



## Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford

January 11, 1948 - January 6, 2023

WHITESTOWN – Mrs. Cleola “Coby” (Washington) Crawford, age 74, went home to the Lord on Friday, January 6, 2023, after a faithful and rewarding life. At the time she entered eternal rest, she was surrounded by her family. Born in Utica on January 11, 1948, Cleola was the daughter of the late Ernest James and Mamie Lee (Lane) Washington. She attended Potter Elementary School, Kernan Middle School, and in 1966 she graduated from Utica Free Academy High School. On April 3, 1965 she was united in marriage to Earl F. Crawford. When they were younger, Earl was amazed by her maternal instincts from the way he saw her tend to children. An altruistic attribute that lasted the test of time! Coby and Earl were bonded by love, family, and the concern for each other’s needs. Their reciprocal respect and regard made their marriage remarkable and memorable.

After raising their three children, and caring for her home, Coby gained employment as a waitress at the iconic Wolfie’s Restaurant in downtown Utica, and subsequently she worked at K-Mart, Price Chopper as Night Manager at the Mohawk Street location, and lastly at Oneida National Bank/Fleet Bank as a Customer Service Representative at their Horatio Street location. She then began to care for her beloved elders of the family, a labor of love, and a benefit to generations beyond.

As a friend, Coby was a faithful treasure, but do not cross her! Although she had a direct and dry sense of humor, she delivered a rousing rebuttal to which her husband would grant her a touché for her clever comment! As a mother,

she was very protective of her boys from their youth to her last day; her stamina and stance never wavered.

Coby always carried red and white star mints and strawberry candies in her purse to achieve her method of calming a child. Her kids always remembered her presence at their sporting events, whether near or far from home. She loved attending their games and was proud when they made a good play, but never appreciated when a defensive play was deployed against them.

Memorable times included camping in their trailer, with fishing poles for all. Coby's routine was to have one of the boys bait her hook, cast the rod, and if a nibble came along, one of the other kids would retrieve her line, ...and she called that fishing! At home in her kitchen, her signature dishes included potato salad, dressing, spaghetti and sauce, and pound cake ~ good comfort foods that pleased everyone's palate. Pepsi Cola was her beverage of choice, and whenever she would visit anyone, they made sure they had it available for her.

Coby was a classy dresser, a trait she inherited from her mom, and shopping was a favorite pastime and passion for her. She was a prominent "QVC queen" and purchased shoes and hats galore ~ she still had many outfits with price tags still attached. Whenever they shopped in a mall, she and her husband would walk alongside each other engaged in conversation, and all of a sudden she would be "missing in action" only to be found in a shoe store! A warm and welcoming hostess, Coby cherished celebrating holidays at her home with loved ones, in-laws, and anyone who needed the joy of company and a place at her table. A hospitable host, she welcomed all with open arms. She was raised up in St. Paul's Baptist Church where the Lord's love and teachings all began, and her Christian experience was formed. Coby was a missionary, outreaching to ease pain and sending meals and love to families in need. She also assisted in food preparation and served at the Hope House; she was truly blessed with compassion in her heart for others. A devout parishioner of St. Paul's Baptist Church, Sundays were set aside for church services, a long held religious devotion she shared with her husband. It is only

women like her, who lived their life grounded in the Lord that could find the time to be others-centered, and do His good work.

Cleola is survived by her cherished husband, Earl, Sr.; her three sons and their wives, Earl F. Jr. and Karen Crawford, of Deland, FL. Bruce G. Sr. and Audrey Crawford, of Glenn Burnie, MD and Michael Sr. and Jennifer Crawford. Coby was so proud of the wonderful women her sons had married, and although daughters-in-law, they shared in a relationship with Coby as if they were her daughters. Precious to her were each of her grandchildren, Earl F. III and Amanda Crawford, Jessica and Elio Vega, William and Erin Crawford; Jenelle Crawford, and Bruce G. Crawford Jr.; Ashley Crawford, Shanté Washington and fiancé Hubert Ouyia, and Brianna Crawford; and the memory of her infant grandsons, Michael Keith Crawford, Jr., and Dominick Michael Crawford who preceded her and with whom she is now reunited in heaven. She also leaves her adored great-grandbabies, Earl F. Crawford, IV; Cameron Crawford, Capree Walton, and Cai'Lyna Walton; KaMiah Ouyia, and Karmello Ouyia; a sister, Carolyn Washington; of Broken Arrow, OK, sisters-in-law, Diane Washington, of Cortlandt, NY; Dorothy Haynes, Stephanie Tullis-Washington, of Smyrna, GA and Carol Washington; of Kinston, NC. her siblings who preceded her, Ernesteen and Charlie Mitchell, Arthur J. Washington, Walter Washington, Nathaniel Washington, Eddie C. Washington; brother-in-law, Will Walker; and her late brother-in-law, Otis Matthews. She will also be remembered by a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces and nephews; cousins; and in-laws, Shirl and Earl Myers of Harrisburg, PA.

The family extends sincere thanks to the physicians and nursing staff at MVHS at St. Luke's Campus who were very kind and personable, especially Claudia and Ele who were outstanding. Gratitude is also extended to Pastor Marilyn Bell for her spiritual solace and uplifting prayers; and the many who prayed for Cleola and her family and sent well-wishes to her.

Visitation will be held on Friday, January 13, 2023 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. St.

Paul's Baptist Church, 219 Leah Street, Utica. Cleola's Home Going Service and Celebration of Life will commence at 5:00 p.m. immediately upon conclusion of visitation. Those unable to attend may be present for the services virtually on Zoom; Meeting ID: 835-638-95-256, Passcode: 179797.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 13. 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Baptist Church  
219 Leah Street  
Utica, NY

## Home Going Service

JAN 13. 5:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Baptist Church  
219 Leah Street  
Utica, NY

# Tribute Wall

ML

“*Mary Griffin Landry lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford*



Mary Griffin Landry - January 19, 2023 at 09:42 PM

MB

“*Maureen Saunders Barnes lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford*



Maureen Saunders Barnes - January 13, 2023 at 05:53 PM



“*Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford.*



January 12, 2023 at 10:39 PM

MF

“*MCDC-Records Office (Your work family) purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford.*



MCDC-Records Office (Your work family) - January 12, 2023 at 03:50 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford.*



January 12, 2023 at 11:41 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford.*



January 11, 2023 at 08:22 PM



“ *George, Burnell, and Chris Seals purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford.*



**George, Burnell, and Chris Seals** - January 11, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford.*



January 11, 2023 at 07:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford.*



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January 11, 2023 at 06:36 PM



“ *Robert Wells Jr purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford.*



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**Robert Wells Jr** - January 11, 2023 at 02:42 PM



“ *Sonya Voss-Baugh lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford*



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**Sonya Voss-Baugh** - January 11, 2023 at 09:20 AM



“ *Earle, may the empty space in your heart overflow with the many pleasant memories created together over the many years of companionship. I send my sincere condolences to you and all of the loved ones of Cleola...Prayers.*

*Ernest Jones,  
Syracuse, NY*

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**Ernest Jones** - January 11, 2023 at 08:06 AM

AB

“ Sending my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mrs. Crawford. I remember her sweet spirit. RIP



Alberta Bell - January 10, 2023 at 10:30 PM



“ Love and heartfelt sadness to hear of Cleola's death. I worked and became good friends when working at Price Chopper. Thinking of you Earl and your beautiful family.



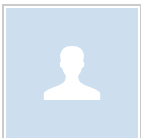
Janis Marchitelli - January 10, 2023 at 09:11 PM

JH

“ Judy Hodges lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford



Judy Hodges - January 10, 2023 at 07:42 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford.



January 10, 2023 at 02:49 PM

JS

“ *Earl and Family, Please accept my deepest sympathy over the death of your beloved wife. She lived a beautiful life and will be missed by many.*  
*Jacquelyn Schmidt*



Jacquelyn Schmidt - January 10, 2023 at 10:55 AM

RW

“ *To the Crawford Family. I am so sorry for your loss. I have so many fond memories that I will cherish. Please know that my heart is broken as well. Remember she is not gone, she just went ahead to prepare her loving heavenly home. Mr Crawford, Bruce, Michael, and my son Earl, and the Crawford family, I love you all.*

Rhonda Wells - January 10, 2023 at 09:21 AM

MW

*Our deepest sympathy to the family. We are so sorry for your loss. May God grant you all comfort and peace at this difficult time. Robert and Mary Wells.*

Mary/Robert Wells - January 12, 2023 at 05:30 PM

RW

“ *Rhonda Wells lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford*



Rhonda Wells - January 10, 2023 at 09:15 AM

MJ

“ On behalf of the Jackson family, we extend our sincere condolences to the entire Crawford family. Growing up on High Street, we remember the kindness and sweetness of Mrs Crawford. May she Rest In Peace and may God carry her family through this difficult time.

Mona Jackson-Avery - January 09, 2023 at 07:24 PM

CS

“ The Slade family would like to send our condolence to your family. May you hold your loved one near at this time of this great loss.  
Cslade



Cynthia Slade - January 09, 2023 at 07:07 PM

DW

“ Earl and family, I'm so sorry for the loss of Cleola . Such a beautiful lady. May she Rest In Peace. Sending prayers of comfort.



Dawn Winston - January 09, 2023 at 04:33 PM

BF

“ Brenda L Fudge lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford



brenda l fudge - January 09, 2023 at 03:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Cleola "Coby" (Washington) Crawford.



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January 09, 2023 at 02:25 PM