

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Though words cannot convey the tender thoughts and depth of thankfulness we hold for you, the family of Wilma Perez Rhone acknowledges with deep appreciation the many expressions of love and sympathy shown during this time of bereavement. We are grateful for your prayers, cards, telephone calls, text messages, meals and floral arrangements. Please continue to lift our family in prayer.

To the physicians and staff of The Ohio State Medical Center, The James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute we are eternally grateful for the special care you provided to Wilma during her illness and transition.

Special thank you to Bishop Watkins, Higher Ground Always Abounding Assemblies and the staff of Marlan J. Gary Funeral Home for meticulously managing and executing Wilma's homegoing celebration.

We pray God's continued blessings upon each of you.
Lovingly Submitted - The Family

PALLBEARERS

Raymond Rhone IV - Rafael Rhone - Efrain Perez Jr. - William Washington Jr.
Dustin Moon - Reshaun Godfrey - Brandon Rhone-Peterson - Armando Torres

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Eric Smith Jr. - Ferdinand Melendez - Je'anAiden Rhone
Milton Perez - Rich Perez - Jesus Perez

FLOWERBEARERS

Family and Friends

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

Marlan J. Gary Funeral Home

The Chapel of Peace East

5456 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43232

Programs Designed by Everlasting Graphics and Print - 614-694-2332

Homegoing Celebration for



Wilma Perez-Rhone

June 14, 1970 - July 21, 2024

Friday, August 2, 2024

Visitation: 10:00am Service: 11:00am

**Higher Ground Always Abounding Assemblies
870 St Clair Ave., Columbus, OH 43201**

Elder Jeff Watts, Officiant and Eulogist

Reflections of Life

Wilma Perez-Rhone, born on June 14, 1970, to Efrain and Irma Perez, cherished her upbringing in Lorain, Ohio, where she thrived in the supportive environment of Lorain City Schools. Her early years were marked by a remarkable academic aptitude and an enthusiastic love for learning. Graduating from Southview High School in 1988 with top honors, Wilma continued her educational journey at the University of Toledo, where she proudly earned a Bachelor's degree in Biology/Pre-Medicine in the spring of 1993. Her dedication and passion for knowledge shone brightly throughout her life.

Upon graduation, Wilma moved to Columbus, Ohio to gain employment with the Ohio Division of Disability Determination where she met the love of her life, Raymond Bruce Rhone III, who became her husband on August 24, 1996. This union was blessed with three beautiful children, Raymond IV, Rafael and Reina who were the joy of her life. She was an incredibly loving and dedicated mother who instilled in them the values of faith, honesty, family and friendship. Wilma was not only a devoted mother to her three children but also a loving surrogate mom to many young men in her close-knit community. She embraced these young men with the same care and affection she gave her own family. The many lives she touched and the warmth she shared reflect the deep grace and loving spirit that defined her. Wilma's kindness and generosity left an enduring mark on all who knew her.

A cornerstone of Wilma's life was her devotion to her faith. She embraced Christ at a young age and received her first communion at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Lorain, Ohio. As an adult, Wilma found spiritual fulfillment and a strong sense of community at Higher Ground Always Abounding Assemblies, where she became a cherished member in 1993 and remained dedicated ever since. Her faith was a guiding light and a source of strength throughout her life.

Wilma's career was a reflection of her self-belief and unwavering faith, as she embraced various entrepreneurial ventures. For over 30 years, she excelled as a sales leader with Partylite Gifts Inc, showcasing her exceptional skills as a party planner. Additionally, Wilma shared her passion for cooking through her roles as co-owner of a Dream Dinners franchise and Dreamy Treats.

After spending time at home with her children, Wilma was employed by the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation (BWC) as a bilingual customer service representative in September of 2009. She quickly moved up the ranks to become the Columbus Claims Director. During her time with BWC she was a founding member of the Nuestra Mesa and Black Employee Resource Group, 2020 Tower Award Recipient and Hispanic Heritage month facilitator and presenter. Wilma was an example of practicing one's faith through her work and serves as an inspiration for the multitude of persons who had the pleasure to witness her work ethic and passion.



Letter from Heaven

*When tomorrow starts without me,
and I'm not here to see,
if the sun should rise and find your
eyes, filled with tears for me.*

*I wish so much you wouldn't cry,
the way you did today,
while thinking of the many things
we didn't get to say.*

*I know how much you love me,
as much as I love you,
and each time you think of me,
I know you'll miss me too.*

*When tomorrow starts without me,
don't think we're far apart,
for every time you think of me,
I'm right there in your heart.♥*

Wilma deeply valued the support and love of her family, often cherishing the close bonds she shared with her siblings, cousins, and the nurturing presence of her mother, alongside the ingenuity and leadership of her father. Her extended family of aunts and uncles also played a significant role in her life, offering strength and affection.

As a friend, Wilma was a treasured confidant known for her unwavering loyalty, wisdom, and integrity. Her presence was a source of joy, thanks to her wit, charm, and grace. She believed in the power of a supportive "village" and made it a priority to spend meaningful time with her cherished friends.

As Wilma entered the eternal embrace of the holy kingdom, she was lovingly welcomed by those who went before her: her beloved grandparents, Rosa (Toledo) Perez and Manuel Perez and Gregorio Valentin and Dolores Martis; her respected mother-in-law, Velma Rhone; her dear brother, Manuel Perez; her cherished cousin, Angelina Perez; and her close friend, Derek W. Owens. We find solace in knowing that Wilma is surrounded by those she held close, resting peacefully in a place of eternal comfort and love.

Wilma's caring and nurturing spirit remains within the spirit of her loving family. She is survived by her devoted husband of 28 years, Raymond Bruce Rhone III, her beloved sons, Raymond and Rafael Rhone, her treasured daughter, Reina Rhone, her affectionate parents, Efrain and Irma Perez, her adored brother, Efrain (Ciara) Perez, her esteemed father-in-law, Raymond B. Rhone Jr., loving sister-in-laws, Lisa (Frank) Hewitt, Sonja Rhone, Valerie (Cornell) Williams, Mia McKinnon, and her beautiful nieces, and nephews. Their lives are blessed to receive wisdom, love, and care from such a wonderful woman. Wilma will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Through her love for the teachings of Jesus Christ, Wilma leaves behind a legacy of faith, service, and love. To know Wilma is to know love, to know compassion for others, and to know that an unwavering strength and belief in oneself and in God that there was no need to live with doubt and to appreciate the life we are given by God.



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.

Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow.

My life's been full, I've savored much,
Good friends, good times, my loved one's touch.

If my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.

Lift up your heart, rejoice with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN PRELUDE.....Music Ministry

PARTING VIEW.....Immediate Family

SCRIPTURE READING.....Elder Jeff Watts
OLD TESTAMENT.....Psalm 23
NEW TESTAMENT.....John 14:1-4

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....John Thomas-Yates

SELECTION.....Nikki Yates
"How Excellent"

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/RESOLUTIONS.....Elder Jeff Watts

REMARKS.....Alisia Clark
Freddy Jimenez
Madison Patton

OBITUARY.....Read Silently

SELECTION.....Sidney Hamilton
"You Know My Name"

THE EULOGY

Elder Jeff Watts

BENEDICTION.....Elder Jeff Watts

RECESSIONAL.....Clergy, Family and Friends

INTERMENT

Franklin Hills Memorial Gardens