



Mary S. Cunningham

February 16, 1935 - March 24, 2020

“She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.”
Proverbs 3:15

Mrs. Mary Shirley Jacobs Cunningham was born on February 16, 1935, to the late Albert and Ruby Jacobs. She was educated in the Southampton County School System. Growing up as a child, she attended Rising Star Baptist Church in Branchville, VA.

Mary Shirley later relocated to Brooklyn, NY for many years. After years in New York, she decided to move back to Virginia to be closer to family. She went on and married the love of her life, Sgt. Joseph Cunningham. There were no children from this union. She later retired from Old Dominion University, in the Housekeeping Management Department.

Aunt Shirley or Shirley as she was affectionately called, had a passion for nurturing and caring for all of her relatives and other outside family’s children. She fulfilled that need by being a blessing and surrogate mother to her nieces and nephews.

Surviving to cherish her memories are a loving faithful sister Barbara A. Person of Kearney, NJ five loving nieces: Patricia Johnson of Owing Mills, MD, Beverly Brown (Billy) of San Diego, CA, Robin Person, of Kearney, NJ, Cheryl JacobsBellamy (Fred) of Suffolk, VA, Donna Dixson (Darin) of Portsmouth VA, three loving nephews: Malik Muhammad, and Ronald Person of Kearney, NY, Bryan (Aminah) Person of Bronx, NY, several loving great-nieces and great nephews, faithful adopted son, Shawn Boone of Portsmouth,

VA, several loving cousins and other extended relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her sister Thelma Carr, brothers: Curtis and Albert Jacob, aunt Ella Mae Grant, nephew Glenn Car, niece Glennette Carr.

Cemetery Details

Roosevelt Memorial Park

1101 Campostella Road
Chesapeake, Va

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **30**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services
1248 N. George Washington Hwy
Chesapeake, VA

Service

MAR **31**. 11:00 AM (ET)

J. T. Fisher Funeral Services Chapel
1248 N. George Washington Hwy
Chesapeake, VA

Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary S. Cunningham



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - March 30, 2020 at 06:56 PM

MM

Aunt Shirley , You were the Best, The Sweetest Aunt we could ever have had. You came from a lineage of Great Women (Grandma, Aunt Mae) and You carried on and passed on that Greatest. You were The Best. Rest In Peace, You deserve to. Love Malik.

Malik Muhammad - March 31, 2020 at 12:05 AM

MM

"Outstanding"- I am in tears!

Malik Muhammad - March 31, 2020 at 12:20 AM



Wonderful memories of a Great Woman who I am ever grateful to had her in my life as we can never replace our grandparents I must say I lost a lot of years with mine ,however she stepped in and made me feel like one of the family and it's a honor to be apart of this lovely family and everything done for her was truly the love I grew to have for her over the years from the drives to her home town to the long trip to take my aunt back to New Jersey just hearing them enjoy the view I miss her already. I could take this whole page up sharing memories so I'll end with this I love you Momma Shirley!

Sean Boone - March 31, 2020 at 09:37 AM

SP

You will definitely be a chapter in my life I will never forget. You gave me a safe haven and words of wisdom that I will hold dear to my heart. Rest In Peace.

Shanita Patillo - March 31, 2020 at 11:41 AM

RJ

Aunt Shirley God has given you your wings. Your physical presence may be gone, however you left some awesome and wonderful memories. Rest in Heaven queen!!!

Regina Johnson - March 31, 2020 at 01:09 PM

BB

“ *Aunt Mary Shirley,
Your wings are ready
But we were not.
Those we love don't go away
They walk beside us everyday.
Love always,
Billy in San Diego*

Billy Brown - April 24, 2020 at 12:16 PM

BB

“ *Aunt Mary Shirley,
On Angel wings you were taken away
But in my heart you will always stay.
Love always,
Beverly(BaBa)*

Beverly Brown - April 24, 2020 at 12:07 PM

BB

“ Aunt Mary Shirley,

*Your wings were ready
But our hearts were not.
Those we love don't go away
They walk beside us everyday.*

*Love Always,
Billy in San Diego*

Billy Brown - April 24, 2020 at 01:57 AM

BB

“ Aunt Mary Shirley,

*On Angel wings
You were taken away
But in my heart
You will always stay*

*Love Always,
Beverly(BaBa)*

Beverly Brown - April 24, 2020 at 01:49 AM

JC

“ I would like to express my condolences to Shirley's family and loved ones. When I was at Old Dominion in the very early 70's, Shirley was like a second mother to us all. She was always there for anyone who needed a little help or some sage advice – especially those away from their homes and parents for the first time in their lives. Shirley always had a wonderful, inviting smile and a pleasant word to help keep life in perspective. Her kind, tender manner made her so approachable to young students learning to deal with the real world. She was truly and exceptional person.

I have a picture of my then three-year-old son at Shirley and Joe's house in the 70's and am grateful that he, who is now 40, also attended Old Dominion in the 90's and had the chance to know her as I did. Shirley may no longer be here in body but she will remain in the hearts and minds of those whom she loved and those who loved her. I am most fortunate to have been among that group. I will truly miss her. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Joseph T Crowder - April 04, 2020 at 06:57 PM

CB

Joseph-Thanks for sharing theses memories of my aunt. She loved her former students at ODU.

Cheryl Bellamy - April 06, 2020 at 10:04 AM

MM

“ Aunt Shirley, You were the Best. You came from a lineage of Great Women (Grandma, Aunt Mae) and You carried on and passed that on to the rest of Your Family. You were the Best. Rest in Peace, You deserve it. Love Malik

Malik Muhammad - March 31, 2020 at 12:36 AM

WP

“ I will always think of staying with Mary Shirley in Queens, New York in 1964 for the Worlds Fair. Thank GOD for her time here and the LOVE she had and shared with family and friends. Mary Shirley, GOD bless your soul and you look so peaceful today as you rest in GOD's arms.

Wayne Person (cousin)

Wayne Person - March 30, 2020 at 05:49 PM

RJ

To: The Family of Ms Jacobs: it was touching to hear of the passing of Ms Jacobs who was commonly called Mary Shirley she will be sorely missed but for us the believers earth has no sorrow that heaven can not heal Oh, yes, Mary did what all of us must one day do and as it is contained in the scriptures for us to live is Christ but to die is far better (Philippians 1:21)So Mary is now at a better place humbly submitted
Rev Samuel L Buck Jr Pastor-Taylors Chappel A M E Zion Church
Alberta Va

Rev Samuel L Buck Jr - March 30, 2020 at 07:30 PM

VC

“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



vikki Carr - March 29, 2020 at 04:42 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Mary S. Cunningham.



March 29, 2020 at 11:06 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Mary S. Cunningham.



March 29, 2020 at 10:49 AM



“ *BEVERLY & BILLY BROWN & Family* purchased the *Pretty Please* for the family of Mary S. Cunningham.



BEVERLY & BILLY BROWN & Family - March 28, 2020 at 07:37 PM



“ *Rose Garden Heart* was purchased for the family of Mary S. Cunningham.



March 28, 2020 at 06:38 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of *Mary S. Cunningham*.



March 28, 2020 at 06:05 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Mary S. Cunningham*.



March 28, 2020 at 05:59 PM



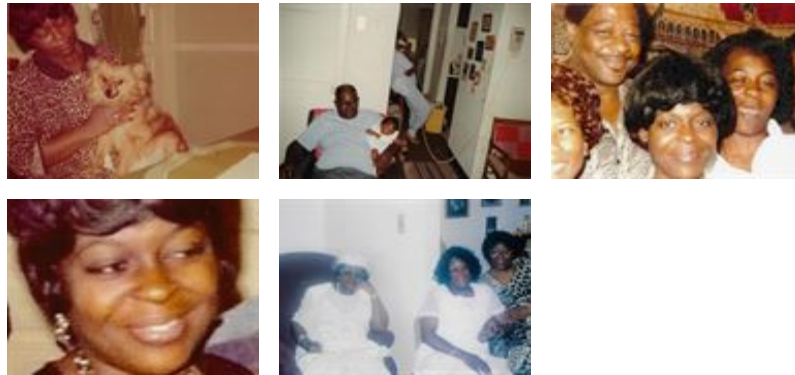
“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Mary S. Cunningham*.



March 27, 2020 at 09:49 PM



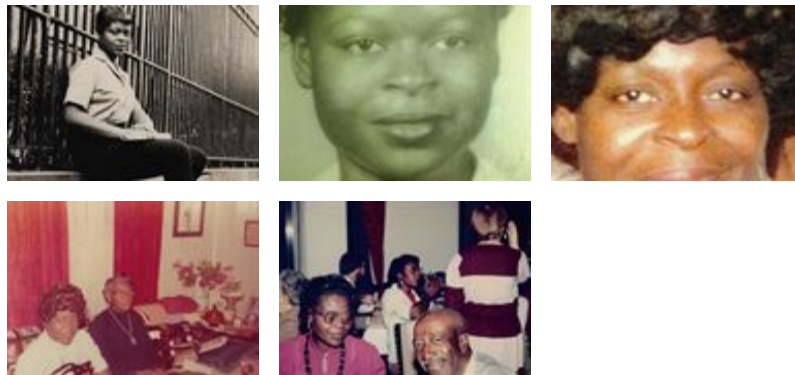
“ 10 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - March 27, 2020 at 09:36 PM



“ 19 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - March 27, 2020 at 08:38 PM