



Shirley Ann Nettles

July 18, 1946 - December 31, 2024

The Beautiful Life of Shirley Ann Nettles

Shirley Ann Hunter was born on July 18, 1946, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to the late Reverend Earnest Hunter, Sr. and Mrs. Clara D. Hunter. She was the second oldest of her siblings: brothers Willie Hunter, Earnest Hunter Jr., Charles “Butch” Hunter, and sister Sharon Hunter-Wright. Although just ten years apart in age, Shirley adored her younger sister, treating her as if she were her own baby.

From an early age, Shirley's love for music blossomed. She attended Third Ward/Grace Love School, where she became the church pianist for her father's congregation during that time. At Rowan High School, Shirley played the trumpet and French horn with pride, and she graduated with the class of 1964. Shirley cherished her lifelong friendships with her classmates and stayed connected with them throughout her life.

Shirley pursued higher education at Dillard University in New Orleans and William Carey University in Hattiesburg. She also supported her mother by teaching and driving for East Side Kindergarten. Shirley was a trailblazer, breaking barriers as the first Black employee at Zon Dell Gardens Market and courageously supporting the Civil Rights Movement by housing and transporting activists.

In 1969, Shirley moved to Detroit, Michigan, where she began her long and fulfilling career in healthcare. She joined Henry Ford Hospital, where she worked for 42 years, retiring in 2011. Most notably, she served as an operating

room technician in labor and delivery, helping bring tens of thousands of babies into the world.

In 1976, Shirley met Samuel Nettles, the love of her life. They married just six months after meeting, beginning a life together built on love, respect, and understanding. Shirley and Sam often said they never had an argument, a reflection of the strong bond they shared. Sam had a way of making every special occasion unforgettable, always going the extra mile. In 1983, their family grew with the birth of their miracle baby, Jonathan Juakeen Nettles, completing their family alongside Shirley's beloved bonus daughter, Antoinette "Peaches".

Shirley's faith was central to her life. She spent multiple decades as a dedicated member of Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, where she served as a nurse and Sunday school teacher. In 2001, when Sam was installed as pastor of Mt. Sion Missionary Baptist Church, Shirley embraced her role as First Lady with grace and humility. She continued teaching Sunday school and was later honored with the title of Church Mother.

Shirley radiated joy and warmth, greeting everyone with a big smile and hug. She especially loved celebrating birthdays, whether her own or others, treating each one as a unique moment to bring joy and love. She loved capturing life's special moments through photos

and videos, making those around her feel loved and valued. She was an avid Facebook user, keeping in touch with friends and family, and her thoughtful comments and reactions made others feel deeply connected.

Shirley embraced her role as "Nanna" with boundless love and devotion, creating joyful and cherished memories with her grandchildren. She found immense joy in their laughter and milestones, always pouring her heart into making them feel special and deeply loved. Her nurturing spirit extended to her family, particularly her sister Sharon, whom she cared for with tenderness and unwavering support during her illness. Shirley also shared a special bond with her close nephews, Steven and Timothy Hunter, whom she lovingly

helped nurture and guide as they grew up.

On December 31, 2024, Shirley was called home to the Lord after a two-year battle fought with unwavering faith & strength. She passed peacefully, surrounded by her loving husband, Sam, and son, Jonathan.

Shirley is preceded in death by her parents, Reverend Earnest Hunter, Sr. and Mrs. Clara D. Hunter; brothers Willie and Earnest Jr.; and sister Sharon.

She leaves to cherish her memory her devoted husband, Pastor Samuel Nettles; cherished son, Jonathan (Dora) Nettles; stepdaughter, Antoinette "Peaches" Weaver; brother, Charles "Butch" Hunter; grandchildren, Torrence Weaver, Camden Weaver, Kamryn Nettles, Carrington Nettles, and Ethan Nettles; special friend and sister in Christ, Kiba Abney; church family at Mt. Sion Missionary Baptist Church; and a host of nieces, nephews, friends, and loved ones.

Shirley's life was a testament to love, service, and joy. Her legacy will live on in the hearts of those who were blessed to know her.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 10. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd
Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 702-5367
info@kempfh.com
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

Family Hour

JAN 11. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church
6729 Strong St.
Detroit, MI 48211

Funeral Service

JAN 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church
6729 Strong St.
Detroit, MI 48211

Tribute Wall

NB

“ My condolences to the Nettles and Hunter families in your loss. May you find peace and comfort in precious memories of her life. LJ Rowan Class of 1964 members will truly miss her phone ministry of caring and sharing💜



Nell Brown Boles - January 11, 2025 at 10:49 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Shirley Ann Nettles.

January 10, 2025 at 11:52 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Shirley Ann Nettles.



January 10, 2025 at 11:52 AM

DD

“ Dr. D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Ann Nettles.

Dr. D. - January 10, 2025 at 11:18 AM

LA

“ Larry, Tampa & Bettye Ann purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Shirley Ann Nettles.



Larry, Tampa & Bettye Ann - January 09, 2025 at 05:10 PM

SB

“ We will miss your laugh, looking at the family pictures you would share, and listening to your family stories and memories. We love you. Rest in peace.

Love, Stacy, Barbara and your family in California

Stacy Baines - January 09, 2025 at 02:16 PM

BF

“ Barbara, Stacy and your California Family purchased the *Full Of Love Bouquet* for the family of Shirley Ann Nettles.



Barbara, Stacy and your California Family - January 09, 2025 at 02:13 PM

TB

“ Thunie (Nellie), Erma and B.J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Ann Nettles.

Thunie (Nellie), Erma and B.J. - January 09, 2025 at 01:53 PM

TB

“ Thunie (Nellie), Erma and B.J. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Shirley Ann Nettles.



Thunie (Nellie), Erma and B.J. - January 09, 2025 at 01:53 PM

DR

“ Dwight and Del Reese purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Shirley Ann Nettles.



Dwight and Del Reese - January 09, 2025 at 01:52 PM

CF

“ Chris Burke and frat purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Shirley Ann Nettles.



Chris Burke and frat - January 09, 2025 at 07:54 AM

CF

“ Chris Burke and frat planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Ann Nettles.

Chris Burke and frat - January 09, 2025 at 07:54 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Shirley Ann Nettles.

January 06, 2025 at 08:48 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Shirley Ann Nettles.



January 06, 2025 at 08:48 PM



“ I met Shirley when I was a very little girl. She was the daughter of my Kindergarten Teacher. Shirley always had a kind nature and a beautiful smile. Her sweetness was simply part of her nature.

Betty Clements - January 06, 2025 at 01:58 PM



I'm really going to miss my beautiful friend we met at Henry Ford Hospital where we both worked and always remain friends we text all the time and called each other you, Carol and I we had that bond . Rest in peace my friend and to the family, God will wrap his arms around you all and keep you strong 🙏 Darline

Darline - January 08, 2025 at 03:35 PM

AW

“ Mama Shirley we go way back 🥰. I appreciate all of the love and life’s lessons you poured into me as a little girl well into adulthood. You are forever loved and will definitely be missed. And always will be My Mama Shirley. Love ❤️ Antoinette



Antoinette (Culler) Weaver - January 06, 2025 at 10:09 AM

TC

“ Tuckaseegee Recreation Center planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Ann Nettles.

Tuckaseegee Recreation Center - January 06, 2025 at 09:26 AM

TC

“ Tuckaseegee Recreation Center purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Shirley Ann Nettles.



Tuckaseegee Recreation Center - January 06, 2025 at 09:26 AM

LE

“ Love The Thomas Girls (Erika & Elissa) purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Shirley Ann Nettles.



Love The Thomas Girls (Erika & Elissa) - January 04, 2025 at 07:09 PM

FF

“ Frento Burton & Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Shirley Ann Nettles.



Frento Burton & Family - January 04, 2025 at 04:02 PM

JD

“ Jacqueline D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Ann Nettles.

Jacqueline D. - January 03, 2025 at 02:10 PM

JD

“ Jacqueline D. purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Shirley Ann Nettles.



Jacqueline D. - January 03, 2025 at 02:10 PM

JD

“ Jacqueline D. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Ann Nettles.

Jacqueline D. - January 03, 2025 at 01:34 PM

BH

“ Bonnie Copeland & Charles Hunter purchased the Caring Condolences Gift Basket for the family of Shirley Ann Nettles.



Bonnie Copeland & Charles Hunter - January 03, 2025 at 11:38 AM

BH

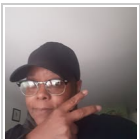
“ Bonnie Copeland & Charles Hunter planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Ann Nettles.

Bonnie Copeland & Charles Hunter - January 03, 2025 at 11:38 AM

BC

“ I met Shirley when she visited her brother Charles, sister Sharon, and her son in Charlotte, NC. Shirley was sooo friendly, beautiful, loving and clearly a Christian. What an EARTHLY TREASURE who is now a HEAVENLY ANGEL who will be missed immensely.

Bonnie Copeland - January 03, 2025 at 11:14 AM



“ Sister Nettles was one of the sweetest women I have met always had a pleasant smile and a nice word I know God opened his arms to you Love you Sis Nettles and R.I.P



Angela Mallett - January 03, 2025 at 01:22 AM

MW

Sister nettles was so kind and always had a smile on her face I will miss her I love her get your rest

Marsha White - January 08, 2025 at 06:58 PM

PD

“*Shirley was such a sweet and caring cousin who would always find the time to check on her family she will be dearly missed we are praying with you for comfort and strength love you all*”



Pamela Dillard - January 02, 2025 at 09:38 PM