

# *I'm Free*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard Him call*

*I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day.*

*To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it up with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.*

*My life's been full, I savored much.  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.*

*Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free!*

*-author unknown*

## *Acknowledgement*

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 on that day.

Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You, Whatever the part.

## **Professional Services Provided By**

**COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE**  
130 Main Street  
Orange, NJ  
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street  
Newark, NJ  
973-926-6400

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

# *A Celebration for the Life of*

A large, semi-transparent portrait of an elderly African American woman, Elsie Radcliffe, is the central focus. She has short, curly grey hair and is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white blouse with a large, light blue bow. Her hands are clasped in front of her. The background of the entire page is a soft-focus image of a blue sky with white clouds. Several white doves are depicted in flight: one in the top left, one in the middle left, one in the bottom left, and one in the bottom right.

## *Elsie Radcliffe*

*Sunrise*

September 2, 1924

*Sunset*

May 1, 2012

## *Funeral Service*

Saturday, May 5, 2012 - 1:00 p.m.

## **COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE**

1025 Bergen Street  
Newark, NJ 07112

Rev. Edward Allen, Officiating  
Michael Gammage, Organist

# Order of Service

**Processional**  
Family and Friends

**Prayer of Comfort**  
Minister Jean Herring

**Scripture Reading**  
Old Testament - Psalm 23  
New Testament - Phillippians 4:10-14

## Reflections

**Selection**  
*"Amazing Grace"*

**Reading Obituary**  
Loretta Brown - Walk Around Heaven

## Selection

## The Eulogy

**Interment**  
Rosehill Cemetery  
Linden, New Jersey

***Immediately following the interment family and friends are invited for a repast at James C. White Manor Recreational Center 516 Bergen Street • Newark, NJ***

# Life Reflections

**Miss Elsie Radcliffe** of Pleasantville, New Jersey, formerly from Newport News, Virginia. She entered eternal life on May 1, 2012. Elsie aka "Big Momma" was born on September 2, 1924 in Elizabeth, NJ to the late Melvina and Leon Radcliffe. She was educated in the Newport News School system.

She was a loving, compassionate, supportive and caring mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend to many. She had a passion for cooking. Elsie was one of the first family members to own her own business. In the 1960's, she owned a successful soul food restaurant in Newport News, VA; she was an excellent cook. She loved to travel with her family and friends. She traveled throughout the United States and abroad. She traveled as far as Europe, Hawaii, and the Bahamas to name a few.

Before her illness, she was an active member in her church The Greater Holy Trinity Baptist Church; in Atlantic City, NJ. Elsie retired as a supervisor from Harrah's Casino.

Special thanks to Caring Daycare, Mainland and Hospice for their love and support during her illness and transition.

Elsie will forever remain in the hearts of her daughter, Margaret Brown (Bobby) of Pleasantville, NJ; her sisters, Gertrude Wilson of East Orange, NJ, Leola Spotwood of Trenton, NJ and Estelle Olds of Newport News, VA; her grandchildren, Everette Sloan (Phyllis) of Cardiff, NJ, Fara Sloan Shaw (Rudy) Hampton, VA, Fred Brown (Loretta) of Pleasantville, NJ and Darius Brown of Egg Harbor Township, NJ; her great grandchildren, Ian Sloan, Maya Shaw, Martin Shaw, Malcolm Shaw, Destiny Brown, Daruis Brown, Jr., Tonika Sanderlin, Jerrod Livingston and Lavar Thomas; three great great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and dear friends.

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