

## OBITUARY



Shirley Parks Booker, 77, of the 100 block of West Beacon Road, Lakeland, Fla., passed into the loving arms of Jesus Christ on February 23, 2012, in her home. A native of Hackettstown, N.J., she was born on July 2, 1934 to the late Stillman Hiram Parks and Mildred Stowell Parks.

After earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Massachusetts College of Art in June 1956, Shirley worked at the Boston advertising agency Stilton Brothers-Calloway-Hoffman. In 1972, Shirley moved to Lakeland, Fla., with her parents and only child, Stephen R. Booker.

From 1973 until 2009, Shirley continued her artistic expression working in deli service and presentation, printing services and visual merchandising at Publix Supermarkets in Lakeland. Shirley actively encouraged and supported her son in Sunday school, church attendance and youth activities at Lakeland United Methodist Temple. Shirley was renowned at the Church youth suppers for her preparation of hand crafted Cuban sandwiches.

Shirley is survived by her only child Stephen R. Booker, his wife Maria S. Booker and their two children, Joel S. Booker and Krista E. Booker, of Chesapeake, Va.; Stephen's father, Richard E. Booker of Auburn, Mass.; and her cousin, Barbara S. Higgins and her husband Harry of Pawcatuck, Conn., and their sons Todd and Mark. Additional survivors include Susan and Jim Whitley of Stafford, Va., and Marshall A. Stowell of Washington, D.C.

Shirley was predeceased by a granddaughter Grace Sarina Booker and by a cousin, Marshall Stowell, retired Captain U.S. Navy, and his wife Patricia Stowell.

A graveside service for the family will be held on Saturday, March 10 at the New Fernwood Cemetery in Kingston, R.I. Memorial contributions may be made to Good Shepherd Hospice in Lakeland, Fla., or to a charity of the donor's choice. The family would like to thank the phenomenal level of care provided by Good Shepherd Hospice, Home Instead (skilled care givers) and Maxim Healthcare Services (RN and LPN services for medications), and a special thank you to Shirley's longtime friend, Ida Mitchell - all of whom allowed her to live out her final days at home.

The Westerly Sun, Rhode Island: March 4, 2012

NAME: Booker, Shirley Parks

DATE OF DEATH: February 23, 2012