



## Ms. Shirley J. Gregory

July 21, 1942 - December 10, 2023

Shirley J. Gregory (Ruby Nell) was born July 21, 1942, in Woodlawn, Texas, to Earnest Leonard and Eunice C. (Hurd) Leonard. She was the second child born to this union and the little sister to her big brother Elisha 'Bob' Leonard. Shirley departed this life on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at the age of 81 years old.

Shirley accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age and was baptized at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Woodlawn, Texas.

Shirley attended Morning Star Elementary school in Woodlawn, Texas and after moving to Kansas City, Missouri, she continued her education in the Kansas City Public School District, graduating from Manual High School in 1960 where she took up cosmetology as a vocational class. She later studied at the Penn Valley Community Center and Weaver Realty, LLC.

Shirley was married to Scott J. Gregory, Sr. in 1961, this marriage was dissolved along with two other marriages later on to Lawrence Brown and Carl Jackson.

Shirley had four lovely children, two sons (Scott and Brandon), two daughters (Tracye and Robin) and one bonus daughter (Tamala Holland).

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, Earnest Leonard and Eunice C. (Hurd) Leonard-High, Rev. Claude H. High, Sr., Scott J. Gregory, Sr., Tamala Holland, and Lawrence Brown.

Shirley, who always referred to herself as a Preacher's Kid (P.K.), was a faithful and active member of the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Claude H. High, Sr. (41 years), as well as Rev. Calvin Buford. She was involved in every aspect of the Music Ministry including the Pastor's Choir, made up of young adults, who recorded an album alongside Rev. Claude H. High, Sr. entitled, "The Strengthening Angel." She also participated in a gospel singing group created by the late Sherman Johnson. She later moved her church membership to the cherished Haven of Rest Baptist Church. When her health declined, she continued to participate on the Haven of Rest Sunday morning conference calls, singing, testifying, and praising the Lord until her death.

Shirley was employed full-time for the Missouri State Employment Security-Immigration Department for 30+ years, retiring in the year 2000. She worked part-time as a realtor for Newsome Realty, business office cleaning, and also worked with special needs clients from time to time.

Shirley loved her family and she especially loved planning and preparing for family gatherings. She would always encourage us to keep moving forward when her health did not allow her to attend various family functions. She loved traveling, ONLINE SHOPPING, talking on the phone, watching westerns on TV, scrolling through and commenting on Facebook, going to garage/estate sales, gardening and landscaping, and going to the city market. She was a very crafty and creative person. She never met a stranger and she seemed to know SOMEBODY everywhere she went. To those who knew her well... Shirley never gave advice – she told you what to do!

Shirley (Ruby Nell) leaves behind to cherish her memory four children: Tracye L. Gregory, Scott 'Bullett' J. Gregory, Jr., Robin C. Gregory, and Brandon 'Hunk of Love' T. Gregory (Nicole); Grandchildren – Anthony E.I. Webb II (Oklahoma), Antoinette 'My Nettie' Deloney, April 'Meshedi' Gregory-Williams, Lyonel Gregory, Staci Tyson (Kenneth), Sierra Gregory, Jermaine N. 'Spunky' Gregory (Morgan), Michael L. 'Pooh Poo' Baldwin-Gregory (Carmen), Michela Lemons, Brandon 'Suga' J. Gregory, Maliyah 'NeNe' Gregory, Nalani Hampton-Williamson, Zechariah Kelly, Briella Gregory and Brandon Gregory III; eighteen great-grandchildren; aunts Ernestine Hurd (Los Angeles, CA) and Sandra Roberts Brooks (Walter-Mansfield, TX); two special daughters, LaReda Hayes (Arvid) and Tyra Stovall; "How's my girl doing?" Renita Strong; and countless cousins, friends, beloved Haven of Rest and St. Paul church family members and special neighbors.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Dec. 22, 2023, at 11:00am at Haven of Rest Baptist Church Visitation 9:00am-11:00am at the church. Interment Forest Hill Cemetery. Service conducted by Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapel. Condolences may be shared on our website.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

DEC **22**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Haven of Rest Baptist Church  
2637 E 28th St  
Kansas City, MO 64128-1106  
(816) 923-7316

# Tribute Wall

RA

“ Sending love, thoughts and prayers to the family during this difficult time...Your mother touched many lives in a very special way. I am grateful I got the chance to know her as a co-worker and friend. I am the person I am today in part because of the advise and support of Shirley in my early years here in Kansas City. She was like a " Big Sister" to a number of us starting our first job with Missouri Job Service after finishing college, many of whom still leaned on her for advice after 50 years of friendship. .  
May you Rest in Peace my friend

*Ruby Nell Avery-Royston*

*Yes, "Ruby Nell " is my name as well, who would have thought!*

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**Ruby N. Avery-Royston** - December 21, 2023 at 11:40 PM

DH

“ Delilah Hack planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Shirley J. Gregory.

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**Delilah Hack** - December 21, 2023 at 01:28 PM

DH

“ Delilah Hack purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Ms. Shirley J. Gregory.



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**Delilah Hack** - December 21, 2023 at 01:28 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ms. Shirley J. Gregory.



December 21, 2023 at 12:25 PM



“ Drs.Lester/Christine Woods&UE Ministries planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Shirley J. Gregory.

**Drs.Lester/Christine Woods&UE Ministries** - December 21, 2023 at 12:25 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ms. Shirley J. Gregory.



December 21, 2023 at 10:04 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Ms. Shirley J. Gregory.



December 20, 2023 at 05:39 PM

BF

“ Sending love and prayers to the family. Shirley and I worked together in the 70's and have remained friends in retirement. She was such a nice, warmhearted, generous person, always willing to help whatever the situation. She expressed her love for, and faith in Jesus Christ in every conversation we ever had. I'm going to miss her, and our long conversations talking about anything and everything. Do not grieve as if there is no hope, death is just the bridge we have to cross to reach our heavenly home. Jesus is waiting

Betty Funderburke - December 20, 2023 at 10:15 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Ms. Shirley J. Gregory.



December 16, 2023 at 04:45 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ms. Shirley J. Gregory.



December 13, 2023 at 08:50 PM

RR

“ Robin, Jermaine, Morgan, Michael, Reagan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Shirley J. Gregory.

Robin, Jermaine, Morgan, Michael, Reagan - December 13, 2023 at 10:12 AM

RR

“ Robin, Jermaine, Morgan, Michael, Reagan purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Ms. Shirley J. Gregory.



Robin, Jermaine, Morgan, Michael, Reagan - December 13, 2023 at 10:12 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Ms. Shirley J. Gregory.



December 12, 2023 at 04:29 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ms. Shirley J. Gregory.



December 12, 2023 at 03:05 PM

LH

“ When I would talk to Mudder we would both sing you are my Sunshine to each other at the same time. She call me Tina Marie.... Is this my Tina Marie? Yes Mudder it is and we'd talk until one of us got tired. I will forever have you in my heart Mudder. ILOVEYOU, and you knew it. ❤️❤️❤️

LaReda Hayes - December 12, 2023 at 08:15 AM

EP

*When I was growing up into womanhood she was always available to chat about things that I couldn't or shouldn't to anyone else. I've always admired her beauty and sense of style. I loved to hear her sing and I aspired to sing as well. She was generous in giving me her shoes and clothes too like a big sister. She loved her children and even I trusted me to babysit them, whom I am very proud to have experienced. These are some of the precious memories that I have of my loving cousin Shirley aka Rubynell.*

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**Elaine Arnick Pettiford** - December 17, 2023 at 09:35 PM

EP

*Always remembering you and I pray for comfort and peace to all of your family.*

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**Elaine Arnick Pettiford** - December 17, 2023 at 09:39 PM

AE

*A Rose added to God's garden RIP*

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**ALFORD LEE EDMONSON** - December 18, 2023 at 08:39 PM

SE

*Praying for the family! U all have my sincere and deepest condolences!!!! Love y'all!!!!*

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**Sharon Ewell** - December 20, 2023 at 12:00 PM

PH

*Prayers are extended to the family of Shirley Gregory. Prayerfully submitted Haven Of Rest Baptist Church & evangelistic Center*

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**Pamela Henderson** - December 22, 2023 at 12:22 AM