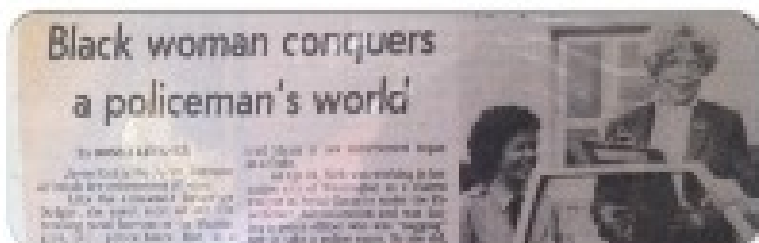


*In Loving Memory of
Joann Patricia Thomas*



Sunrise
March 28, 1941

Sunset
December 16, 2014

Monday, December 29, 2014 - 12:00 Noon

Cotton Funeral Service

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, New Jersey
Bishop Rawls, Officiating
Emory Lee, Organist

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Viewing

Committal

Recessional

Interment

Evergreen Cemetery
Hillside, New Jersey

Obituary

Joann Patricia Thomas was born on March 28, 1941 in Lumpkin, Georgia to Hazel Allen. Sister to, Ethel Moore-Zanders, Robert Moore and Vanessa Abaanum. Joann was raised in Lumpkin, Georgia until she moved to Newark, New Jersey in her late teens.

Joann worked several odd jobs while pursuing her education at Essex County College in Newark, New Jersey. Joann would later go on to successfully complete the New Jersey Police Academy becoming one of the first African American women to join the ranks as a Montclair State Police Officer.

Soon after she began a career in Newark Public Schools. Obtaining her Black Seal License and becoming the head Custodial Boiler Operator. Joann retired from Newark Public Schools after twenty plus years of employment and had been recognized on several occasions for her hard work, dedication and leadership abilities.

Joann was a dutiful servant of God. Her beauty was breath takingly effortless, her willingness to help others was nothing short of amazing. Joann was a woman of respect, yet stern but a gentle soul with the determination and fearlessness of God. Joann was funny, hopeful, a great cook, strong, loving and honest.

Joann departed this life on December 16, 2014 8:31 p.m. at Newark Beth Israel Hospital. Joann is predeceased by her daughter, Valerie Williams.

Joann is survived by: her siblings, Ethel Moore-Zanders, Vanessa Abaanum, Robert Moore and his children, Waymond Mathis, Willie C. Mathis; her grandchildren, Hakim Williams, Lamieka Williams, Al-Quadir Williams-Thomas, Monique Horne, Shaheedah Williams-Thomas, Shelby Thomas, Latonya Thomas and Anthony Williams; great-nieces, Nikki Mathis and Jasmine Mathis; and a host of great grandchildren, relatives and friends.

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Gone From My Sight

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side,
spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts
for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength.
I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck
of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.
Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone."

Gone where?

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast,
hull and spar as she was when she left my side.
And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.
Her diminished size is in me -- not in her.
And, just at the moment when someone says, "There, she is gone,"
there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices
ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!"
And that is dying...

- Henry Van Dyke

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

