four beautiful children, Mary, Kenneth, Edith & Cindy. Tragically, Lorraine's two oldest children, perished in a house fire. Being the strong, resilient woman that she was, Lorraine carried on. She moved to Philadelphia, PA., where she continued to be an independent, strong woman that continued to work hard, purchased her own home in West Philly and rented out to tenants while living on the 1st floor.

After her first marriage dissolved, Lorraine met the true love of her life, Reginald Crawford, at a diner where she worked as a waitress, Reggie as a short-order cook. Lorraine did not show interest in Reggie, who flirted with her on a daily; she often said that she thought he was arrogant! Nevertheless, he & Lorraine went on a blind date setup by two co-workers & the rest is history. They wed in July 1964 and raised four beautiful daughters, Edith, Cynthia, Joslyn & Regina, raised Reggie's two nieces, Debbie & Gail and took care of her mother-in-law, Maggie Matthews.

Lorraine was an intuitive, intelligent woman; most importantly, she was a pioneer, fighting for voters' rights, the rights of hotel workers as well as equal pay & position for women in the hotel/restaurant industry. Lorraine was the first woman that had the strength & guts to take on the challenge of working alongside "the big boys" on what was referred to as the "Chain Gang." The Chain Gang was a group of male banquet servers, who served the most "elite clientele" and required heavy lifting & long hours in the hotel industry. Her perseverance, leadership & professionalism earned the respect of many & led to several roles as a union delegate for the Hotel & Restaurant Local Union 274; she first served as treasurer & later as secretary, until her eight-year term for each position expired. She still worked as a union representative at Wyndham Plaza Hotel in Philadelphia, PA until she retired. She always fought alongside her husband Reggie for civil rights, for fair treatment of others & equal rights for ALL were always at the forefront of their agendas. Lorraine often marched in Washington, DC. with her local Union for equal pay

& treatment for African American workers, safe workplaces & union rights for immigrant workers in the industry.

Rainy was a spitfire, always ready to take on the issues that negatively impacted the lower & middle class hard-working American. She was a stone-democrat, always preaching to our young people to get out & vote for their rights, regardless of the political affiliation, all the while preaching the importance of supporting a democracy and disputing everything the Republicans claimed to represent (do not mention Donald Trump)! As mentioned, she was funny, loved telling (dirty) jokes and pulling pranks on family & co-workers. She had a zest for life, people, music and loved singing. Despite all of the trauma, adversity & racism she encountered in her lifetime, being married to a strong black man, raising two Caucasian & two bi-racial daughters in the sixties & early seventies, Lorraine always showed courage & strength. Reggie was a STRONG MAN, Rainy was a STRONGER woman, never changing who she was or what she believed in for NO ONE!! She was admired & revered for those qualities.

On August 12th, 2022, God decided that it was time for Rainy to finally rest her weary body & soul; she fought long & hard for everything & everyone. Her struggle is now over, VICTORY has prevailed & her legacy will live on. She is preceded in death by her two beautiful children, Mary & Kenneth, her beloved husband of 56 years, Reggie, her parents, her sisters Silvia & Kathy. She is survived by her brother James, sister-in-law Maria, her daughters, 14 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, with one on the way, nieces, nephews, great nieces, nephews & friends.

Thank you, MOM, for making us strong, independent women who will love you forever for your undeniable love first shown by you! YOU will live on in our hearts with love & admiration & remembered by many.



## Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### **Memorial Service**

AUG 17. 1:00 PM (CT)

Second Chance Community Church  
30403 Farm to Market 1488 Rd  
Waller, TX 77484

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lorraine Crawford*

January 28, 2023 at 11:58 AM



“ *Becky Wilson lit a candle in memory of Lorraine Crawford*



**Becky Wilson** - August 17, 2022 at 01:35 PM



“ *BEVERLY WALKER MURRAY lit a candle in memory of Lorraine Crawford*



**BEVERLY WALKER MURRAY** - August 16, 2022 at 02:31 PM



“ *Lynn Tucker lit a candle in memory of Lorraine Crawford*



**Lynn Tucker** - August 16, 2022 at 12:22 PM

LT

“ Lynn Tucker lit a candle in memory of Lorraine Crawford



Lynn Tucker - August 16, 2022 at 12:21 PM



“ A Full Life was purchased for the family of Lorraine Crawford.



August 16, 2022 at 11:47 AM

MV

“ Monica Valentine lit a candle in memory of Lorraine Crawford



Monica Valentine - August 16, 2022 at 09:29 AM

MV

On behalf of the Food & Nutrition Department at Albert Einstein Medical Center, Phila, Pa.  
We send our condolences to the family and Edith Crawford-Magnum.  
May you be comforted in your time of need. Love you!❤️

Monica Valentine - August 16, 2022 at 09:36 AM

BW

Condolences and prayers to the family during their time of loss.

Becky Wilson - August 16, 2022 at 10:59 AM

PJ

*MY PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AT THIS VERY DIFFICULT TIME*

*PATRICIA JENKINS*

---

**patricia jenkins** - August 17, 2022 at 01:19 PM

PJ

*Edie and Family please know that you are in my thoughts and my Prayers, after reading your Mother's life story she seemed to have been an amazing person! i Pray God will comfort you all in this hour of bereavement and keep you strong, God Bless You P. Ford*

---

**patricia jenkins** - August 17, 2022 at 01:38 PM

PJ

*edie your in my thoughts and prayer at this time .you have my deepest condolences god bless you an your family love barb*

---

**patricia jenkins** - August 17, 2022 at 01:46 PM

PJ

*Sending prayers to you and your family i'm deeply sorry for your loss god bless Bri*

---

**patricia jenkins** - August 17, 2022 at 01:50 PM

PJ

*Sending My Love To You and your family i hope you get the strength you need to come back I Love and miss you Love Nieya*

---

**patricia jenkins** - August 17, 2022 at 01:54 PM