



A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

***Leandres Christopher***

7 September 1928 - 28 November 2021



# *A Service of Celebration*

Welcome, Scripture and Prayer.....Pastor James Hayes

Eulogy Reading.....Louis Christopher III

Words/Music.....Cameron Armstrong

Shared Stories.....Family

Words/Music..... Audrey Christopher-Austin

Video Montage

Closing Message.....Pastor Jeremiah Hayes

## *Pallbearers*

Louis Christopher III

Cameron Armstrong

Trevor Austin

Benjamin Stove

Darryl Ross

Mike Ross

## *Honorary Pallbearers*

Jonas Ross Jr.

Anthony Stove Sr.



Leandres was born on September 7th, 1928, in Centerville, Mississippi, the fourth child out of seven, to the union of Annie Gray and Robert Johnson.

Her father worked as a sharecropper and though the family worked hard to earn a living picking cotton in the fields of the land they attended, he always emphasized the importance of education and made sure that work never interfered with school. She



took that message to heart and embraced education at an early age.

Leandres cites that one day the town newspaper came to take pictures of the crops and the people tending the fields. Not wanting to be portrayed in that manner, she ran and hid when it came time to take the photograph.

As she grew older, an uncle, admiring her eagerness to learn and excel, requested that her parents allow her to come live with him and his wife in Chicago where she would have more opportunity to advance in her education. This arrangement pleased Leandres and she was off to Chicago.



After graduation, Leandres worked for Montgomery Wards, where she took pride in being able to send money and clothes home to her mother and sisters. It was around this time that she met Louis B. Christopher Sr., who at the time worked as a porter for the railroad until he attended law school and became a lawyer. They married and had two boys, Louis Jr. and Gregory.



Leandres worked for Cook County Hospital at that time but soon decided to go back to school as well and attended Chicago State University where she received a Bachelors's degree in Early Education.

She was hired as an Administrator for the City Colleges of Chicago and became the Director of Early Childhood Education at Dawson Skill Center where she worked for 30 years until she retired.



After retirement, Leandres moved to Arizona to be closer to her son and family. She attended South Peoria Baptist Church and was active in the senior group and bible study. She participated in a bowling league and won many championships. Leandres liked to sew and make African outfits which she sold at Black History events.



During her lifetime she was an active member of the Carousels and the Cook County Bar Association. In her later years, she enjoyed her visits to the hairdresser where she and the ladies would converse about current events, and her occasional "therapy" sessions, aka, trips to the casino.

She maintained extremely close relationships with her sisters throughout their lives and was a favorite among her nieces and nephews who all called her Aunt Sister.





Leandres lived through many experiences of social injustice and was quick to make her opinion of this era known, stating that "a person must know where they came from to know where they are going." She strongly encouraged education to all young people and her words of wisdom remained with anyone she spoke to. She was kind, thoughtful and caring beyond measure. Well loved by everyone who met her, she exhibited the epitomy of grace, and of course, style. She was always complimented on the way she dressed.

Leandres was preceded in death, by her husband; Louis B. Christopher Sr.; sons: Louis B. Christopher Jr. and Gregory Alan Christopher; three brothers: Lawrence, Lonnie, and Larry Johnson; and three sisters: Annie Laura Daymon, Annie Bell Ross, and Gladys Guillory.

She leaves to mourn, four grandchildren: Louis Christopher III, Audrey Christopher - Austin (Trevor), Leandres D. Christopher, and Cameron Armstrong (Karen); great-grandchildren: Imani, Leyla, Mia, Jayzen, Briana, Taykylee, Dwayne, Cameron Jr., Lynisee; former daughter-in-laws: Debra and Denise; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



## *Acknowledgement*

The family of Leandres Christopher appreciates  
your prayers, expressions of love, phone calls,  
and gestures of endearment.

We also thank those of you who could attend the  
service for your presence at this  
celebration of her life.

## *Funeral Services*

10 December 2021 at 11:00 AM  
South Peoria Baptist Church  
9000 W Olive Ave.  
Peoria, AZ 85345

## *Interment*

Sunwest Funeral Home  
1525 N.W. Grand Avenue  
El Mirage, Arizona, 85335

