

*Celebrating The Life of*



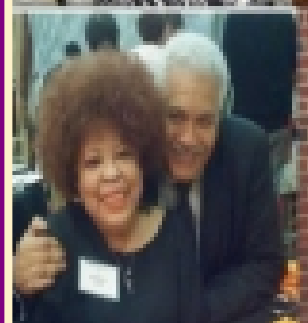
*Blanche Duke*

*Sunrise*  
*January 23, 1948*

*Sunset*  
*July 12, 2018*

Service:  
Tuesday, July 17, 2018 - 11:00 a.m.

SAINT JAMES AME CHURCH  
588 Martin Luther King Blvd. • Newark, New Jersey



## Obituary

*The Greatest Wife. Most-Beloved Mother and Grandmother. Always Loyal Sister. Highly Honored Relative. True-to-the-end Sister-Friend.*

All of this, and so much more describes our wonderful **Blanche Duke**, who departed this life to be with our Lord on July 12, 2018.

Born January 23, 1948 to the late Hubert and Louise Sills, Blanche was educated in the Orange Public School system, graduating Orange High School in 1966. She went on from there to graduate from Seton Hall University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology in 1976.

Blanche became a very dedicated professional in the field of social work. Her 30-year career included stints at the Division of Youth and Family Services and Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan New Jersey. At PPMNJ, Blanche held numerous positions that culminated in being promoted to Vice President of Health Services in 2009; a position she held until her retirement in 2015.

Perhaps the most important things to Blanche were family, friends and her faith. Through her first marriage to the late Walter Cuttino came her two wonderful children, Kim and Mark. Kim and Mark were always a source of pride for Blanche, raising them and watching them become upstanding adults and carrying forth her traits as being a true-blue friend and tremendous parent.

In 1980 Blanche met the man she considered the love of her life, Charles Duke. After a three-year courtship, Blanche and Charles married on July 16, 1983 ... a union that lasted just shy of 35 years. Many have remarked that it was a “model marriage”: one that exemplified commitment, sacrifice, trust and lots of love and affection.

Blanche loved and doted on her three grandchildren Sukari, Zaire and Eshe. They were always a source of pride and love, and never failed to produce a special sparkle in her eyes whenever they were around.

Friends were so important to Blanche. She knew that she could always count on them—and they could always count on her—to

be there. Be it shopping, lunching, attending conferences and more, Blanche and her friends had a genuine tight bond that she was always very proud of.

Last but certainly not least was Blanche's faith in God. She was a member of St. James A.M.E. Church in Newark, and remained faithful to God throughout her entire life. She prayed on a daily basis, grounding herself in Scripture and in song. Through her faith, Blanche was a source of inspiration to all that she encountered in life.

Blanche leaves behind to mourn her beloved husband, Charles; son Mark, daughter-in-law Sharonda and grandchildren Sukari, Zaire and Eshe; sister Peggy Sills Moss; brother Keith Sills (Joyce); and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Blanche was preceded in death by her parents Hubert and Louise Sills, and her daughter Kim Cuttino.



# Order of Service

Rev. Lonnie Jones, Officiating

Musical Prelude.....Rev. TJ Martin

Processional.....Clergy and Family

Opening Hymn.....Rev. Marcia Sapp Salter

Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. Garvey Ince

Scripture Readings.....Rev. Kim Irby

Old Testament - Psalm 31:24

New Testament - Phillipians 4:4, 9

“Nobody Greater” .....Rev. Marcia Sapp Salter

Remarks/Family Tribute.....Eleanor Lyle  
Elder Terri Fisher

Obituary..... (Read Silently)

“Order My Steps” .....Rev. Marcia Sapp Salter

Eulogy.....Rev. Theresa Andrews

Recessional.....Clergy and Family

*Cremation to follow funeral service at  
Rosedale Crematory in Orange, New Jersey.  
The cremation service will be followed by the repast at  
St. James A.M.E. Church.*

## *Psalm 23*

*The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leadeth me beside the still waters. He  
restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path  
of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea,  
though I walk through the valley of the  
shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for  
Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff  
they comfort me. Thou preparest a table  
before me in the presence of mine enemies.  
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup  
runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow me all the days of my life; and I  
will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*



## *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

