



Mrs. Melvina "Mel" (Reed) Adams

September 17, 1939 - January 10, 2024

UTICA – Mrs. Melvina Adams “Mel”, age 84, with family by her side, went peacefully home to the Lord on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. Born September 17, 1939, in Pompano Beach, FL, Melvina was the daughter of the late Fred Reed, Sr. and Emma Lou (Brown) Reed. As a young child, her family migrated to Utica to be closer to her grandparents and relatives. Melvina attended Wetmore Street Elementary and T.R. Proctor High School. In 1957, she enrolled in Buffalo State Teacher’s College to study art.

Melvina met Burnie Adams before college, and after she graduated, they were blissfully wed on July 27, 1963. They had a blessed union and shared over 57 years before Burnie’s passing on December 7, 2020. As a couple, they were known for their kindness and generosity

Mel began her long career teaching art in 1961 at Staley, Clough, and Dewitt Elementary Schools in Rome, New York. She was a creative and innovative teacher who inspired her students and was well-remembered by those who were in her classes. She retired in 1999.

Melvina was an artist, and her beautiful artwork will be a lasting legacy. She painted still life, nature scenes, and charcoal paintings of human forms. She was a member of the Munson Williams Proctor Art Institute, where her drawings and beautiful handmade paper books with black culture themes

were exhibited. Sculpture Space was one of her passions and she also supported Pratt Munson College of Art and Design.

Above all, her family became the masterpiece of her life. Melvina truly lived by the golden rule and was a wonderful mother to her sons and grandsons. Aunt Mel nourished a loving and influential relationship with her nieces and nephews. She saw great potential in them, and helped them to see the potential in themselves.

Melvina was a long-time member of St. Paul's Baptist Church. This community of faith was her second home. Mel was the art director for many of the church's events. She taught Sunday School to many generations of the young members of the parish. Many will remember the Easter Pageants where Mel delighted in designing and creating the stage scenery.

Melvina is survived by her sons, Bryan Reed Adams and his wife, Florence Barrau-Adams, and Jason Christopher Adams; she treasured the memory of her stepdaughter, Laverne who preceded her; she will be lovingly remembered by her grandchildren, Maxen Burnard Adams; and Jalen Deshawn Adams. She will remain in the hearts of her siblings and their loves, Fred Reed, Jr. and his wife Carla Sorey-Reed, Margaret Reed-Shelton and Eugene, and Darlene Reed Shelton and her late husband Bernard Lee Shelton; many nieces and nephews, including Thomas Michael Reed and Jacqueline Morgan, Richard Malcolm Reed and his wife, Aleve, Roderick Reed, Nirvana Cobb-Jewell, Xavier Louis Reed; Marlene Reed-Hymes and her son, Jermar Reed Hymes; godson, Jeffrey McLeod; several aunts, uncles, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and in-laws, Hazel Strange (and the late Earl Strange), Mary Lou Henderson, Burma "Brenda" Adams and Eddie, Willis and Pearlina Adams, John Adams, and Andrew Bowles (and the late Delia Mae Bowles).. She was preceded in death by her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Burnie, Sr., and Essie (Mobley) Adams.

The family found comfort from the staff of Slocum-Dickson Medical Center. Aides who assisted Mel with kindness and trustworthiness, Yasmine and Lejuana. Their gentle and compassionate care of Melvina impressed her family, and they are forever grateful. The staff of the former MVHS at St. Elizabeth Hospital, MVHS Rehabilitation, Wynn Hospital, especially the 7th floor; each of these facilities had nurses and staff that were outstanding. A special note of appreciation is offered to Aide Clive (Wynn Hospital). During the final stages of Melvina's life, the care given by the staff of the Abraham House was compassionate and provided great comfort.

Visitation will take place on Friday, January 19, 2024, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Baptist Church, 219 Leah St., Utica, NY. Melvina's Home Going Service, and Celebration of Life will commence at noon at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Melvina's honor may be made to the Abraham House online at www.theabrahamhouse.org; envelopes will also be available at the service.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida St
Utica, NY 13501-6006
(315) 735-2701

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 19. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

JAN 19. 12:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

KM

“ We will always remember Mrs Melvina kindness and love she had for everyone. Our deepest condolences 🌸. The family is in our thoughts and prayers.

keith and angela webb southaven ms. - January 19, 2024 at 12:13 PM

LC

“ She had a kind beautiful soul. Rest in Peace Mrs Adams. Sending our deepest condolences and love. Warmack/Clark Family



Luwan Clark - January 19, 2024 at 10:40 AM

DH

“ Melvina was a wonderful person. Always smiling and considerate of others. I remember always her and Margaret very well from St. Paul's church. She will be truly missed.

Dorothy Holloway - January 19, 2024 at 08:28 AM

BR

I know this may be late, but I was looking for Mel as we were classmates at Buffalo State. She was a special person. So sorry I did not connect with her sooner. You all have my sympathy!

Brenda Rinehart - May 04 at 08:13 AM

DD

“ Margaret, My deepest sympathies to you, Gene and family. Dona

Dona Dawes - January 19, 2024 at 08:04 AM

JA

“ *My memory of aunt Mel is when I would come over and she would make me quiche and I eat it all the time now. Im going to miss her smile until we meet aagain SIP love you*
Jackee Reed



Jacqueline - January 18, 2024 at 07:24 PM

CA

“ *Carolyn purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Melvina "Mel" (Reed) Adams.*



Carolyn - January 18, 2024 at 06:29 PM

BT

“ *Beulah Reed Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Melvina "Mel" (Reed) Adams*



Beulah Reed Taylor - January 18, 2024 at 06:11 PM

TF

“ *Sending our depest condolences to the Adams and Reed families. Mel shared her heart through her smile with everyone she encountered. She will be missed but I am thankful for the wonderful memories she leaves us with. Her carrot cake was legendary!*

The Jean-Louis Family - January 18, 2024 at 12:50 PM

TF

The Jean-Louis Family

The Jean-Louis Family - January 18, 2024 at 12:51 PM

BT

As long as there are memories, LOVE Lives On...Mel's kindness, lovely smile and Caring soul will be missed...We enjoyed the laughter and fun we had while visiting with her in Utica and Florida....With Much Sadness...Reed Cousins from Pompano Beach, Florida

Beulah Reed Taylor - January 18, 2024 at 05:52 PM

MB

“ *Please accept our heartfelt and most sincere sympathy on the passing of Mel. She was a beautiful, talented and gracious woman who was loved, admired and respected by all who knew her. May all of your wonderful memories comfort you during this difficult time.*

Sincerely,

Bob & Maggie Beck

Margaret Beck - January 18, 2024 at 09:25 AM

JO

“ *Oh, I can hear that beautiful laugh. It was a pleasure and honor to work with Mel at Clough. Her sweet potato pies were the best. May her family find comfort in the numerous joyfilled memories shared with her. My sincere sympathy and prayers.*

Joan Lomery

Joanlomery - January 17, 2024 at 07:40 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Melvina "Mel" (Reed) Adams.



January 17, 2024 at 04:10 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Melvina "Mel" (Reed) Adams.



January 17, 2024 at 10:37 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Melvina "Mel" (Reed) Adams.



January 17, 2024 at 06:58 AM



“ *Lisa W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Melvina "Mel" (Reed) Adams.*

Lisa W. - January 16, 2024 at 07:36 PM

JF

“ *Sending Our Prayers & Condolences For The Family*



Jackson Workman & Prince Families - January 16, 2024 at 05:01 PM

ED

“ *Mrs. Adam's,
Thank you ma'am for the sleep overs. Thank you for Drop offs and pickups from school games and events.
And for being the best Sunday School Teacher Saint Paul's Baptist Church ever had.
You walked us high schoolers into adult hood. Thanks so much. You are truly, deeply and dearly missed.*



With greatest sympathy and the mightiest prayers

We love you,

Eddie Duhart

With the greatest warmest regards,

The Duhart Family

Eddie Duhart - January 15, 2024 at 02:17 PM

EF

*To the Adams Family
Sorry for your loss Mrs Adams and her husband were very dear friends
to me and and my family we all grew up together RIP dear friend you
will really be missed
Ezel & Mary Hawkins
Family*

EZEL & Mary Hawkins and family - January 16, 2024 at 07:25 AM

SM

“ *Mel can only be remembered as loving, kind, compassionate, and
many other positive adjectives and she had such a calming
demeanor. May God comfort her family and let the angels rejoice!*

Shirl Myers - January 14, 2024 at 10:52 PM

DW

“ *Mel Mrs. Adams was a beautiful gracious
woman. Always had a smile on her face.
Condolences to the Adams family and the
Reed family. Sending prayers to the families.*



Dawn Winston - January 14, 2024 at 03:49 PM



“Where do I begin? Mrs. Adams has been part of my life for as long as I've been alive. She's family. She was one of my favorite Sunday school teachers, and was definitely instrumental in the influencing of the young people of my generation and also our children. Her Smile, her soft spirit, and her grace were unmatched. Her voice could immediately make you smile. I fondly remember all of the Easter pageant costumes. She crafted and fitted for us. We were in awe of her talent and how all of these costumes just seemed to appear effortlessly. She was a jewel among the many people I've known in my life. I will miss seeing her and her husband sitting, talking on their porch each day on my way to and from work, as I drove past the house. She will be greatly missed . Her life? Job absolutely well done.



Tracy Goodman - January 13, 2024 at 04:02 PM

EB

Evelyn Bowens

Melvina was a true servant of God. She would always greet you with a smile. There is a wall hanging in front of the sanctuary at St. Paul's church, that was crafted by Ms. Adams it quotes "Enter to worship and Leave to serve", now this message is clearly the life all believers can pattern their life after. Rest in peace, woman of God.

Evelyn Bowens - January 13, 2024 at 06:28 PM

SH

Sandra Bowens-Howard

Mrs. Melvina Adams was a treasure in my life. She was instrumental in helping me get my first job after completing college at our beloved alma mater, Buff State. She would give me a ride to work if my car broke down. Melvina had a smile that lit up a room and always loved talking about her children. I still use the recipe she gave me for meatloaf. She was a gifted artist and always treated others with kindness at church and at work . I remember her infectious laughter in the teacher's lounge at Jerry Clough Elementary School. She will be missed by all who knew her. Truly her soul has been anchored in the Lord and she will be at rest with our heavenly Father.

Sandra Howard - January 14, 2024 at 09:16 AM

CP

“ *We are so very to hear of the passing of Mrs. Adams. Mel was a sweet, and always smiling lady. We knew her through the Rome school district. Our thoughts and prayers go to her family. Margaret Reed-Shelton, we are sending you hugs so very sorry for you loss. Vin and Cissy Pastorella and daughters Marianne and Amy .*

cissy pastorella - January 13, 2024 at 12:55 PM

RP

“ *Sorry for the loss of your love one. I use to babysit for her son when her and Bernie went out. Mel was a beautiful lady inside and out. God bless her.*



Roseann Pearson-Simmons - January 13, 2024 at 10:14 AM

BT

As long as there are memories..LOVE LIVES ON...God bless our cousins Margaret, Darlene, Fred Reed Jr.Your Pompano Beach,Florida

Beulah Reed Taylor - January 18, 2024 at 06:18 PM

BT

Pompano Beach, Florida Cousins

Beulah Reed Taylor - January 18, 2024 at 06:20 PM

LT

“ *LEOLA TURNER/JONES lit a candle in
memory of Mrs. Melvina "Mel" (Reed) Adams*



LEOLA TURNER/JONES - January 13, 2024 at 07:24 AM