

Celebration of Life

For



Chief Sandrell Rivers
"Gbesiwu of Badagry"

Sunrise: August 10, 1947

Sunset: January 1, 2010

Saturday, January 9, 2010
1:00 P.M.

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Brownsville
2799 NW 46th Street - Miami, Florida 33147

Rev. Larrie M. Lovett, II Officiating

Faith Funeral Home and Services, Inc. Directing

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Task left undone must stay that way
I am now at that peace as I close of this
day.

If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's
touch.



Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and share with me
God wanted me now, He has set me free!



A family that prays together, stays
together.

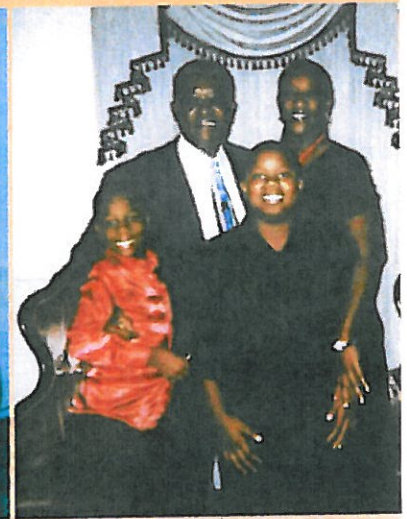
WE ARE FAMILY

Sandrell
We will always love you and
we will see you again!

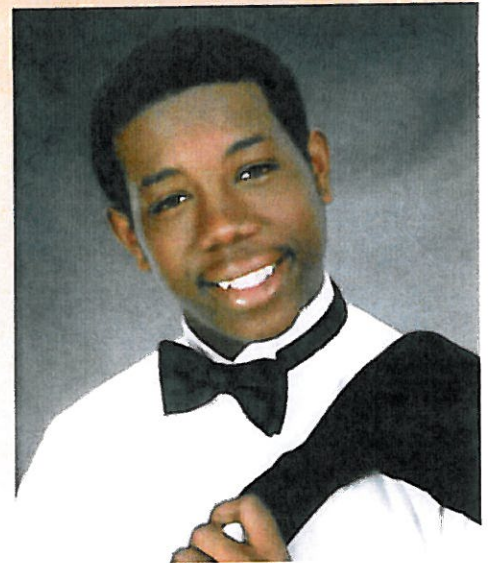
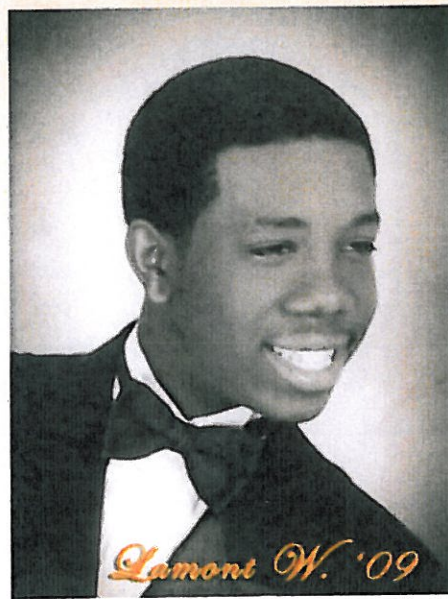




Chief Sandrell Rivers and mother Susie Rivers



We Love you Mom and
thank God for the time you were able to spend with us.
LaChandra Martha Whitaker



Lamont Joel Whitaker
Levon Micheal Whitaker
Lamar Cornealius Whitaker



Obituary

Sandrell Rivers left home, over 40 years ago, to pursue a career in theatre arts. As a multi-talented singer, dancer, and actress, she reached unparalleled heights. Her diverse background as a performer, director, and university professor led to a very exciting life style. She was truly a *Phenomenal Woman*. Sandrell, a rare and precious gem, was born in Miami, Florida on August 10, 1947 to Susie Rivers and the late John L. Rivers. Her early years were spent in Historic Overtown and Brownsville. At a young age she exhibited a creative and dramatic flair which was further cultivated by her Aunt Princess.

She was educated in Miami-Dade County Public Schools and graduated from Miami Northwestern Senior High School in 1965. Sandrell was a good student, and she also excelled in sports. She played a wicked game of softball but her passion was drama and dance. She was a true thespian. After graduation, she worked for two years as a long distance telephone operator for AT&T before going to Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Master of Science Degree in Speech, Theatre and Communication in June, 1970 and August, 1971, respectively.

Her career, like her, has been illuminating, exciting and very interesting. After receiving her Masters Degree, she started her professional career as Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Speech and Drama Department at Tennessee State University. She taught speech and drama courses, directed plays and supervised costume, make-up and administrative functions. From 1972 to 1981, she taught at Alabama State University (Montgomery, AL); Cleo Johnson School of Arts (Chicago, IL); Kennedy King College (Chicago, IL); Miami-Dade Community College (Miami, FL); and University of Miami (Miami, FL). In 1981, she started working for Miami-Dade County as a Technical Writer in the Budget Office and later accepted a position in the County Manager's Office as an Administrative Assistant where she was the Special Projects and Agenda Coordinator for the Board of County Commissioners. In 1988, desiring to return to her arts and theatre roots, she accepted a position with Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation Department. At her death, Sandrell was the Area-wide Arts Supervisor. Her aim was to bring the Arts to every park in Miami-Dade County thereby expanding every citizen's cultural experience and enjoyment of the arts.

During her career, Chief Rivers landed roles in stage plays, commercials, radio, television, and film. She also directed over 100 plays and produced numerous entertainment events over the years. Her work as a professional model, traveling abroad as an entertainer for a European U.S.O. Tour, as well as the extensive travel in Europe, the Caribbean, and Africa prepared her for leadership. In 2004, she was conferred with the title of a traditional African Chief - "Gbesiwu of Badagry" by His Majesty - King Akran of Badagry - De Wheno Aholu Menu Togi I, of Lagos State, Nigeria, in recognition of her outstanding community leadership, service and for her quest to reconnect African-Americans and the African Diaspora with the Motherland.

She is a "2000 African American Achiever" in the arts profession, and a recipient of the Pillars Award. She received numerous other awards and accolades, and she worked tirelessly as a community advocate and volunteer for numerous organizations, task forces, business and trade organizations, and coalitions which included: the Mayor's African Trade Task Force (1999-2002); African Reconnect Inc; Children's Cultural Coalition; Urban League of Greater Miami; Jay Malina International Trade Consortium (ITC), and Black Cultural Arts Coalition. Additionally, she was the President of the Rivers Group Corporation, a successful business entity, specializing in event planning and entertainment consultancy.

Sandrell accepted Christ as her Savior early in life and was a long time member and willing worker of Antioch Baptist Church of Brownsville. Under the leadership of the late Rev. James W. Stephenson, she served in the church as a member of the Stephenson Special Choir and worked to promote the art and culture aspects of the ministry.

Sandrell was the proud mother of two children, LaChandra Marthia Whitaker and Jevon Miki Lindsey whom she lovingly mentored and guided in all areas of her passion, the theatrical arts. Her family was so very important to her. In addition to her children, she is survived by her mother, Susie Rivers; brothers, John Mickey Rivers and Kim Rivers; sisters, Rena Jackson Young and Debra Roundtree; grandchildren, Lamont Joel Whitaker, Falonia Miki Lindsey, Sandrell Miki Lindsey, Levon Micheal Whitaker, Lamar Cornealius Whitaker, Joniva Miki Lindsey, and Christian Jarrod Lindsey; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends.

Order of Service

Rev. Larrie M. Lovett, II, Pastor, Officiating

Processional
Selection

"This Little Light of Mine"
Stepherson Special Choir
Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of
Brownsville

Invocation

Rev. Wayne G. Mason, Pastor
Prayer and Outreach Ministries

Scripture Reading

Old Testament - Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

New Testament - II Timothy 4: 1- 8

Rev. Charles Dinkens, Pastor
Hosanna Community Baptist Church

Selection

"That's Enough"

Stepherson Specials Choir

Tributes

Miami Dade County Park and Recreation Dept.

Jack Kardys, Director

Miami Northwestern Senior High School Class of 1965

Diaspora Arts Coalition, Inc

Shirley Richardson, President

Sunshine Jazz Organization

Keith Valles, President

Urban League of Greater Miami

T. Willard Fair, CEO

Africa Reconnect

Desmond Alufohi, Founding Member

As A Neighbor

Luis Sample

As A Close Friend

Dr. Bobby Jones

Recording Artist, Bobby Jones Gospel

Reflections from the Family

Solo

"His Eye is on the Sparrow"

Antonia Lewis

Resolutions and Special Presentations

Solo

Johnny Sanders

Recording Artist

Obituary (read silently to music)

Acknowledgements

Faith Funeral Home and Services

Selection

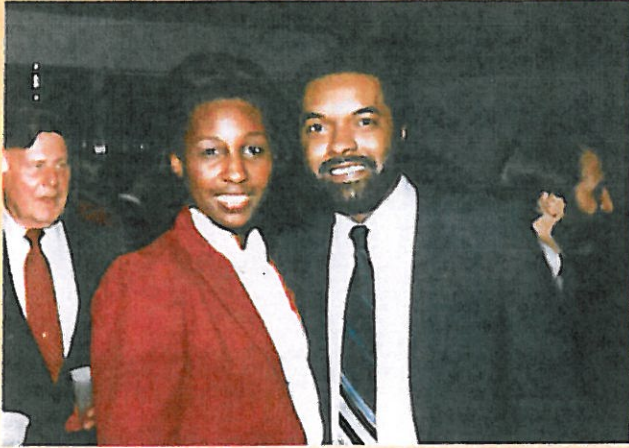
Stepherson Specials Choir

Eulogy

Rev. Dr. James Bush III

State Representative, District 109

Recessional



Mom, We love you... But we know God loves you best.

Rest in peace.

Jevon Miki Lindsey

Falonia Miki Lindsey, Sandrell Miki Lindsey, Joniva Miki Lindsey, and
Christian Jarrod Lindsey

"The righteous perisheth,
and no man layeth it to
heart: and merciful men
are taken away, none
considering that the
righteous is taken away
from the evil to come. He
shall enter into peace: they
shall rest in their beds,
each one walking in his
uprightness."

Isaiah 57: 1-2

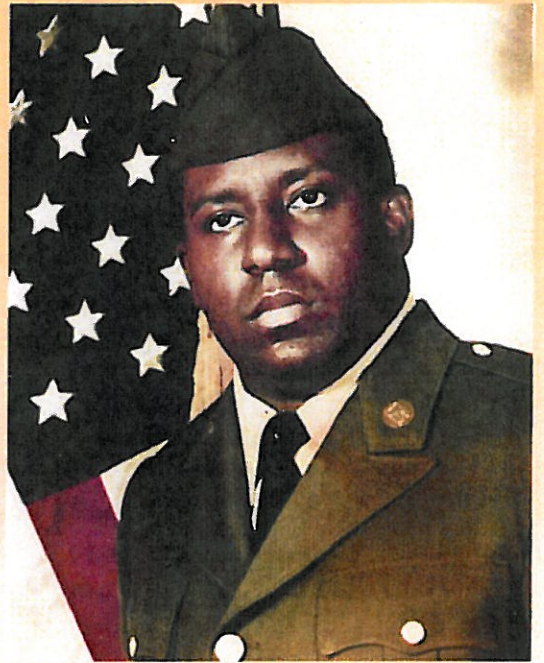


"For we know that if our
earthly house of this
tabernacle were dissolved,
we have building of God, a
house not made with hand,
eternal in the heavens. For
in this we groan, earnestly
desiring to be clothed
upon with our house which
is from heaven..."

2 Corinthians 5: 1-2




John Mickey Rivers



Kim Rivers



 MICKEY RIVERS OF
YANKEES





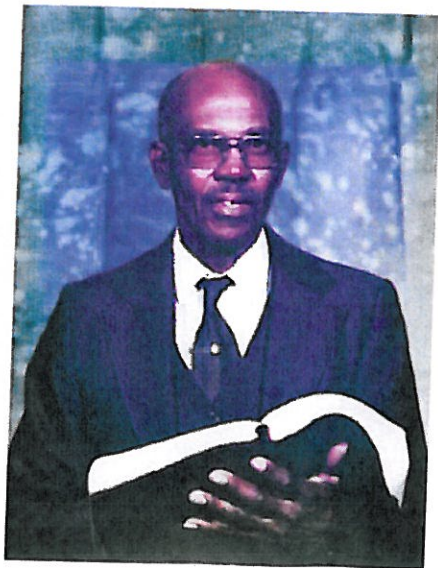
Rena Jackson Young

Debra Roundtree





Sandrell, you will
always be loved and
remembered.



Pallbearers

Johnson Odibi
Joshua Bush

Andre Montell
James Bush IV

Andre Payne
LeRio Holmes

Samuel Payne IV
Talmach White

Acknowledgments

The family expresses their thanks and appreciation to all who have extended their comfort during their period of bereavement. May God Bless each of you is our sincere prayer.

Special Thanks to:

Rev. Larrie M. Lovett, II and the
Antioch Missionary Baptist Church Family

Interment

Dade Memorial Park
1301 Opa-Locka Blvd. - Opa-Locka, Florida 33054

Repast

Joseph Caleb Center Room 110
5400 NW 22nd Avenue - Miami, Florida

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO

A SERVICE FAITHFULLY SERVED



Faith Funeral Home and Services

9150 NW 17th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33147

(305) 835-8422 Office - (305) 835-2788 Fax

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