



Shirley Mae McMillan

August 1, 1937 - August 6, 2025

Shirley Mae McMillan, 88, of New Haven, passed away peacefully on August 6, 2025, at home accompanied by her loving husband, after a long battle of Dementia.

Born August 1, 1937, in Portsmouth, VA, Shirley was the daughter of the late Eddie and Ruth Howell. She graduated from I. C. Norcom High School and while living in VA she made a living as a cook. In her early twenties, Shirley moved up north with her husband and earned numerous degrees from South Central Community College, Gateway Community College, University of New Haven, Southern State University and Albertus Magnus College. She retired from the Southern New England Telephone company, and then ended her career at the United Illuminating CO.

On April 9, 1960, Shirley married her sweetheart, Elijah McMillan, and together they raised two children, Amethus Jacqueline Taylor "MEET" and Willie James McMillan "SAM". Shirley was a loving grandmother to her grandchildren, who were her greatest joy.

Shirley had a heart full of love, and she was a strong and determine woman. She was a strong advocate of education. Her life was built around her children and grandchildren. She was always there when needed, and she would go over and beyond to help others. She loved shopping, crocheting, traveling, dancing, singing and staying up on the latest celebrity gossip. Shirley loved cooking, especially family dinners where everyone gathered. She didn't let much bother her and her favorite saying was, "It is, what it is!"

A woman of deep faith, Shirley was a founding member of Christian Tabernacle Baptist Church, before her sickness, she served on the usher board and she sung in the choir. She touched countless lives with her kindness, wisdom, and infectious laugh. She was also a previous member of the Elk's Lodge in New Haven, CT.

Shirley is survived by her devoted husband, Elijah; son in law, Venson Taylor Sr; her grandchildren, Tehisha McCoy, Venita Freeman (Ronnie), Venson Taylor Jr, Jeffrey Taylor, and Jackie Taylor; thirteen great-grandchildren; six great great-grandchildren: her two brothers, Abert Howell and Eddie Howell; two sisters, Faith Banks and Mary Alice Redd: and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents Ruth and Eddie Howell, her daughter Amethus Taylor and son Willie James McMillan; three brothers, Ernest T Howell, Robert Howell, and Walter Jackson Howell; and two sisters Delores K. Faircloth and Rosezina Howell-Whichard.

Shirley's love touched each of us in a way words cannot fully express. While we will miss her dearly, we find peace knowing her spirit lives on in all of us. Forever in our hearts, she will never be forgotten.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

769 Ella T Grasso Blvd
New Haven, CT 06519
(203) 624-5505

Previous Events

Calling Hours

AUG 12. 10:00 AM (ET)

Christian Tabernacle Baptist Church
425 Newhall Street.
Hamden, CT 06517

Funeral Service

AUG 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christian Tabernacle Baptist Church
425 Newhall Street.
Hamden, CT 06517

Tribute Wall

SJ

“ Shilet Jennings planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley Mae McMillan.

Shilet Jennings - August 11, 2025 at 12:09 PM

SJ

“ Shilet Jennings purchased the Simply Elegant Sp
athiphyllum for the family of Shirley Mae
McMillan.



Shilet Jennings - August 11, 2025 at 12:09 PM

RT

“ My favorite memory of Mrs. Shirley Mae was our love for blonde hair color... She tried many times to color her hair and like me, we came out with many different colors of blonde and eventually we got it right. So to my blonde bomb Shirley, rest in peace and I'll always remember you for many reasons but mainly our love for the blondes, we definitely have more fun💜💜💜
Rhonda

Rhonda Taylor - August 10, 2025 at 07:05 AM

CT

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Shirley and I worked at SNET together for many years. Shirley, Neet and I always got together with all the children for plays in New York and other fun events. Shirley was a beautiful person inside and out. She will be missed. Love, Carol Teel and family



Carol Teel - August 08, 2025 at 08:00 PM

SX

“ Shaydi xoxo purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Shirley Mae McMillan.



Shaydi xoxo - August 08, 2025 at 06:54 PM