



## Cristal Lynn Clay

December 12, 1960 - March 20, 2026

Cristal L. Clay, born in Chicago on December 12, 1960, to the late John Len and Veoties Clay, was the eldest of two children. Cristal lived a life defined by dedication to her community and an unwavering commitment to the organizations she held dear.

A faithful member of New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church, Cristal accepted the Lord as her Savior at a very young age. Her spiritual foundation guided her through a life of leadership, beginning at George Washington Carver Area High School (Class of 1978). There, she was an outstanding student leader, serving as Junior Class Treasurer and a member of the National Honor Society. Her senior yearbook captured her clear vision for the future; when asked about her ambition, she simply replied: “An Accountant.”

Cristal realized that dream at Chicago State University, earning her degree in Accounting and embarking on a distinguished 34-year career with the City of Chicago’s Department of Aviation. She retired in 2020 after a career marked by excellence and advocacy. A fierce advocate for her colleagues, she served as Chief Steward and Treasurer for AFSCME Union Local 2946, maintaining her support for the union long into her retirement.

Central to Cristal’s life was her deep love and 44 years of uninterrupted service to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. A cherished Life

Member, she was initiated on July 10, 1982, as a charter member of the Xi Kappa Chapter at Chicago State University, where she served as its first Basileus. Her leadership flourished within the Lambda Mu Omega Chapter, where she held nearly every major office, including Basileus, Anti-Basileus, Grammateus, and Tamiouchos. Her influence extended to the regional level, where she served as the Central Region Representative to the Nominating Committee and Chairman of the Board for the Leadership Mentoring Opportunities Foundation. A mentor to many, her legacy in the sisterhood is marked by the grace, wisdom, and humility she shared with generations of sisters.

She will be remembered as a devoted friend and sorority sister whose presence brought comfort, laughter, and strength to all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Cristal, a woman of profound faith, professional excellence, and lifelong service, passed away on March 20, 2026. She was preceded in death by her beloved parents, John Len and Veoties Clay.

Her legacy of love and service is carried on by her surviving family: brother, Brian Clay of Sacramento, California; nephew, Brian L. Clay of Sacramento, California; niece, Tia Clay of Sacramento, California; aunts and uncles, as well as a host of cousins and dear friends who will forever cherish her memory.

# Cemetery Details

## Oak Woods Cemetery

1035 E 67th Street  
Chicago, IL 60637

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church  
754 East 77th Street  
Chicago, IL 60619

## Funeral Service

APR 17. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church  
754 East 77th Street  
Chicago, IL 60619

## Burial/Interment

APR 17. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Oak Woods Cemetery  
1035 E 67th Street  
Chicago, IL 60637



# Tribute Wall

KM

“ To the family of Cristal Clay. We are so sorry for your loss. We will miss her beautiful smile. She was a beautiful and kind person. God has received another amazing angel. To God be the glory. He makes no mistakes. Rest in peace Cristal.

From,  
Fred & Kim McNeal & Tisher Lett

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**Kimberly A. McNeal** - April 20 at 07:20 AM

DF

“ Delanda Jones and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Cristal Lynn Clay.



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**Delanda Jones and family** - April 13 at 10:49 AM