

It Is Not the Length of Life

But the Depth.....

Life Celebration

Virginia S. McCarroll

1916 - 2015

Memorial Service:

Saturday, April 18, 2015 - 1:00 p.m.

Jones Funeral Home

247 Elm Avenue • Rahway, New Jersey 07065



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Prelude

Invocation and Greetings

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:7

Musical Selection and Silent Reading of Obituary

Reflections/ Eulogy

A Family Legacy

Musical Selection

Fellowship

Closing Prayer

Psalm 100 (unison)

Recessional Hymn

“This Little Light of Mine” (unison)



Born at the dawn of the 20th century, **Virginia Simpson McCarroll** embodied strengths that perhaps more accurately describe women of the 21st century. Wonderfully outspoken, strong willed and a fiercely independent non-conformist, Virginia rebuffed the role her times expected of both a negro and a woman. Choosing not to marry, Choosing to wear slacks, shunning makeup and choosing to educate herself. She was an admirably strong woman who stood nearly 6 ft tall and enjoyed physical labor. She fixed her own automobiles and cultivated her own farm, all while sporting short and natural hair styles long before they were fashionable.

Born on December 28 1916, to Elsie McCarroll, Virginia was raised in Mobile, AL, and excelled throughout primary school. Encouraged by her mother, stepfather and teachers, she was accepted to Howard University, in Washington, D.C. Virginia worked various jobs to pay her way through college, including as a cab driver. She completed a BS and BA at Howard.

Throughout her time in D.C., she was able to build many lifelong friendships, as well as develop significant social and political views which were the foundation of the woman she grew up to be. Her formative years included such contemporaries as Zora Hurston, Mary McLeod Bethune and Katherine Dunham. The Harlem Renaissance and many other exceptional cultural movements were in full bloom during Virginia's years in D.C. Most notably, the first negro to receive a presidential appointment, the first negro judge appointed to the federal court system and the first negro woman elected to the House of Representatives all occurred during Virginia's college years. Her most proud contributions to these movements were her involvement in integrating her local Woolworth lunch counter.

Virginia relocated to New York City, and became a Certified Laboratory Technician. She remained employed at Astoria General Hospital until her retirement in 1972.

In 1964, Virginia visited Africa, landing, in Lagos Nigeria. Virginia fell in love with the people, the food, the culture and the Mother Land as a whole. Upon returning to the States, Virginia had become Afrocentric in thought, dress and manner, and become rather

passionate about genuinely and appropriately reflecting African culture and values. This led to many lively dinner conversations.

Virginia enjoyed many hobbies including foreign travel, listening to her vast music collection, biking, snowmobiling, sewing, knitting, jewelry making, canning, painting and photography. Also an avid gardener, she brought a multi-acre farm in Durhamville, NY. Naming the farm “My Way Acres,” Virginia referred to it as her “place in the sun” and spent many happy years tilling the earth and growing flowers and vegetables which she sold at her roadside stand.

In 1972, Virginia retired from Astoria General Hospital and moved to New Jersey where she began her second career as a professional Flea Market Vendor. With a penchant for collecting and an apartment teeming with “stuff,” this seemed a fitting business for her. She quickly became a regular vendor at Collingwood Circle, Englishtown, Avenel and Rahway Flea Markets, selling books, campaign buttons, vintage newspapers and magazines, vinyl records, negrobilia, figurines, souvenir spoons, Kente cloth and fine African fabrics.

At the age of 93, after dealing with many health setbacks while living alone, Virginia reluctantly moved to Riverton Nursing facility, where she spent her remaining years. Frequent visits from her devoted cousins Jesse McCarroll and Joanne Bonney, as well as many other family members and friends, were a source of her joy.

Virginia will perhaps be most remembered as the family Historian and genealogist. She spent years, and a small fortune, researching our family progenitors, tracking the most reliable earliest descendant to 1779.

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All rivers flow toward the sea. But the sea is never full; then rivers return to the headwaters where they began. *Ecclesiastes 1:7*

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all you lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord, He is God, it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, And Bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations. *Psalms 100*



This Little Light of Mine

Verse 1: Let it shine til Jesus comes....

Verse 2: Hide it under a bushe! No!.....

Verse 3: Let it shine ov'r the whole wide world.....

Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.....

Sea Tribute

Virginia S. McCarroll

December 28, 1916 ~ February 9, 2015

At Sea, West of Sarasota, Florida

THE SAILOR'S 23RD PSALM

*The Lord is my pilot, I shall not go adrift;
He lighteth my passage across dark channels;
He steereth me through the deep waters,
He keepeth my log.*

*He guideth me by the evening star for my safety's sake.
Yea, though I sail mid the thunders and tempests of life,*

*I shall fear no peril, for Thou art with me,
Thy stars and heavens, they comfort me.*

*The vastness of thy sea upholds me.
Surely fair winds and safe harbors shall be found*

*All the days of my life;
And I shall moor, fast and secure, forever.
and I shall moor, fast and secure, forever.*

Captain's Prayer: Oh Lord, we commend the soul as we commit the remains of Virginia to the deep while giving her over to your continuing care for her resurrection to true eternal life. Please provide a peaceful place for her eternal rest. Amen.

Eight Bells end-of-watch blessing

*Commitment of Virginia's cremated remains to the
Sea with flowers*

*Captain's Final Prayer: Let us pray --- May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the
Lord lift up the light of the ocean upon you and give you peace. Amen*

Circle the area of committal & Return to port

*Officiate: Captain Paul Harrington of New England Burials at Sea
LLC*

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Acknowledgements

A heartfelt thank you for all who set aside time and expense to attend this service. May we continue to enrich and renew our Family Heritage. “Those who know only his own generation remains always a child.” Norlin

It is our fervent prayer that fair winds and warm tides carry her to moor, safe and secure in the cradle of the Nile River Valley forever.

McCarroll Family reunion will be held in June 2015. Contact information can be found on Forevermissed.com/Virginia-McCarroll

www.honoryou.com

