

After Glow

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.

I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.

*I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the way,
of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.*

*I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun,
of happy memories that I leave when life is done.*

Pallbearers

Lee Fisher	Rahsann Holmes
James Hooper, Jr.	James Hooper, III
Wilbur Hooper, Jr.	Kyle Priester
William Sharpe	Hahsann Williams

Note of Thanks

The family is eternally grateful to all of you for the outpour of prayers, love, care and support given to Mary Blanche Hooper throughout the years. The family extends special thanks to Dr. I. Robert Grossman, (the oncologist), the staff of the Infusion Center and the nurses/ doctors that cared for her at Saint Barnabas Medical Center for five years. Additionally, we thank Rev. Ralph M. Branch, Jr. and the Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church Family for their sincere Christian love during the difficult journey of these past few months.

Repast

Please join the family in the Lower Auditorium for the repast immediately following the interment.

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Celebrating the Life Of

Mary Blanche Hooper



*Tuesday, December 10, 2013
11:00 A.M.*

*Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church
235 Seymour Avenue
Newark, New Jersey
Rev. Ralph M. Branch, Jr. Pastor*

Psalm 55: 6-8, 22

*I said, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove!
I would fly away and be at rest -
I would flee far away and stay in the desert:
I would hurry to my place of shelter,
far from the tempest and storm."*

*Cast your cares
on the Lord
and He will sustain you;
He will never let the righteous fall.*

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Sunrise *Sunset*
May 31, 1937 *December 4, 2013*

Mary Blanche Hooper was born on May 31, 1937 in Rocky Mount, NC. She was the eldest of seven children born to the late Warren and Rosa Lee Sharpe. In 1955 she graduated from Booker T. Washington High School. After graduation she came to New Jersey to marry her husband the late James Hooper. To this union two children were born: Valerie Marie and James, Jr. In 1973, her husband was tragically killed in an automobile accident and she found herself working and providing for her family. She instilled in her children a strong work ethic, the importance of education and always giving to each other and the community.

Blanche became actively involved with community/civic rights under the leadership of her late husband who served as the past president of C.O.R.E. (Congress of Racial Equality). She felt privileged to have had the opportunity to have hosted community meetings in her home. A home that she has lived in over fifty years in the South Ward District of Newark. She was determined to be diligent about being a community activist as she served as a Democratic Committee member under the leadership of her mentor the late Congressman Donald M. Payne and forming block organizations to provide for neighborhood children. She had exhibited a tremendous commitment to serve the South Ward Democratic Committee for over thirty-five years.

While serving in her community and civic organizations Blanche returned back to school with the help of family and friends. She graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in Elementary Education and Certification in Life Skills Education. She also received her Master's Degree from Rutgers University in Counselling.

Her work ethic was impeccable and she was employed in several venues: Newark Public Library; Newark Board of Adjustments; Newark Board of Education (teacher); Employment Counselor and Life Skills Counselor for Essex County; Affirmative Action Specialist for Essex County; Director of the Nellie Grier Senior Center of the City of Newark; Senior Commissioner City of Newark; Newark Women's Council Trustee and Aide to Assemblywoman Grace L. Spencer.

She was a former member of the North Jersey Unit of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club. In November 2013 she was presented the Life Time NAACP Award and has been honored on several occasions by community organizations that have recognized her tireless efforts.

Blanche became a member of the Mount Zion Baptist Church in 1955

with her mother-in-law the late Willie Belle Hooper. She was actively involved with Christian Education and the enrichment of children reflecting academic and religious training. She was blessed to have had two pastors, The Rev. Dr. Homer J. Tucker and The Rev. Dr. Granville A. Seward that encouraged her relationship with Jesus Christ.

On Easter Sunday of 2013, she moved her membership to Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of The Rev. Ralph M. Branch, Jr. The Pastor and the Mount Calvary Church Family loved and embraced her as she approached her final days.

Her unfailing faith helped her to overcome the challenges of the death of her husband and of breast cancer. Her steadfast belief in Christ's healing power enabled her to be resilient in her five year battle with stomach/bowel cancer. When doctor's kept shaking their heads in disbelief, her faith in God continued to grow stronger knowing that He would sustain and keep her.

Blanche gave the best of everything that she had. She taught by example, free loving spirit, an encourager, witty, a protector of her family, outspoken, a true friend, a leader and a phenomenal woman in every aspect of life. She leaves the legacy of "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." She has taught us how to live through adversity and to embrace resilience.

Blanche entered into eternal rest on December 4th, 2013 at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, NJ. She was blessed to have had two pastors (Rev. Branch and Rev. Seward) and family at her bedside when she made her transition. She leaves to cherish her life's memory; her loving children, Rev. Dr. Valerie M. Griffin (Rev. Wayne), Morristown, NJ; James Hooper, Jr. (Helene), Suffolk, VA; her precious and beloved grandchildren, Hahsann, James III and Shonda; her great grandchildren whom she cherished; Jaelin, Zaire, Ashley, Callie, Semaj and Tashan; her sisters, Deacon Carrie Priester (Jacob) Greensboro, NC; Edna Bynum (Melvin) Rocky Mount, NC; Rosa Holmes, Rocky Mount, NC and her brothers, Warren Sharpe (Gwendolyn) Linden, NJ; and William Sharpe, Rocky Mount, NC; a special sister-in-law, Dr. Theresa Hooper-Marshall (Newark, NJ); cousins, a host of loving nieces and nephews and many wonderful friends.

*"Till from Mount Pisgah's lofty height, I view my home and take my flight:
this robe of flesh I'll drop and rise to seize the everlasting prize, and shout
while passing thru the air,*

Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer." - Farewell Mom

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