

Celebration of Life for

Janie Wilkinson

Sunrise

August 15, 1914

Sunset

December 9, 2012



Service

Tuesday, December 18, 2012 - 11:00 a.m.

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

562-574 Madison Street
Brooklyn, New York 11221

Rev. Lawrence E. Aker, III

Obituary

“In that day when I stand before my Lord the righteous Judge, I want to hear Him say, Well Done.”

A sweet sweet spirit has flown away...Though we are sad, heaven is rejoicing!!!

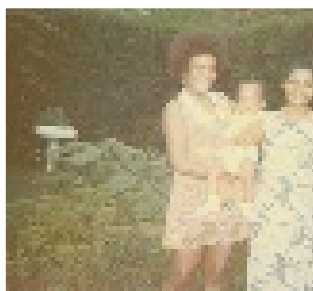
Mrs. Janie Davis Wilkinson was born in Timmons ville, South Carolina, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Julia Gee Davis, on August 15, 1914. She was the seventh child of eight children; all of her siblings are deceased. Until her death on December 9, 2012, Janie had the blessed distinction of being the family's oldest living member; she was indeed the family, matriarch, as well as, historian. And until a few months prior to the end, she was vibrant and beautiful and still able to tell her story. Her memory of childhood years, adolescence, young adulthood, middle age, and present time, was phenomenal. With her words, she was able to capture the “specialness” she felt growing up in the big and loving family of Gees; there were 45 first cousins, and these cousins were more than relatives, they were best friends; aunts and uncles were like parents, and in-laws became Gees- in spirit.

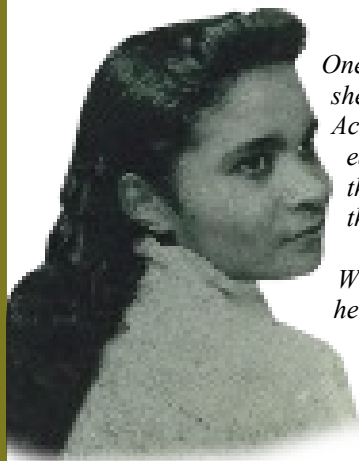
Ever proud of her heritage, Janie also remembered what it felt like growing up in a jim crow and segregated south and how, even in early adolescence she rebelled against it, a pattern of behavior that would follow her into adulthood. She always had the gentility and bearing of the proverbial “southern belle,”(studied piano, classical –Traumerei her favorite, even making the request that it be played at her funeral; and ‘pop’ music, performing as leading lady in HS plays, enjoyed poetry, loved the short stories of Russian author Fyodor Dostoyevsky, etc.) while harboring the spirit of a warrior when she felt her basic human rights were being diminished or trampled on. She was a woman of color, who demonstrated both courage and conviction in everything she did, and every obstacle she faced. Her heroes were: Mary McCleod Bethune, Marian Anderson, Lena Horne, Eleanor Roosevelt, Adam Clayton Powell Jr, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr, James Farmer, Malcolm X, and of course, President Barack Hussein Obama. She said she never thought she would live to see the day when America would elect a Black President! His election was a glorious day for her!!!

At an early age she became aware of the value of education and because education was highly valued in the Gee/Davis family, and her desire to help others, Janie decided on a career in the Health services as a registered nurse. After graduating from Brockington High School in Timmons ville, SC she attended Good Samaritan School of Nursing in Columbia, SC, for over two years, but had to leave in order to help her mother take care of her ailing dad who had sustained a third debilitating stroke.

In January of 1937, she was joined in holy matrimony to her high school sweetheart, Arnold Wilkinson 111 who had joined the US Navy. To the end, Janie had vivid memories of being escorted to her high school prom by Arnold, and could even describe in great detail wearing her hair in long cascading curls, as well as, the gown she wore, and accompanying matching evening slippers, and bag. Nevertheless, traveling alone as a 22 year old, to meet Arnold in San Diego, California to be married, was undoubtedly the highlight of her young life. She could discuss the trip as if it were yesterday. Arnold was and still is the love of Janie's life, and now she has joined him.

Several years after their marriage, two children were born, Marguerita and Arnold Jr. To her children, including her beloved daughter-in-law, Elina, and son-in-law, Ted, she was always “Mommy” and will always be, and to her grands and great grands she will always be, grandma Janie. Being a Christian, mother, wife and homemaker became the driving force of Janie's life. She loved her children and husband more than words can express and they adored her; she was their rock. Always recognizing the importance of education, Janie gave constant encouragement to her children to study hard and achieve. (College was a must) In her world, one could never get





Footprints

One night a woman had a dream. She dreamed she was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from her life. For each scene, she noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to her, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of her life flashed before her, she looked back at the footprints in the sand. She noticed that many times along the path of her life there was only one set of footprints. She also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in her life.

This really bothered her and she questioned the LORD about it. "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Author Unknown

Acknowledgements

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this hour of bereavement.

May God Bless and Keep You!

Professional Services Provided By:

Roy L. Gilmore's Funeral Home, Inc.

Angela Gilmore-Manning, *President*

Ph (718) 529-3030 • (718) 528-7765

Fax (718) 712-2108 • (718) 528-2575

Email: royl.gilmorefuneralhome@verizon.net



MAIN OFFICE

191-02 Linden Blvd.

St. Albans, L.I., NY 11412

116-53 Sutphin Blvd.

Jamaica, L.I., NY 11436

too much education; she knew it opened up new horizons.

“Fussing” with her house also brought her great joy; she loved pretty dainty things, especially pretty pink things; she loved to decorate. At one time, in her younger years, she did fine embroidery, even making bedspreads. She and dad also loved to entertain. (Dinner parties,-she did enjoy her formal settings, and other Celebrations)

Janie had an early Christian life experience, and was a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church, in Timmonsville, S.C., the late Rev. Edward Ham Sr., pastor. Upon settling in Brooklyn in 1947, after many years of travelling, Janie joined Cornerstone Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Dr. Sandy F. Ray. She was dedicated in attending services, and served as an assistant Sunday School teacher, until health issues prevented her from attending on a regular basis. Janie loved sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with everyone. She did not want anything to separate her from the love of God, and gave of herself day after day, to family and friends. Janie could calm fears, boost egos, brighten days and make hearts feel uplifted, with a few special words and a winning sweet smile. She was a powerful influence on all who knew her.

Janie and Arnold moved to Queens in 1969, where Janie lived until her death. Arnold passed away on March 31, 2001. Janie became confined to her bed, having sustained a heart attack in August of 2009 and was no longer able to walk, but never lost her faith in God and in the healing presence of Jesus, her Lord and Savior. She endured her condition with grace and dignity; always with a smile and good humor. On occasion, when attempting to put herself in a semi- sitting position she would slide down, and say, ‘look, I’m doing the slide.’

In spite of everything that happened in her life- a ruptured appendix at the age of six, (her burial clothes were bought and funeral arrangements made), almost drowning at the age of 10 when the car she and her sisters were in went off of a bridge and none of them could swim; losing her 24 year old sister Rosie who died in childbirth when she was 15 years old; living through WW11, with the knowledge that her husband was in the thick of battle in the South Pacific, receiving the news that Arnold had sustained serious injury in battle, and would need extensive surgery which would keep him in the hospital for two years; the deaths of her parents, siblings, beloved cousins, the passing of her beloved husband, the death of her beloved nephew, Sonnyboy; the stroke that rendered her beloved son Arnold Jr. paralyzed; and her own debilitating heart attack- Janie never lost her faith in God and she praised Him every day. The way she lived her life with such strength, courage, grace and conviction, was truly an inspiration to all, and the legacy she leaves for all, is Love.

She was truly a Phenomenal Woman!!!

These words from the Apostle Paul, and one of her favorite scriptures, exemplify Janie’s life and faith: “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give at that day, and not to me only, but to all them also that love his appearing. 2 Timothy, 4th Chapter:7, 8

Janie leaves to mourn: children, Marguerita Fletcher and Arnold Wilkinson Jr.; daughter-in-law, Elina Wilkinson; son-in-law, Theodore Fletcher; granddaughter, Sherrie Scott of Trenton, NJ; grandsons, Tommy Fletcher of Santa Fe Springs, CA, Shawn Fletcher of Brooklyn, NY, and Kahlil Fletcher of Charlotte, NC; granddaughter-in-law, Noriko Fletcher and future granddaughter-in-law, Jillian Waterman; five great-grands, Robert Moore of Willingboro, NJ, Domonique Moore of Trenton, NJ, Shana Danielle Moore of Lumberton, NJ, Quaadir and Kareem Scott of Trenton, NJ; great great-granddaughter, Za’kiyah also of Willingboro; nieces, Jacqueline Davis of Jacksonville, Florida, Joyce Backman of Durham, NC and Kathe Douglas of Hampton, VA; nephews, RM Wilkinson of Durham, North Carolina, Anthony Wilkinson of North Carolina, Ronald and Edward Davis; first cousins, Girlena Lawrence, and Julia Grooms McClellan, Maxie Grooms, Lillie Newell, Cornell Gee Robinson, and Nechola Samuel Gee; church daughters, Beatrice J. Wall, and Florence Agnew; and a host of family and friends.

Order of Service

The Organ Prelude “There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood”

The Processional Clergy, Church Boards and Family

Selection “Just A Closer Walk With Thee” #309/356

The Scripture

Old Testament - Psalm 90 Reverend Henry G. Scott

New Testament - St. John 11:1-44

The Prayer of Comfort

Music “We Shall Behold Him”

Mrs. Beatrice J. Walls

Reflections/Tributes Mr. Tommy Fletcher, grandson

“The Invitation” Ms. Sherrie D. Scott, granddaughter

Instrumental “Traumerei”, Robert Schumann

Solo “My Heavenly Father Watches Over Me”

Mrs. Beatrice J. Walls

Acknowledgements, Resolutions Mrs. Dorothy P. Lane

Church Clerk

The Obituary Mrs. Marguerita Fletcher, daughter

The Eulogy Reverend Lawrence E. Aker, III

The Benediction Reverend Lawrence E. Aker, III

The Recessional Clergy, Church Boards and Family

“It Is Well”

The Organ Postlude “Going Home”

Interment

Cypress Hills Cemetery

Brooklyn, New York



