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*In Loving Memory  
of*  
**CLARA JANICE JONES**

February 7, 1942 - September 16, 2026

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# *Obituary*

## **In Loving Memory of Clara Janice Jones**

**Clara Janice Jones** was born on **February 7, 1942**, to the late **Coy and Cleotha Reliford**. She was raised in Colquitt, Georgia, alongside her fifteen siblings, where she enjoyed the simplicity and values of country life.

Shortly after completing school, Clara moved to **Newark, New Jersey**, where she met the love of her life, **Freddie L. Jones**. They were united in marriage on December 8, 1962. From this loving union came their cherished daughter, **Gazelyn Jones Samuels**. Clara was a devoted and hardworking wife, mother, sister, aunt, and friend.

Clara embraced life with joy and enthusiasm. She loved laughter, family gatherings, traveling, shopping, dining out, and creating lasting memories with those she loved. To her grandchildren, she was affectionately known as "**Mema**," a name that reflected the special bond she shared with each of them and a role she treasured deeply.

When her daughter reflects on her mother's life, two words stand out above all others: **loyalty and consistency**. Clara embodied both throughout her life and remained strong in faith and spirit, fighting courageously until her very last breath.

She dedicated her life to serving **Jehovah** on **July 13, 1972**, and remained a faithful servant until her passing. For the last 29 years, Clara was a cherished member of the East English-Plainfield Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses and set a fine example as a full-time regular pioneer minister. Year after year, she willingly devoted some 600 hours to the ministry, helping others learn about Jehovah and sharing the good news of God's incoming Kingdom.

She was a zealous proclaimer of God's Word. She deeply loved the wonderful truths she taught and found joy in helping others come to know and appreciate them. Yet, perhaps one of the finest aspects of Clara's example was that she did more than simply teach these truths—she lived by them.

Her faith was not merely something she spoke about at the doors or shared with those she taught. It was evident in the way she lived her life. Through her many years of faithful pioneer service, Clara demonstrated by both her words and her conduct that God's Kingdom was very real to her. Her enduring devotion to the ministry and her desire to help others learn about that Kingdom provide a beautiful example of faith, love, and loyal service worthy of remembering.

Clara was preceded in death by her parents, **Cleotha and Coy Reliford**, and her siblings, **Garnie C. Reliford, James Sheffield, Oscar "Bubba" Lee Reliford, Coy "Cat" Reliford, Charlie "Toot" Reliford, Lorraine Hawkins, Marie Toliver, and Betty Sanders**.

She leaves to cherish her memory her beloved daughter, **Gazelyn Jones Samuels (Ludlow)**; her sisters **Charlie May Wolf, Rosa Rivers; Lilly Bush, and Joann Hawkins**; her brothers **Harris Bill Reliford and Bobby Reliford**; her grandchildren, **Jahad Jones, Akira Jones-Headlam and husband Jason Headlam, Solei' Samuels, Chazz Samuels, Colton Samuels, Charleston Samuels, and Ericka Watkins**; her great-grandchildren **Jacob, A'Miya, Jaden, Sanai, Jahzir, Zyr, Bayleigh, Ackire, Elijah, E'tyrniti, Abbi**; and great great grandchild **Armani**.

Clara's love extended beyond being a grandmother. She was also blessed to become a **great-grandmother** and, most recently, a **great-great-grandmother**, bringing her immense joy and pride.

Though she will be deeply missed, Clara's legacy of faith, love, loyalty, strength, and devotion to family will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

**"Well done, good and faithful servant."** Her life was a beautiful example of unwavering faith, enduring love, and steadfast dedication to family. She will forever be remembered and cherished.

# Order of Service

**Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 11:30 pm**

**Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses**  
1123 Earle Pl., Plainfield, NJ 07062  
**Timothy A. Maxwell, Officiating Minister**

Chairman and Opening Prayer: Kyle Porter  
Memorial Discourse: Timothy A. Maxwell  
Closing Prayer: Samuel Darrell

Viewing 9:30 - 11:30  
Service 11:30 - 12:30

**Burial 1:00 pm**  
Hillside Cemetery  
1401 Woodland Avenue  
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

**Repass Immediately after**  
Italian American Hall  
1976 Valley Ave  
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

Song # 151 "He Will Call"

**Zoom Link**  
Meeting ID  
694-302-1914  
Password  
144000

[https://jworg.zoom.us/j/6943021914?](https://jworg.zoom.us/j/6943021914?pwd=TTdySElsR3VuWVZkeURPL0ZmZUI3QT09)  
[pwd=TTdySElsR3VuWVZkeURPL0ZmZUI3QT09](https://jworg.zoom.us/j/6943021914?pwd=TTdySElsR3VuWVZkeURPL0ZmZUI3QT09)



## *A Letter of Love from Solei'*

Dear Mema,

I feel beyond blessed to call you my grandmother. You have always been my heart in human form, and it is hard to imagine life without you. Thank you for the unconditional love you gave so freely, the laughter we shared, the wisdom you passed down, and the unwavering support you showed me throughout my life.

Thank you for being someone I could always turn to. No matter what I was facing, a conversation with you had a way of bringing me comfort, peace, and reassurance. Your love made me feel safe, valued, and deeply cared for.

The memories we created together and the lessons you taught me will stay in my heart forever. I am so grateful for every moment, every hug, every smile, and every word of encouragement you gave me.

Most of all, thank you for being my Mema. The love we shared is something I will cherish for the rest of my life.

I will love you always and forever.

Love,  
Your Boop, Solei' ♥

## *A Letter of Love from Akira*

Mema was a loving grandmother who taught me so much about life, faith, kindness, and unconditional love. She showed me how to love people despite their flaws and how to treat everyone with kindness, respect, and compassion. Most importantly, she did not just teach these lessons with words. She lived them every day through the way she loved me and others.

She taught me that it is possible to love someone while still setting healthy boundaries, and that no one has to be perfect to be worthy of love.

Some of my fondest childhood memories are the summers I spent with her. During those special times, she helped bring me out of my shell and encouraged me to be confident, talk to people, and build meaningful connections with others.

I will miss her more than words can express, but I am deeply grateful for the blessing of knowing her, loving her, and being loved by her. The lessons she taught me and the example she set will stay with me for the rest of my life.

A part of Mema will always live on through me because of everything she poured into my heart. I love you, Mema. Thank you for loving me exactly as I was and for showing me what unconditional love truly looks like.

With all my love, Akira ♥

## *Acknowledgement*

***The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour: Thank you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.***

***A Special Thank You to Rose***  
***Our heartfelt thanks to Rose for her unwavering love, loyalty, and support for my mom. The kindness, care, and devotion she showed her will always be remembered and deeply appreciated. We will never forget the love you showed her. ♥***



*Sal*