



## Acknowledgment

The family of Lydia C. Townsend-Shirley wishes to express their sincere gratitude for the many acts of kindness shown during this time of bereavement. May God bless each of you.

## Special Thanks

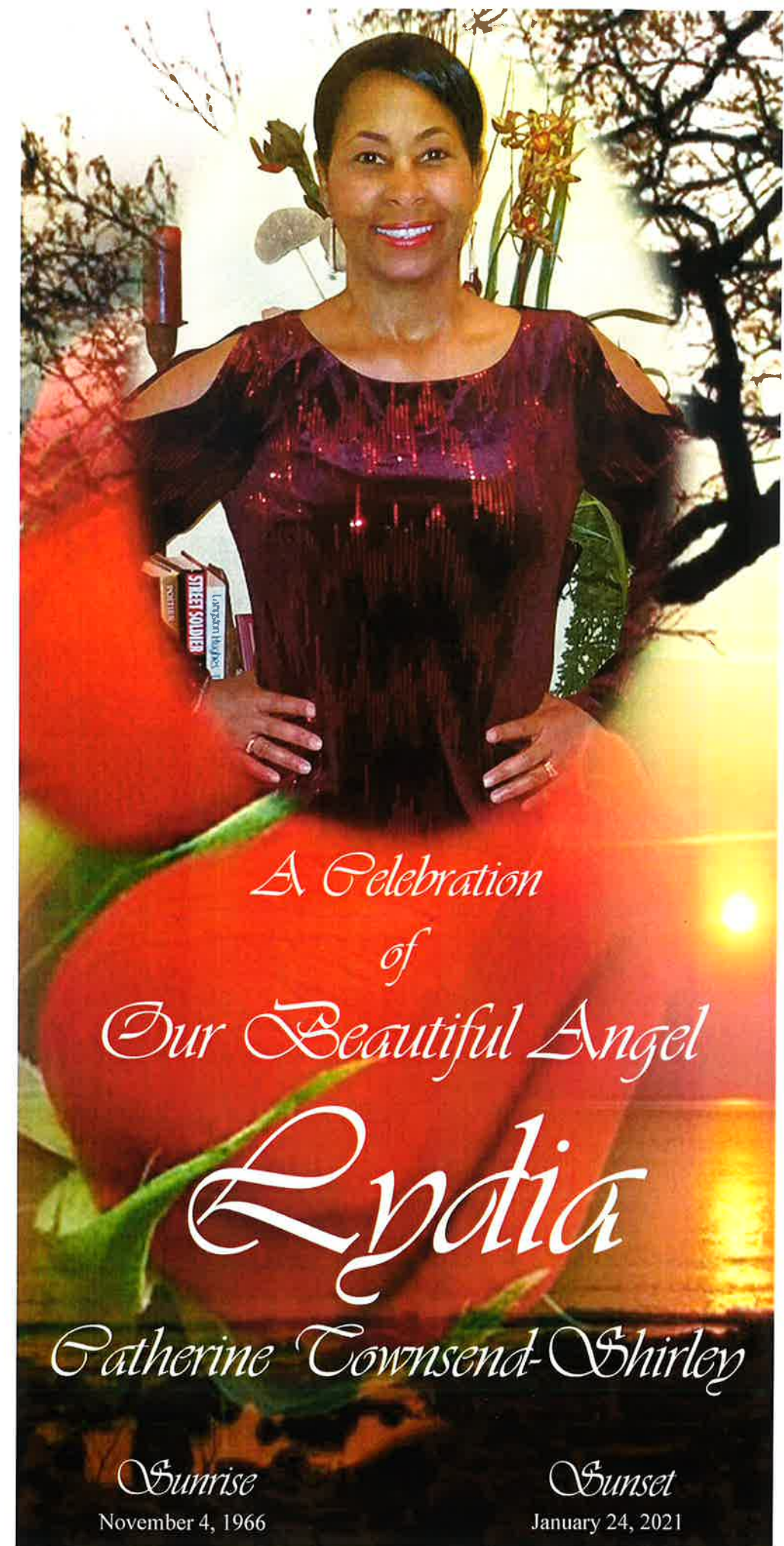
A very special thank you to Cynthia Williamson, Jackie Oakes, Tasha Perry, Cynthia Braggs Smith, Tori Perry, Joellyn McCormick, Lisa Townsend-Level, Donna Dorr, and Lydia's staff at the Oklahoma Insurance Department, for their steadfast dedication to Lydia.

## In Our Hearts

*We thought of you with love today,  
But that is nothing new.  
We thought about you yesterday,  
and the days before that too.  
We think of you in silence,  
We often speak your name.  
Now all we have is memories,  
and your picture in a frame.  
Your memory is our keepsake,  
with which we'll never part.  
God has you in His keeping,  
We have you in our heart.*

SERVICES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF  
TEMPLE AND SONS FUNERAL DIRECTORS, INC.  
2801 North Kelley Avenue  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111  
Phone: 405-427-8321

*"We Care"*  
*II Timothy 4:8*



*A Celebration  
of  
Our Beautiful Angel*

*Lydia*

*Catherine Townsend-Shirley*

*Sunrise*  
November 4, 1966

*Sunset*  
January 24, 2021

# *Celebrating the Life of Lydia C. Townsend Shirley*

(November 4, 1966 - January 24, 2021)

On January 24, 2021, Lydia C. Shirley transitioned from this Earth into God's kingdom. Lydia was born to Mary Elizabeth Cheek and Dr. John L. Townsend, Sr. in Washington D.C. When she was one years old, her parents decided to move to Oklahoma City in order to be closer to family. During her childhood, Lydia displayed many gifts which enabled her to succeed in school and later in her career while working with the Oklahoma Insurance Department.

Lydia was a very happy child and loved playing with her siblings Lisa and John. While growing up, she enjoyed going to Video Zone, Fun Skate and other recreational venues. Additionally, Lydia enjoyed story-telling, playing card games, tennis, and dancing. Lydia was very popular in school and received several awards while a student at Christ the King (elementary and middle school) and Bishop McGuinness High School where she was a member of the National Honor Society and the Latin Club, she graduated in May of 1985. After Lydia's matriculation through Catholic schools in Oklahoma City, she attended the University of Oklahoma and graduated with a B.A. in Public Administration in 1990.

Professionally, Lydia had a gift for public service and did an outstanding job throughout her career. After graduating from the University of Oklahoma, she received her first public service position; she worked as a Legislative Assistant at Oklahoma House of Representatives under the leadership of Representative Kevin Cox. In 2000, she extended her public service resume by accepting a position at the Oklahoma Insurance Department (OID) in Oklahoma City. Lydia was still working there before her untimely death. At the Oklahoma Insurance Department, her work ethic was exemplary and eventually received the position of Assistant Commissioner of the Consumer Assistance Division.

Aside from her professional accolades, Lydia had a very happy personal life. In June 18, 1994, Lydia married the love of her life, LaDarryl Shirley. After their nuptials, Lydia and LaDarryl welcomed their only child Langston Garrett Shirley. This union enjoyed a very active life and the three of them were rarely seen apart. The family loved to travel to near and far places from the States to the Carribean and to Las Vegas which was her favorite spot. Moreover, her adult hobbies included viewing food network channels; watching game shows, and frequenting casinos, and loved showing her cooking skills.

Lydia loved spending time with her family which include the Shirleys, Oakes, Townsends, Mensers, and Braggs families. In death, she is preceded by her mother, Mary Elizabeth Townsend (2018) and father, Dr. John L. Townsend (1990). She is survived by three sisters and two brothers: Lisa C. Level (Oklahoma City, OK), John L. Townsend Jr. (Waldorf, MD), Dr. Michelle D. Day (Ellicott City, MD), Tiffany P. Townsend (Hyattsville, MD), Carlisle Townsend (Silver Spring, MD). Her surviving in-laws include Jackie Oakes (Edmond, OK), Steffon Lewis (Oklahoma City, OK, and Tonie Dillahunty (Guthrie, OK).

Outside of her affinity for traveling, genealogy, and spending time with her husband and son, Lydia was involved in several organizations including Jack and Jill of America. Lydia will be sorely missed by a multitude of people. May she rest in peace!

## *Our Beautiful Angel*

### *Lydia*

My Love, there aren't enough words to express how Langston and I feel. The joy that you have given us is truly a joy that comes from God. Your love, laughter, wisdom, intelligence and of course that beautiful smile was enough to make our hearts glow. You were God's gift to Langston and I specifically because He knew we needed you to show us what true love is. The Lord placed you on this earth temporarily to touch thousands of lives in a special way that reflects His grace. You will forever be in our hearts guiding us and loving us. You are now one of God's chosen Angels that we are blessed to say we have a personal relationship with. We will forever love you.

Langston & LaDarryl



### *Forever In Our Hearts*



## SERVICES

Saturday, January 30, 2021

11:00 a.m.

TEMPLE & SONS FUNERAL DIRECTORS, INC.

EARL M. TEMPLE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

2801 North Kelley Avenue

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Steven R. Shirley – Officiating

## *Order of Service*

Processional ..... Officiator, Funeral Directors, Family

Selection ..... "Safe In His Arms"  
Cynthia Williamson

Old & New Testament Scriptures ..... Steffon Lewis  
Brother-In-Love

Resolutions ..... Alexis Franklin

Prayer ..... Steven Shirley

Remarks ..... Two minutes each, please

Special Remarks ..... Representative Kevin Cox

Musical Selection ..... Joel-lyn McCormick

Eulogy ..... Rep., Rev. Dr. George Young

Video Tribute ..... Temple & Sons Funeral Directors

Recessional ..... Family & Friends

