

# Order of Service

Officiating – **Pastor Stanley Murray**  
Mt. Zion Tabernacle Christian Church of Orlando

Music provided by Mt. Zion Tabernacle Christian Church of Orlando

**Processional** – “Total Praise” .....Officiants and Family

**Invocation** .....Minister Geraldine Sims

**Scriptures**

Old Testament .....Pastor Reggie Palmer

New Testament.....Pastor Marvin Alls

**Musical Selection** – “Deliver Me”

**Special Tribute**..... Praise Dance

**Resolutions and Acknowledgments** ..... Tiffany Agnew

**A Visual Legacy** .....CREATED BY *jab designs*

“I Shall Wear a Crown” and “Open Up My Heart”

**Eulogy**..... Pastor Stanley Murray

**Recessional** – “Going Up Yonder” ..... Officiants and Family

Yet we have this assurance: Those who belong to God will live; their bodies will rise again! Those who sleep in the earth will rise up and sing for joy!

– Isaiah 26:19<sub>NLT</sub>



And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there will be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.

– Revelation 21:4

**PALL BEARERS**

Friends of the Family

**FLOWER ATTENDANTS**

Friends of the Family

**INTERMENT**

**Washington Park Cemetery**

2600 Bruton Boulevard  
Orlando, FL 32805



**IN APPRECIATION**

THE WORLD NEEDS FOLKS LIKE YOU

In this troubled world it’s refreshing to find  
Someone who still has the time to be kind.

Someone who still has the faith to believe  
That the more you give the more you receive.

Someone who’s ready by thought, word, or deed,  
To reach out a hand in the hour of need.

We take comfort in 1 Corinthians 2:9...

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man,  
the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

– The Family

**Mitchell’s Funeral Home**  
Directors

“The Home That Faith and Service Built”

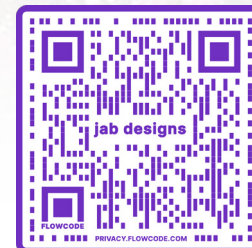
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SCAN ME for a Digital Program  
and to zoom in on photos.



# Celebrating the Life

OF

Mrs.

*Irene W. Jerelds*



“She was an upfront  
Mama Bear. She  
took nurturing  
her kids and  
extended family’s  
children VERY  
seriously.”

SUNRISE  
February 13, 1949

SUNSET  
February 6, 2024

**Saturday, February 17, 2024**  
**11:00 A.M.**

**Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church**

1110 Drew Avenue – Orlando, FL 32805 / Pastor Charles Williams

Officiating

**Pastor Stanley Murray**

Mt. Zion Tabernacle Christian Church of Orlando

Mitchell’s Funeral Home – Orlando, FL

Directors

# A Legacy™

a heritage: character qualities, memoirs . . .

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus, will God bring with Him...wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

— 1 Thessalonians 4:14,18

## Mrs. Irene W. Jerelds

WIFE • MOTHER • GRANDMOTHER • MAMA BEAR

Irene W. Jerelds was born in Orlando, Florida on February 13, 1949 to her proud parents, Aaron and Ivey Woods. Irene was a proud graduate of Jones High School Class of 1968, where she was known to be very studious, and exhibited leadership qualities early on. She met and married the love of her life, Roy E. Jerelds, right out of high school.



In 1969 Roy was drafted into the US Army and was stationed at the Panama Canal. Irene joined him soon thereafter before they relocated back to Orlando. Irene worked in clerical and administrative roles at a doctor’s office, a law office, and with the City of Orlando and Orange County, as she embraced being a wife, a mother to her children, and an extended mother to many others.

Irene and Roy kept much laughter in their home and always joked that their son Craig would never spend his money. Craig would be labelled “stingy ass” and “his pockets being so tight they needed lubrication with oil.” But she and Roy had raised him to have a healthy respect for hard work and saving for what you want. Irene would stress that having the surname JERELDS meant understanding the importance of “representing the brand” and conducting ones self accordingly. She would always say “whatever you become career wise, be the best at it.”

Irene loved traveling and having new experiences with her circle of friends & family. She felt strongly about teaching her children basic domestic skills, to ensure they did not depend on others. She laughed often at how excessive her husband and son were at ironing clothes. “THE CREASES!!!”

Irene was a disciplinarian who had no problem with decreeing and declaring that “I brought you into this world and I will take you out.” Love-and-discipline was the theme of her life as a mother, and at the same time she was fun and very understanding. She was an upfront Mama Bear. She took nurturing her kids and extended family’s children very seriously. She always told the kids “I know everything you do because I have eyes and ears all over Orlando. Besides that, whatever you do in the dark, shall come to the light.” Irene commanded respect and with the highest degree of confidence, resetting her expectations for those that were found to be “out of pocket.”

Irene and Roy both shared an entrepreneurial spirit and she expressed that through ownership and management of a daycare, a hair salon (Visions Hair & Nails), as a licensed cosmetologist, and owning a restaurant (First Alarm Fish & Chicken) located in Orlando. Her favorite color was **PURPLE** and she favored animal prints. Here’s what a few of her friends had to say about her:

*Irene W. Jerelds was an essential Black woman who said what she meant and meant what she said, and on occasion showed considerable emotional restraint in a way that let you know that SHE was in control. Even in her last days Irene let you know she was STILL in control. Smart, sophisticated woman always well dressed, and no one called me by my name the way she did. There was a certain emphasis on the way she said JAMES which I found endearing and funny at the same time; and that laugh of hers I will miss. Rest easy Irene.*

— a friend and extended Son of the Family

*The legacy that Irene Jerelds leaves behind for me, is her confident, unwavering belief in herself as a powerful, Black woman. No one could ever impose any authority over her. She knew who she was,*

*and she was determined to accomplish her goals despite of any obstacles or challenges she faced. Irene knew her worth and she shared her love with those who would love her back.*

— a friend

*Good morning...well, nothing that you probably didn't know.*

*She loved a good debate. She loved bargain shopping. If anyone told her about an item they couldn't find, she made it a personal mission to find it. She and I remained friends through the years because I did more listening than talking. I once talked her out of becoming a platinum blonde (which was MAJOR; seldom could someone other than Roy change her mindset!). She prided herself in being a quick learner. When we were both employed with the City of Orlando, she would let her supervisors know she only needed info once. After that, stand back or be dealt with 'Irene style.' She was very direct, almost to a fault. She was a very proud Black woman, and she loved, LOVED seafood!*

— a friend

*She exuded confidence and made any space her own, whether professional, church, or social. She is remembered for her business acumen, distinct fashion sensibilities, her love of people, socializing and fun, her social graces, and her unique way of expressing what was on her mind.*

— a friend

*This is what I want folks to know about Irene. I would start by saying that it is fitting that we are celebrating Black History Month, because to me Irene WAS Black History. She said what she meant and she meant what she said. Today the young people say “I am standing on business.” And when it came to her exhibiting excellence she was all about business – in her walk, her talk, and in her style. Her character spoke volumes, and her smile lit up every room she entered. She walked gracefully as if she KNEW everyone was watching her. She took on the role of daughter, wife, mother, and confidant, a role that will be hard to fill. Irene was small in stature but big in heart, mind, body, and soul. She was a friend to many, even when friendships were not reciprocated. She love her family, and she cared deeply for her friends. Irene is the epitome of a strong Black women. I'll love her always and forever.*

— a friend

*Affectionately known as my Mama J, she was my Florida Mama. She graciously opened her home to me when I resided in the Sunshine State. Whether at FAMU or living in Miami, I knew I would be welcomed with a cozy room, a chair to relax in while overlooking the lake, and a good ol' hot, southern meal. Our conversations have made me a better mother and wife. Thank you, Mama J, for your wisdom on marriage and family. Forever in my heart, I love you.*

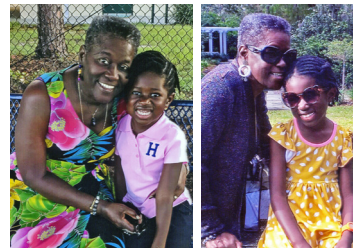
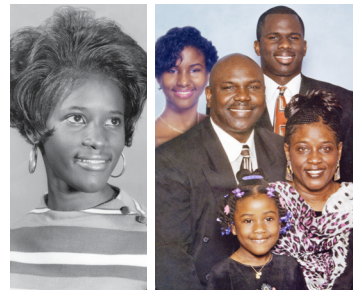
— her “Florida Child”

Irene was preceded in death by her **parents** – Aaron and Ivey Woods, her **brother** – Willie Lee March, and her **dear husband** – Roy E. Jerelds.

She is survived by:

her **daughter** – Laroicika P. Jerelds, her **son** – Craig E. Jerelds, and her **daughter** – Lashay I. Jerelds; **granddaughter** – Noa G. Jerelds; **sister** – Brenda I. (Theodore) Clark;

**sisters-in-law** – Ruby L. Jerelds and Geraldine March; **brothers-in-law** – Willie J. (Fredia) Jerelds, John H. (Janice) Jerelds, Lawrence E. Jerelds, and William T. Jerelds; “**Florida Child**” – Andrea Dortch-(David) Thomas; a **dear friend** – Mrs. “G’Ann”; and host of **nieces, nephews**, other relatives, and many friends.



“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have professed a good profession in the presence of many witnesses.”

— 1 Timothy 6:12

### When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When tomorrow starts without me and I'm not there to see  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes all 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  
And each time that you think of me, please try to understand  
That an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand  
And said my place was ready in heaven far above  
And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love  
But as I turned to walk away, a tear fell from my eye  
For all my life, I'd always thought, I didn't want to die  
I had so much to live for, so much yet left to do  
It seemed almost impossible that I was leaving you  
I thought of all the yesterdays, the good ones and the bad  
I thought of all the love we shared, and all the fun we had  
If I could relive yesterday, just even for a while  
I'd say good-bye and kiss you and maybe see you smile  
But then I fully realized that this could never be  
For emptiness and memories would take the place of me  
And when I thought of worldly things I might miss come tomorrow  
I thought of you, and when I did, my heart was filled with sorrow  
But when I walked through heaven's gates, I felt so much at home  
When God looked down and smiled at me from His great golden throne  
He said, "This is eternity, and all I've promised you  
I know how much you love me, as much as I love you  
Today your life on earth is past, but here life always lasts  
And since each day's the same way there's no longing for the past  
You have been so faithful, so trusting and so true  
Though there were times you did some things you knew you shouldn't do  
But you have been forgiven and now at last you're free  
So won't you come and take my hand and share my life with Me?"  
So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart  
For every time you think of me, I'm right here, in your heart.

Anonymous



*Handwritten note: I love you, Mama J. I'll miss you. Love, Lashay I. Jerelds. 11/13/2003. Mom & Dad's Family Members.*