

Celebrating

THE LIFE OF

SUSAN OLAYINKA AKINYEMI

April 26, 1985 • September 18, 2026

HOME GOING SERVICE • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026

Garden Oaks Funeral Home, Houston, Texas



Susan Olayinka AKINYEMI

SUNRISE
APRIL 26, 1985

SUNSET
SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

ORDER OF SERVICE

Officiating ministers and readers

Processional	
Introduction	*Selected Pastor*
Opening Prayer	*Selected Pastor*
Praise and Worship	
1st Scripture Reading	*Psalm 23 — Tobi Soname*
Hymn #1	*When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder*
2nd Scripture Reading	*1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 — Fola Lawal*
Hymn #2	*How Great Thou Art*
3rd Scripture Reading	*Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 — Kemi and Micah Akinyemi*
Reading of the Biography	*Charles Akinyemi*
Tributes	*Selected friends and family (3–5 mins per)*
Eulogy	*Larry Akinyemi*
Hymn #3	*When We All Get to Heaven*
Exhortation	*Selected Pastor*
Prayer for the Family	*Selected Pastor*
Offering	*Selected Pastor*
Vote of Thanks	*Tosin Komolafe*
Closing Hymn #4	*Amazing Grace*
Announcements	
Closing Prayer & Benediction	*Selected Pastor*

MUSIC MINISTER
Pastor Boma Shodeko
Garden Oaks Event Lead: To Be Confirmed

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23

King James Version

Scripture Reader: Tobi Soname

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

HYMN #1

When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder

James Milton Black · Led by Pastor Boma Shodeko

1 When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

2 On that bright and cloudless morning when the dead in Christ shall rise,
And the glory of His resurrection share;
When His chosen ones shall gather to their home beyond the skies,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

3 Let us labor for the Master from the dawn till setting sun;
Let us talk of all His wondrous love and care.
Then when all of life is over and our work on earth is done,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

REFRAIN *When the roll is called up yonder, when the roll is called up yonder, when the roll is called up yonder, when the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.*

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thessalonians 4:14–18

King James Version | Read by Fola Lawal

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

HYMN #2

How Great Thou Art

English lyrics and arrangement: Stuart K. Hine | Pastor Boma Shodeko

Editable lyrics for Hymn #2 - click or tap the box below

Fillable PDF field - check that the selected verses fit before printing

SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

King James Version

Scripture Readers: Kemi and Micah Akinyemi

1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

HYMN #3

When We All Get to Heaven

Words: Eliza Edmunds Hewitt · Music: Emily D. Wilson

1 Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,
Sing His mercy and His grace;
In the mansions bright and blessed,
He'll prepare for us a place.

2 While we walk the pilgrim pathway,
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when traveling days are over,
Not a shadow, not a sigh.

3 Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving every day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory
Will the toils of life repay.

4 Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open,
We shall tread the streets of gold.

REFRAIN

When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory!



Susan

1985 • 2026

HER STORY

A LIFE OF STRENGTH & GRACE

EARLY LIFE, FAMILY AND DETERMINATION

SUSAN OLAYINKA AKINYEMI was born on April 26, 1985, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. From the beginning, her independence was unmistakable. She began walking at just eight months old, ahead of her siblings, and that quiet determination remained a defining part of her life.

An exceptional student, Susan earned Presidential Academic Awards throughout elementary school. Even then, she told both her parents that she would become a lawyer. It was not a passing ambition; she held firmly to that dream until she fulfilled it.

Her parents, Sunday "Sunny" Akinyemi and Christiana Akinyemi, shaped her values. Christiana taught humility, kindness and generosity, qualities Susan practiced instinctively. Sunny, a pioneering businessman admired for his entrepreneurial genius and savvy, taught the importance of hard work, independence and creating opportunities. Susan embodied both examples: she worked with purpose, treated others with grace and never waited for someone else to solve a problem.

By fourteen, Susan was already driving herself to dance practice so her working mother would not have to make the trip. At Hightower High School, she excelled as an honor-roll student and dancer. She then attended Southern Methodist University, where learning, friendship and sisterhood would become lasting parts of her story.

Education, Friendship and Purpose

At SMU, Susan met Emily, a friendship so close that people rarely saw one without the other. They served as orientation leaders and resident assistants before pledging Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, side by side. Susan's line name, "Heavenly Strength," paired with Emily's "Heavenly Endurance." Strength and endurance described their friendship and Susan's steady spirit.

As chapter treasurer, with Emily serving as president, Susan brought precision and integrity to her responsibilities. There was, as they joked, "no nonsense, no shady business, and certainly no funny business." Yet she never lost her sense of joy: she danced, stepped, strolled, laughed and proudly wore her pearls.

Susan graduated from SMU with degrees in finance and psychology, then earned her law degree with honors from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Her friend Julie remembers her as calm and grounded, "never too low and never too high." In competitive classes, Susan freely shared notes and helped classmates succeed.

After law school, she worked on significant legal cases and established her own law firm. Like her father, she possessed a keen instinct for enterprise, but she saw law as more than a career or title: she wanted to help people who could not easily advocate for themselves. Her childhood dream became a calling grounded in service.

"Never too low and never too high."

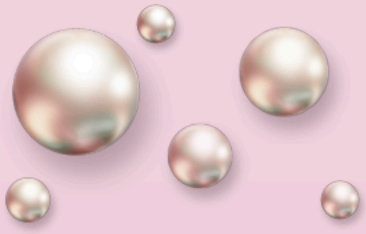
HER FRIEND JULIE

HER LINE NAME

Heavenly Strength



"She danced, stepped, strolled, laughed and proudly wore her pearls."





Generosity, Creativity and Family

AS HER MOTHER CALLED HER

Jack of all Trades

"Susan made others feel seen, valued and loved."



Susan's gifts reached far beyond the courtroom. Her mother affectionately called her a "jack of all trades." Susan could fix things around the house, tackle mechanical problems, bake beautifully and run an event-planning business. Her meticulous attention to detail was legendary. Gifts were wrapped so beautifully that people hesitated to open them. She was a savvy shopper, even working as a secret shopper, and Black Friday outings with her mother became a treasured tradition.

Her giving nature was most evident with her nephew and nieces, Micah, Zaria and Zuriel, whom she loved as her own. Susan and Micah spoke by FaceTime almost every other day about school, sports, future gifts and his goals. She expected great things from him and teasingly called him "the young pastor," admiring his unusually thoughtful prayers.

With Zaria, Sundays often meant popcorn, a movie and a hair-styling session lovingly done by Aunt Susan. She carefully planned the children's wardrobes season by season, always thinking ahead. Even six-month-old Zuriel experienced Susan's love through frequent FaceTime calls. Susan spoke blessings and hope over her infant niece, determined to make her presence felt from the beginning.

To her brothers Charles and Larry, she was devoted and protective, always ready to help. She also extended this same warmth to her friends' children. Whether through practical help, carefully chosen gifts or simply giving her time, Susan made others feel seen, valued and loved.

Faith, Legacy and Remembrance

Faith anchored Susan's life. Emily remembers her as a prayer warrior who fasted, wept and prayed through difficult seasons. When their line sister Chané died in 2009, Susan remained close by Emily's side. Even when carrying burdens of her own, she reassured others that everything would be all right. She often reminded her mother to trust God and believe better days were coming.

Susan was joyful and outgoing, yet humble. Accomplished without seeking attention, meticulous without demanding praise, strong without being hardened and generous without keeping score, she showed her love through action. Her mother once told her, "Not all moms do what I do, but not all daughters do what Susan did, either."

Susan was preceded in death by her beloved father, Sunday "Sunny" Akinyemi. She is survived by her mother, Christiana Akinyemi; her brothers, Charles and Larry Akinyemi; her sister-in-law, Kemi Akinyemi; her nephew, Micah Akinyemi; and her nieces, Zaria and Zuriel Akinyemi, together with extended family, sorority sisters, friends, colleagues and countless loved ones.

Perhaps her greatest legacy is simple: Susan showed her love by showing up. She gave people her time, her talents, her prayers, her attention and, again and again, her heart. She did it all with humility, precision, strength and grace.

She showed her love by showing up.

IN HER MOTHER'S WORDS

"

Not all moms do what I do, but not all daughters do what Susan did, either.



CHERISHED MEMORIES OF SUSAN

A Life in Pictures



CHILDHOOD



FAMILY



SISTERHOOD



FRIENDS

CLOSING HYMN #4

Amazing Grace

Words: John Newton | Traditional hymn

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

3. Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

4. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

INTERMENT HYMN

It Is Well with My Soul

Words: Horatio G. Spafford • *Music:* Philip P. Bliss

1. When peace, like a river,
attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded
my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood
for my soul.

3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this
glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
O my soul!

4. And, Lord, haste the day
when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord
shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well (it is well) with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

INTERMENT SERVICE

Forest Park Southwest
9040 FM 359 Rd
Richmond, TX 77406

ORDER OF INTERMENT

Prayer	*Selected Pastor*
Hymn	*It Is Well with My Soul*
Word of Exhortation	*Selected Pastor*
Interment	*Selected Pastor*
Prayer	*Selected Pastor*
Committal	*Selected Pastor*
Closing & Announcements	*Selected Pastor*



SUSAN OLAYINKA AKINYEMI

SUNRISE APRIL 26, 1985 • SUNSET SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS

Note of Appreciation

The family of Susan Olayinka Akinyemi sincerely thanks you for your prayers, presence, calls, messages and every act of kindness during this difficult time. Your love has been a source of strength and comfort. May God richly bless you for your compassion and continued prayers.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to
Garden Oaks Funeral Home · Houston, TX

WWW.SOA426.COM
Additional service information and memories online