

*Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you sent a floral piece if so we saw it there.  
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.  
Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day.  
Whatever you did to console our hearts  
We thank you so much whatever the part.*

*Professional Services Entrusted To*

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME  
37 Clinton Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ  
201-433-1000

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE  
130 Main Street    1025 Bergen Street  
Orange, NJ        Newark, NJ  
973-675-6400    973-926-6400

*A Life  
Remembered*



*Willie L. Flood*

1939 - 2012

*Funeral Service*

Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

**MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

400 Arlington Avenue

Jersey City, NJ

*Rev. John H. McReynolds, Pastor*

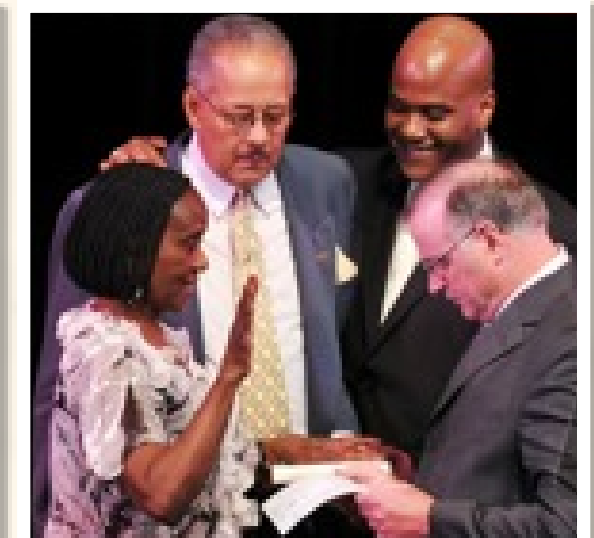
INTERMENT

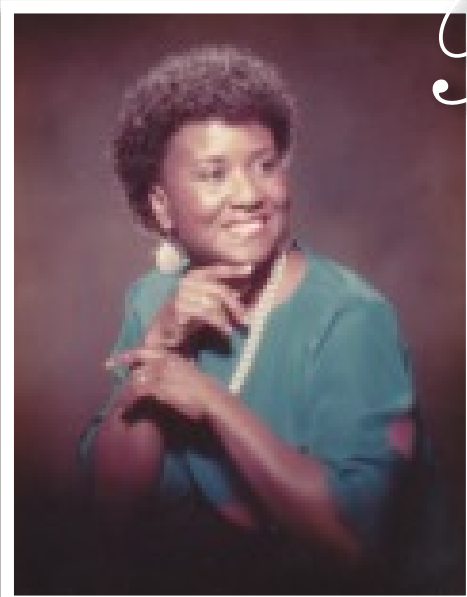
Bayview Cemetery • Jersey City, NJ

REPAST

Mount Olive Baptist Church

400 Arlington Ave. • Jersey City, NJ





*Precious*

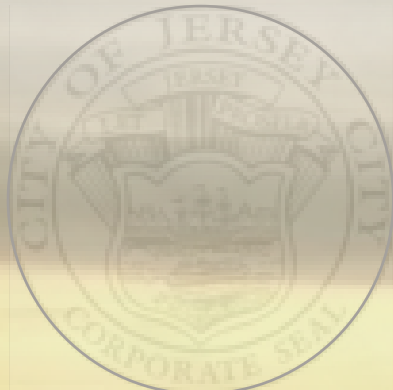
*Memories*

COUNCILWOMAN

*Willie L. Flood*

Sunrise: November 11, 1939

Sunset: April 24, 2012





# The Obituary

**Willie Bell Lewis Flood** was born to Willie Lee Hemphill Lewis and Israel Lewis Jr. on Saturday, November 11, 1939 in Greenboro, Alabama. Willie was the second oldest of eleven children. Her family later moved to Mobile, Alabama, where she graduated from Blount High School. After completion of her high school education, she entered Alabama State College (University) and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education.

In 1962, with opportunities limited in the South due to racial segregation, Willie made the bold decision to relocate to Jersey City, New Jersey. Willie's educational preparation and skills opened immediate access to employment which launched a promising career for her with the Jersey City Public School system. Willie would go on to fill numerous positions, beginning her service as classroom teacher in Public School 22. Public School 22 was not only the place where her professional career would start; it was there where Willie met the love of her life, Phillip Terrell Flood. A marriage of enduring love was inevitable and has lasted for forty years. Its flame will not be dispelled by time or death.

Upon completion of a Master of Arts degree in Guidance in 1978 from Jersey City State College (New Jersey City University), Willie was appointed the district's Coordinator of Desegregation, a position in which she served for some ten years. It was during that time, her office worked to establish the McNair High School as Jersey City Public Schools' answer to desegregation.

Many other challenges would be met by Willie as she also became assistant principal of Public Schools 15, 17, 22 and 41 respectively. With near twenty-five years of service to improving education, Willie never forgot what she had marched for and for what principles she believed. Willie's retirement from the school system's employment did not end her commitment to affecting positively the future of the city's children. Because of her continued dedication to helping each child reach his or her full educational potential, she earned a seat on the Jersey City Board of Education, where she served from 1996 to 2005.

With more than thirty years of dedicated, committed service to the educational welfare of the children of Jersey City, Willie helped to change the lives of tens of thousands, finally retiring in 2005. Yet, her work for the cause of change in Jersey City often found her performing triple duty, but she never fell short of her wifely responsibilities and that of mothering three wonderful sons - John, Todd, and Phillip Jr.

Mrs. Flood's relentless community involvement made her a fitting person for the appointment to the Jersey City Municipal Council as an At-Large member in 1990. In the general election of that same year, she was then elected Councilwoman-At-Large. She served in this position for one term, going on to run unsuccessful campaigns for mayor in 1992 and 2004, yet from those platforms the issues of the time were heard. The very next year (2005) she was re-elected as Councilwoman-at-Large, and again the people would return her to that post in 2009. From 2002 to 2004, Willie served as Mayoral Aide to Mayor Glenn D. Cunningham, the first African American elected mayor in New Jersey's second largest city.

Mrs. Flood's community and educational involvement has been immeasurable. She has served as Director of Hudson County Senior Affairs; Director of Hudson County Consumer Affairs; elected Hudson County Register – the first African American woman and the second woman in Hudson County's history to hold that county-wide office.

Willie was a loyal and faithful member of the Mount Olive Baptist Church where she loved and cherished her pastor, sisters and brothers in Christ, and they in turn "love" her. She served as church clerk for many years; always tirelessly giving of herself.

Willie's melodious soprano voice still remains in our hearts and minds. We can never forget how earnestly she sang the song that portrayed her never-changing attitude, "I Will Not Complain".

In recognition of Mrs. Flood's exemplary service to the city of Jersey City, Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy proclaimed the renaming of her block of Forrest Street to the "Willie L. Flood Way" on April 4, 2012.

Mrs. Flood was preceded in death by her parents, Deacon Captain Israel Lewis Jr., Mrs. Willie Lee Lewis; one son, Todd A. Smith; one brother, Marcel L. Lewis; one sister, Linda D. Thomas; one nephew, Henry A. Thomas.

Willie is survived by her loving and devoted husband, Phillip Terrell Flood Sr.; two sons, John Smith of Mobile, AL, and Phillip Terrell Flood II of Jersey City; three grandchildren, Dominique Broughton of Mobile, AL; Bryce and Xavier Medard of Jersey City; a great-granddaughter, Kaylen House of Mobile, AL; one step-daughter, Kenya Medard (Anthony) Jersey City, NJ; six brothers, Israel Lewis III of Mobile, AL; Amos Lewis (Cheryl) of McClain, Virginia; Wesley J. Lewis; Robert F. Lewis (Paulette); Lester R. Lewis all of Mobile, AL; Christopher B. Lewis (Liza) of Jacksonville FL; two sisters, Joycie L. Brown (William); Lisa L. Curtis, both of Mobile, AL; an aunt, Mrs. Leola Wade of Ohio; a brother-in-law, John Flood and sister-in-law, Deborah Michieka of Jersey City; four godchildren, Venus Charles, Sarah Charles, and Doncella Morris all of Jersey City and Yamale Minga of Virginia; special friends, Rev. Edward Allen, Katherine Choice of Jersey City; Alfred Rodriguez of NY, and Delorice Webb of Minnesota; a trusted friend since childhood, Deloris Morrisette Smith; and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends who will cherish her memories and imitate her loving spirit.

# Order of Service

**Rev. Edward A. Allen, Officiating**  
**Rev. John H. McReynolds, Eulogist**

Processional .....	Organ Prelude
Hymn of Praise .....	Congregation
Scripture Reading	
Old Testament .....	Proverb 31: 10-25 ..... Rev. Frank Gamble
New Testament .....	1 Corinthians 15: 35-58 ..... Rev. Dejon Morris
Prayer of Comfort .....	Rev. Edward A. Allen Pastor, <i>Philemon Missionary Baptist Church, Newark, NJ</i>
Selection .....	Mount Olive Baptist Church Choir

## Reflections

New Jersey State Government  
Senator Sandra Cunningham

Hudson County Government  
County Executive - Thomas Degise

Board of Chosen Freeholders  
Freeholder Jeffery Dublin

Jersey City Education Community  
Former Superintendent - Dr. Charles T. Epps, Jr.

Jersey City Municipal Government  
Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy  
Councilwoman-at-Large Viola Richardson

Friend of Willie L. Flood  
Educator Mrs. Deloris Smith

Selection .....	Mount Olive Baptist Church Choir
Acknowledgements & Resolutions	
Obituary .....	Sis. Brenda Boyd
Solo .....	Mr. Paul Maxwell
The Eulogy .....	Rev. John H. McReynolds <i>Pastor, Mount Olive Baptist Church</i>
Recessional .....	Organ Postlude