



Shirley Diane Raines

December 29, 1967 - January 27, 2026

Shirley Diane Raines, affectionately known to millions as Ms. Shirley, passed away at the age of 58. Born in Compton, California, to Shirley Mae Harrison and George Juanito Raines, she entered the world alongside her twin sister, Sheila Raines, a bond that remained one of the most sacred relationships of her life.

To the public, Shirley was a viral activist, the founder of Beauty 2 The Streetz, a CNN Hero award recipient, and an NAACP award winner. To those who truly knew her, she was a woman shaped by love, loss, discipline, and relentless purpose.

Before the world knew her as an advocate, Shirley was a competitor in every sense of the word. She trained and competed as a bodybuilder through Gold's Gym, worked as a personal trainer, and ran marathons with the same determination that later defined her humanitarian work. She understood endurance, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

The defining fracture of her life came with the loss of her first child, Demetrius Stephens Jr. That grief never left her, but it transformed her. It reshaped the way she mothered, the way she served, and the way she moved through the world. She often spoke about "turning pain into purpose," and she lived those words daily. The depth of her compassion for people experiencing

homelessness was not abstract. It was born from understanding suffering and from surviving the unimaginable.

Through Beauty 2 The Streetz, she restored dignity to thousands by offering meals, hygiene, beauty services, and above all, respect. She called the unhoused "Kings and Queens," not as performance, but as belief. Social media amplified her work to millions, but her mission was always intimate, rooted in eye contact, touch, listening, and presence.

Shirley is survived by her children, Danielle Williams, Rashawn Williams, Dalvion Stephens, Macajiah Vanderhorst, and Micah Vanderhorst and multiple grandchildren including Alanah Jones, Archie Williams, Rocco Williams and Brilliant Williams. She also leaves behind many in the unhoused communities of Skid Row and Las Vegas who viewed her as a step-in mother, grandparent, and friend.

Shirley would not want to be remembered as a saint. She said plainly that she smoked, she drank, she lived fully and imperfectly. Her life was complex, layered with grief, strength, flaws, fire, and devotion. If there is one truth that remains, it is this. Shirley loved deeply. She loved loudly. And she turned her pain into purpose in a way that changed the lives of thousands while never pretending to be anything other than human.

Tribute Wall

BF

“ What Miss Shirley understood was that there was a need unmet and she met that need. When people look at my family, they don't know we've been going through chronic homelessness, except for the fact that we are transparent about our story. We are people who have never not paid our rent, we have been put in housing that had rats, electrical mess wiring, where we will get electrocuted, just opening the refrigerator, places where the roof caves in on you during dinner. We like to think that Code Enforcement is able to handle issues like this so issues like this don't exist for families, but that's not true. We like to think there are enough shelters, but that's not true. We like to think that Legal Aide can help with your problems but that's not true because I'm unfortunately Legal Aide is impacted and often they can only help people with evictions not people who are dealing with insufficient housing or discrimination. We have veterans on the street who served for our country, but our country forgot about them. We have people with mental illness who don't have family support. We have people with mental illness who don't want help a very small population who also end up on the streets. Miss Shirley did not decide who is worthy of help and not worthy. She decided every human being had a basic right to feel beautiful and have dignity and be treated well and be fed and cared for. My family has been homeless so many times through no fault to our own. We don't have criminal records. We went to college. We have disabled children. We take good care of our kids and we are proof that the system is broken and we need help not just from the government, but from the people in our backyards the very people who stepped over us vulnerable as we may be the very people who cast disparaging shame on us are the very people that say they serve and love God, and that should not be so. Miss Shirley was judged by many, but one thing she did was make people feel as if God loved them, and that is the best thing about her, she took her struggle and her sadness and made it where other people could feel love and happiness and joy. If all of us take the intention today to show love to people around us even just one percent of what Miss Shirley did this world would be radically different tomorrow. It doesn't take a lot of money or a lot of time to do something small to

help others and that is the best way we can preserve her legacy and that is the best way we can show we care about everything she did. God has given her rest and now we are called to take up the mantle and be a blessing and give Hope and joy to others. We love you, Miss Shirley, and we thank you because every single time we were homeless we wanted to feel beautiful too.



Burks Family - February 28 at 02:19 PM

BF

I'm going to remind everyone that Miss Shirley wanted us to know that people with flaws can make a big difference because we are not perfect, but we are called to be angels as ministering spirits. We were not created to live in pain in this earth and isolation. We were created to spread joy to others to give love to others to be a gift to others as well as ourselves. Thank you, Miss Shirley for what you did for us.

Burks Family - February 28 at 02:21 PM

MR

“ *Mikel Ruffinelli lit a candle in memory of Shirley Diane Raines*



Mikel Ruffinelli - February 28 at 01:37 PM

MR

I will always Love you my Shirley Girl! We will always have our time at your apartment, Drew and T's place, and wherever the wind blew us! Love, Quality Time, and Love of Poetry brought us closer. May the words of your heart, and your work in this world Forever be spoken of, and an example for us all to glean from. RIL QUEEN. Love "Diva"

Mikel Ruffinelli - February 28 at 01:44 PM

MP

“ My name is Michele Pitre that was our “Big Cousin”. I wanted to share some moments I will always treasure. She was like our protector she will always be in our hearts💜💜 I love you big cousin!! Rest well💜💜💜💜💜💜💜💜💜💜💜💜



Michele Pitre - February 17 at 05:21 PM