



## Chilopie Millington

June 24th, 1977 • May 24th, 2021

Chilopie Millington was born on June 24, 1977, in Georgetown, Guyana, South America, and she was called home to be with the Lord on May 24, 2021 in San Leandro, California. Chilopie, lovingly called Chilly by her family, was the daughter of Sandra Millington and Milton Adams of Guyana; mother of Juwan Millington-Cox, Mekhia, Aaliyah, and Allanah Millington-Lynch; sister of Chief Sekou Toure (Seke) Millington, and Fenkitola (Fenny) Millington.

Chilopie's early childhood in Guyana was spent in a large, loving, and nurturing family environment. In 1982, at the tender age of 5 years old, she immigrated with her mother and siblings to the USA, settling in New York. She began her formal education at PS 152 in Brooklyn, and then went on to Winthrop Middle School. She attended Wingate High School for two years, and, in 1994, the family relocated to North Charleston, South Carolina where she graduated from R.B. Stall High School in 1996. Shortly afterward, the family relocated again, this time to Hayward, California where they have continued to reside.

As part of a large extended family that placed great emphasis on education, Chilopie always knew that she was destined for college. She was also ambitious, and she embarked on a course of study to further her education. She attended Hayward Adult School where she received the Kaiser Medical Certificate and then received an Associate's Degree in Sociology at Chabot College. She was employed in various positions while she continued to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Social Work from the California State University East Bay campus where she graduated in 2014.

And even as she juggled school and work, her first priority was the care and well-being of her children: Juwan, Mekhia and the twins, Aaliyah and Allanah. She showered them with so much love, encouraged them to be the best that they can be, and she made every effort to bring them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Chilopie was a woman of deep faith who loved the Lord and was unafraid to demonstrate her Christian faith and values to her children and to everyone else who knew her. Although she was raised in the Moravian Church in her formative years, she became a member of Faith Fellowship Church in San Leandro where she and her children were active participants in various ministries, such as, praise dancing and singing in the choir. Until her passing, she maintained lifelong friendships with some of those members. Several years ago, she and her family joined the Glad Tidings International Church of God in Christ, in Hayward. She fully embraced the warmth and the love she found in the fellowship of the congregation. She made certain that her girls were active in the Children's Ministry; it was important that they learned the values of a Christian upbringing. And although she was struggling with her illness, she found the time and energy to serve in the Hospitality Ministry, Cover Girl Ministry and the Cancer Support Ministry.

Chilopie was as beautiful as she was gracious, friendly, and loving. And although she was soft spoken, she was also assertive when it became necessary. If there was conflict, she was known to be the peacemaker. There was

no question that she was a woman of great style, who also had a mischievous sense of humor. Her capacity to love and be accepting of others without judgement, resulted in a network of great friendships among her peers, her coworkers, and her church families. In her professional life, she worked in areas where she could exhibit not only her amazing skills but where she could also apply her deep sense of inclusivity, caring and compassion. It was not a coincidence that Chilopie found her calling in the field of education. She comes from a family of three generations of distinguished educators. At Chabot College, where she was employed since 2014, she and her co-coordinator of the Umoja program spent countless hours recruiting, traveling, coordinating, and supporting students. She was a cofounding counsellor who contributed significantly to helping build and maintain the Umoja Program at Chabot. She was totally dedicated to the Umoja students who nominated her to receive the "Five Star Service Award" in recognition of her consistent above-and-beyond loving support. She was also the recipient of the esteemed "Chancellor's Award", recognizing her district-wide legacy of positive impacts on the community. And, although she hadn't returned to her native Guyana since she left in 1982, she was well grounded in Guyanese culture and cuisine and she actively participated in the Guyanese Association of the Bay Area, never missing their annual events.

Her legacy is one that can teach those of us who are left behind, not only how to live peacefully in the face of tremendous challenges, but also how to die with Grace and Dignity. Chilopie had been battling cancer for several years and there were times when she was in excruciating pain. And, yet, Chilopie exhibited such incredible strength, courage, and resilience, despite the inevitable. She continued her work at Chabot College, she attended church regularly, and she stayed in close contact with family and friends. In the final stages of her life, many of her close friends and coworkers visited her at the hospital. When she could no longer speak, Chilopie rallied two days before her passing and began communicating with her immediate family by sharing her thoughts through writing. She let them know how much she loved each one of them by drawing hearts and adding their names on pieces of paper; and she also made some final requests, a few of which are evident in today's service. She slipped quietly away with some of her immediate family lovingly surrounding her.

Chilopie can aptly be described by the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful."

Her family gives God praise and thanks for the precious gift that was Chilopie. Her indomitable spirit will live on through her children, her mother, her siblings, and her large extended family scattered across the globe in places like Guyana, Canada, England, Sweden, the West Indies, and several states in the USA, and those whose lives have been impacted by her generosity, kindness, and compassion.

Loved ones name:

Left to mourn Chilopie are her mother, Sandra Millington, her siblings: Sekou and Fenny; her children: Juwan, son of Samuel Cox, III, Mekhia, Aaliyah, and Allanah, daughters of Mark Anthony Lynch; nephews: Tashawn, Leyland, and Zyon; nieces: Xhoshia, Zaria and Xendyah; Great Aunts: Olivia McCammon, Vera Boyce Nestor, Great Uncle Leonard Nestor; Aunts: Carol, Jean, Sonja, Margaret, Alexis, Esther and Uncle John; lots of cousins, including: Aubrey, Gordon, Gavin, Roger, Sean, Ryan, Christopher, Raymond, Tyreke, Ian, Jarron, Ebony, Jamila, Cashel, Tyniesha, Clarissa; and a host of extended family including: Aaron, Ash, Armstrong, Barker, Blair, Britt, Brown, Campbell, Cozier-Ryan, Dillon, Freso, Grant, Jones-Brown, Jones-Weeks, Jordan, Kellman, Knight, Kobsar, Lake-Nestor, McCammon, McPherson, McCammon-Chase, Millington, Morgan, Munroe, Nestor, Noel, Ryan, Saul-Joseph, Scarder-Hellfors, Sears, Vickerie, Washington, Freeman, Cox, Lynch, Jordan, Hall, Jett; her church families, her network of close friends and coworkers. May her soul Rest in Eternal Peace.