

From the Cradle to the Grave
Our Legacy of Love and Hope

A Collection of African American Funeral Programs

1958-2005

Lynn Shetrephris Springfield

March 31, 1981 to Sept. 21, 2000

Sunrise on March 31, 1981 was a time for celebration. Lynn Shetrephris Springfield made her grand debut into the world on this day. The proud parents, Estella Tisdale and Mark Wayne Springfield, could not wait to take her home and introduce her to the rest of the family at home "in the country."

While Lynn's family was celebrating her birth, another family in Washington was anxiously awaiting news of their family member. Just the day before Lynn was born, President Ronald Reagan was shot and wounded by John Hinckley as he was leaving the Washington Hilton Hotel where he had just addressed the union convention. It was coincidence that both families spent time at the hospital around the same time.

"Lynnie," as she was sometimes called by family members and friends, spent the next 15 years living, learning and playing with her brothers and sisters; Mark Wayne Jr., Lorne, Leslie and Sharika. Later in life, she met her half-sisters and brother, Monique,

Chenile, Tamekia and Mark Wayne II. Her mother remembers her as “real friendly” and as child who was “no trouble at all.”

A normal student who loved school, Lynn had “never been sick a day in her life,” her mother said. However, one day she did get sick.

“It started with a cold,” said Tisdale. “Next thing we knew, Lynn had pneumonia in both lungs.”

A trip to Le Bonhuer Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., resulted in a month stay for Lynn as doctors battled to put a name to whatever it was ailing her.

Tisdale remembered the doctors saying that her daughter had Cryptococcus meningitis. Cryptococcus is a pulmonary infection that is usually asymptomatic; however, a majority of cases in the United States occur in HIV-infected persons.

“Lynn couldn’t understand how she got sick,” said Tisdale.

“Lynn liked ROTC and computers. She wanted to build and work on them when she got out of school,” said Tisdale during a telephone interview.

Lynn never got the chance to get her 2nd Lt’s bars or work on computers after getting out of school because she passed away a few months after graduation.

“She wasn’t able to walk because she was bed ridden. She had a home bound teacher and was given her diploma,” said Tisdale.

From the time she was 15 until she passed away, Tisdale remembered Lynn trying to stay positive in the face of adversity.

“I kinda took it real hard when Lynn got sick, but I learned to deal with it,” she said.

The family tried to get Lynn’s spirits high when she was in the hospital by bringing compact discs and stuffed animals to brighten up her room. Tisdale said Lynn’s favorite song was the “Macarena” and she loved to eat pepperoni pizza and hot wings covered in ranch dressing.

Toward the end, Lynn spent her last days with the family in hospice care.

“There were a couple of times when we almost lost her but she managed to hang on a little while longer,” said Tisdale. “She had been bed-ridden for so long. It got to the point that she lost voice...she couldn’t talk or walk. She would just look at us with her eyes opened.”

The Springfield family managed to keep their spirits high in light of Lynn’s illness. However, the day before her brother Lorne’s birthday, Lynn could no longer continue the battle the illness that had robbed her of her vitality. She passed quietly in her home, where she had been in hospices care. Lynn was surrounded by her loving family as she departed this life.