

The Celebration of Life of



Mattie Womack

Sunrise

March 15, 1914

Sunset

December 26, 2014

Service

Monday, January 5, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.

GREATER CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

2152-58 Fifth Avenue • New York, NY 10037

Obituary

Mrs. Mattie (Otelia) Chaplin-Womack was born March 15, 1914, on St. Helena Island (Frogmore) in Beaufort County, South Carolina to the proud parents, the late Richard and Mary Chaplin. She was the last of her eight siblings to make the final transition into the afterlife. Most important, for over thirty years her union of love, was to the late Harry Womack.

Mother Womack was educated at Penn Center which is a historical epicenter of African American education on St. Helena Island. Mrs. Womack's Gullah Geechee heritage, and distinct language proudly identified herself with stellar qualities of folk art, basket weaving parallel to Sierra Leone, West Africa, and customary seafood dishes while she enjoyed cotton field landscape. Her walk with Christ began in her early teens when she was baptized in the Beaufort River in South Carolina. Oddly, Mother Womack's family nick named her "UNCLE", I can only guest for her straight forward demeanor which stayed with her throughout her life. Like many southerners she left Beaufort County, South Carolina after completion of her formal education, and took up residency in the Village of Harlem, New York.

Mrs. Womack quickly established her religious roots at the Greater Central Baptist Church over sixty-five years ago in the Village of Harlem, New York. It was her spiritual home and foundation. Her long term devotion has earned her recognition as a faithful member of Greater Central Baptist Church. She was a volunteer club member, organized many programs, events, fundraiser committees, and memberships of numerous affiliations. She was a dedicated member of J.R. Gidding, and Jollifee Union of U.S.A. Order of the Tents Royal Degree Chapter #5 Eastern District Grand Tent No. 3 United. Moreover, her employment history began as one of the first African American seamstress in the garment district under the International Ladies Garment Workers Union Local 22.

One of her most memorable affiliations were the quilting, sewing, folk art, and craft classes. Some of her craft work had been acknowledged throughout the Harlem community, and displayed in the Harlem State Office building. As a result, several Senior's community centers in Manhattan, New York became familiar with her style, and techniques in arts, and crafts. She received countless awards, recognitions, and certificates. She was awarded by the Formal Governor of New York Honorable, David Patterson in 1994 for quilting, and Congressman Honorable, Charles Rangel in 2000 for Senior Citizens recognition.

Mrs. Mattie Womack is an original daughter of the dust known for her perfect delicious mouthwatering southern rice and seafood cuisine. Sewing was her passion and profession, that complimented her love for high end fashion, it was no surprise that she followed decades of fashion trends. She resided in Grants Housing on 125th Street, New York since the 1960's. She was a widower who had four children, three deceased, fourteen grandchildren, three deceased, twenty-two great grands, and eleven great-great grandchildren. She has instilled in all her children good character, a "can do" spirit with moral and ethical values. Her favorite topics of discussion were political affairs and current events in which she had strong views with civic responsibility and human rights.

Order of Service

- The Organ Prelude.....Organist
- The Hymn of Praise..... "*His Eye Is on the Sparrow*"
- The Holy Scripture-Old TestamentDeuteronomy 11:1-4
- The Holy Scripture-New TestamentEcclesiastes 3:1-22
- The Prayer.....by William Cullen Bryant "*Thanatopsis*" - Pulpit Appointee
- The Choir.....Mississippi John Hurt- "*Since I've Laid My Burdens down*"
- Words of Memorial and Comfort.....Deborah Oguamah
- Resolution of Acknowledgements.....Church Clerk
- Remembrances of Condolences.....Family and Friends
- Church Resolution.....Pulpit Appointee
- Obituary.....Rev. Frank Hawkins
- The Hymn of Consolation...Horatio G. Spafford - "*It Is Well with My Soul*"
- The Eulogy.....Rev. Frank Hawkins
- Oro Egun
- Final Viewing
- The Benediction.....Pulpit Appointee
- Recessional

Interment
Ferncliff Cemetery
Hartsdale, New York

After Glow

Thanatopsis,

Yet, not to thine eternal resting-place shalt thou retire alone, nor couldst thou wish couch more magnificent. Thou shalt lie down with patriarchs of the infant world--with kings. The powerful of the earth--the wise, the good horary seers of ages past. All in one mighty sepulcher. So live, that when thy summons comes to join the innumerable caravan. Scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed. By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave. Like one who warps the drapery of his couch. About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams. Which moves, to that mysterious real. Where each shall take his chamber, in the silent halls of death. Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night. When you walk through the storm hold your head up high by an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave. Over thy spirit go forth under the open sky into the earth. To her waters and the depths of air comes a still voice yet in the cold ground, earth, that nourished thee shall claim thee.

by William Cullen Bryant author:

Acknowledgement

On behalf of the family they wish to express their profound gratitude and appreciation for all acts of kindness and sympathy extended to them during this period.

2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300
1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY • (718) 774-1023
1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833

Clifford V. James, President & CEO

www.unityfuneralchapels.com

email: unityfc@aol.com



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