
ORDER OF MASS

Celebrant: Father Frederick Close

Deacon: Deacon John

Music Director/Cantor/Organist: Lynee Gray

Remarks: Rev. Dr. Ricky D. Helton, Senior Pastor
Israel Metropolitan C.M.E. Church

Entrance Processional Hymn: Blessed Assurance

First Reading : Job 19:1 and 23-27, Pia Moore

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23

Second Reading: 1Thessalonians 4:1-18, Pia Moore

Gospel: John 14: 1-6, Fr. Close

Offertory Hymn: Healing

Communion Hymn: Jesus, You are the Center of My
Joy

Final Commendation:

Remarks: Marvin Bowser, Muriel Bowser, Mark
Bowser and Daniel Thomas

Recessional Hymn: I want Jesus to Walk with Me

Interment:

Fort Lincoln Cemetery
3401 Bladensburg Road
Brentwood MD 20722



LEGACY

Mercia leaves a legacy of love to all who knew her and cherishes her memory including parents Joan and Joseph Bowser; brothers: Martin Bowser (Barbara) Marvin Bowser, Mark Bowser (Regine), and sister, the Honorable Mayor Muriel E. Bowser. She had a large extended family including ten nieces and nephews and scores of cousins. She was remarkably close to Daniel Weldon Thomas, her nephew, Godson and caregiver, and William "Billy" Mann. She loved her dearest friends Darlene White, Wendi Donnelly, and Yvette Reynolds to name a few. Mercia's family, the numerous sons and daughters whom Mercia nurtured, all of her close friends and all of her professional associates mourn her transition; but all are grateful that God allowed her to uniquely touch their lives.

May our beloved Mercia rest in peace!

PALLBEARERS

Marvin Bowser, Mark Bowser,
Daniel Weldon Thomas, William "Billy" Mann,
Michael Yates, James Moore,
Tyrone Lindsey, Alfred Harrison, R. Kayeen Thomas

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Family is extremely grateful for the outpouring of love and support we are receiving during our time of sorrow.

Stewart Funeral Home

4001 Benning Road NE
Washington DC 20019

Lee's Flower and Card Shop

1026 U St NW
Washington DC 20001

REMEMBERING MERCIA



Mercia D. Bowser

7 March 1956 - 24 February 2021

Funeral Service

2 March 2021 | 11:00am
St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
1029 Monroe St NE
Washington DC 20017



OBITUARY

Mercia was named for her mother's best friend, Mercia May, and so began Joan and Joseph Bowser's tradition of picking names that begin with "M" for their 5 children - Mercia, twins: Martin & Marvin, Mark and Muriel.

She was a giving, compassionate, and creative soul who loved people and her city deeply.

Mercia was educated in Catholic schools, Fisk University and the University of the District of Columbia. In her young life, Mercia was especially close to and cherished her maternal grandmother, the late Regina Davis, who encouraged her to help others. She followed that path and became a Licensed Social Worker.

Counseling, mental health advocacy, social work, and community outreach are the bedrock of Mercia's career. She served, children, youth, and seniors.

Mercia worked for DC Public Schools and the Office on Aging, as well as for Catholic Charities. She played a major role in adoption services, connecting children who needed permanent homes and families. As a Resident Director in a group home for male youths in the early 80's, she drove "the boys" as she affectionately called them around town in a big green van, making them a part of the Bowser family for family events, cookouts and just drop in to the Bowser family home. She especially stayed close to Billy and Miguel over the years.

Mercia's professional associations included The National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI), National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, and work with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

After her transition, Mercia was memorialized on CNN, The New York Times, and other media outlets commemorating her mental health advocacy work and lamenting her falling victim to COVID-19. The Bowser family was quoted in a February 26, 2021 New York Times article on Mercia that "...described her as selfless and determined, qualities that persisted even as her health declined."

Mercia's love for family and faith in God grounded her throughout her life. Mercia was gifted with an angelic voice that entranced all who heard her sing. She was a proud founding member and one of the lead singers in the Sara B. Moxley Ensemble at the Israel Metropolitan CME Church. She often acknowledged that the Sara Bs and their bible study were central to her spiritual growth under the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. Raymond F. Williams.

Mercia's physical presence will be missed for her straightforward, no nonsense, and loving demeanor.

