

Celebrating A Life Well-Lived



Pearl Pauline Beatty

October 3, 1935 - April 2, 2019

Obituary

Pearl Pauline Beatty was born April 3, 1935 in Connorsville, Pennsylvania to the late Clyde and Bessie Beatty. She departed this life on April 2, 2019, surrounded by her family. Pearl was predeceased in death by her sister Gloria Jenkins, one brother Clyde, and sisters Alma, Lucille and Rica Beatty.

From an early age, Pearl learned to beat the odds. She came into the world with a fighting weight of 3 pounds and a slight case of polio. Having a tenacious spirit to beat the odds, Pearl also survived breast cancer later in life. Throughout, she faced many health obstacles, but with that determination, nothing ever stopped her, until age 83 when God said, enough dear child, come home.

Pearl was educated in the Newark School System, attending Arts High and later graduating from Shaw University with a Degree in Public Administration.

In her early 20's Pearl caught the political bug after working a voter's registration table for the NAACP. During that time Pearl made a promise to make a difference in her community. In 1954 Pearl and a group of girlfriends (along with sister Alberta, Carolyn & Evelyn) started a social club called the Sweethearts. The group gave women of color an opportunity to give back to their community by celebrating the art of music. The women would host many social events and give proceeds back to charity.

In the late 1950's Pearls sisters Alma and Lucille formed the Doo Wop group called the "3 Playmates." They traveled the country performing at some of the biggest stages where only African Americans were allowed to perform. They made the well know recording "Suga Wuga" and sang at the legendary Apollo Theatre in Harlem, NY, the Uptown in Philadelphia, PA and the Howard in Washington, D.C.

She would say the highlight of her years on stage was singing with "Ol' Blue Eyes" when Frank Sinatra asked the group to join him in a number. After that moment of fame, she realized her passion was in the people, so she hit the ground running in the political arena.

Her interest in politics began during the 1960 presidential campaign when she was selected to sing at a rally for Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy. She worked on Kennedy's campaign that year wherein Essex County delivered a massive 50,030-vote plurality that helped him carry New Jersey by a margin of just 22,091.

Pearl attended the 1963 March on Washington and was a constant presence when Newark residents picketed the Woolworth department store in a bid to convince them to hire black employees.

She played a key role in Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson's 1970 election as the first African American mayor of Newark when he ousted two-term incumbent Hugh Addonizio. She was a key advisor to Gibson during his sixteen years as mayor and served as chair of the Newark Housing Authority.

In 1978, Pearl decided to run for office and emphasized the importance for people of color to not only register, but to VOTE! As a result, she was elected to the office of Freeholder District II and was elected the first President of the Board under the new form of government. She served as a Freeholder for the County of Essex, for three terms. AN AMAZING WOMAN!

Her enthusiasm, leadership, and commitment did not go unnoticed by her colleagues on the State and Federal level. She was elected President of the New Jersey Association of Counties, President of the New Jersey State Board of Public Welfare, as was her being appointed to various like the Boards and Committees of the New Jersey Association of Counties, the National Association of Counties and the National Association of Black County Officials.

During her political career Pearl was able to meet several presidents: John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Jimmy Carter. Then came the first African American President of the United States, BARACK OBAMA! She was just elated and so very proud! In 2009 she was given the prestigious award from First Lady Michelle Obama to honor her contribution to the political world.

Pearl lived a good life. She loved her family. She shared a lifetime closeness with many wonderful lifetime friends along the way, like Roslyn Mosley, who always opened her home to the best parties, cook-outs and who remained supportive throughout. Pearl shared a special bond with her sisters, and brother Clyde, her cousins Dennis, Barbara, Sharon, Mona Raye, Vendetta, Wanda, Connie and Jean, (Shockley's) but a special sister friendship with Alberta, Carolyn Benton and Evelyn Morrison, since they were 4 years of age. The four of them grew up together enjoying roller skating, dances, swimming and marching with the American Legion along with many other organizations. Sister Rica also marched with them as a Mascot. Pearl always had a special love and admiration for niece Rebecca, affectionately called "Becky" because she grew up with them. Becky has always been considered a sister/niece. After Alberta, Carolyn and Evelyn married and had families, Pearl met her road dogs, her ride or die crew, known as Geri Smith Berry, Gloria Curry Williams, Mary Langley Cosby and Delores Lewis. These wonderful ladies bonded for life, traveled the world and remained friends until the end.

Pearl was good to many. There was no limit to what she would do for her family and people in general, (except break the law), but she would fight for you and have your back, if you were right. Always giving support and the best advice. She was proud of the accomplishments of her nieces and nephews. She was a "PEARL" and loved by all. Now, if she also thought you were in need of psychological help, she would tell you with a straight face, and say, You Need to see a Psychiatrist!

She leaves to cherish her memory, sister Alberta Beatty Gregory, sister/niece "Becky", all of her nieces, nephews, cousins and many lifetime friends. Her presence will be missed at the Shockley-Beatty Family Reunions and all other family gatherings at nephew Lee's and Lisa & Shawn Harris' homes. Before her last trip to Beth Israel, she was able to worship with nephew Greg Shockley at his church. That was a trip she orchestrated to a T, which turned out to be a blessing..... because she managed to get from the nursing home to attend, without letting "the crew" know. That day she had a glorious time in the Lord and was so grateful for nephew Raymond Jackson for taking her.

There will never be another "Aunt Pearl." We will forever hold her in our hearts. We all have many precious memories and shall always honor them. You will be missed dearly. Fly away old soldier/warrior, you have earned your wings.

Service

Monday, April 8, 2019 - 11:00 a.m.

Metropolitan Baptist Church

149 Springfield Avenue

Newark, NJ 07103

Rev. Ralph T. Grant, Officiating

Order Service

**Rev. David Jefferson, Pastor
Officiating**

Family Processional

Prayer of Comfort Rev. Gregory Shockley, Pastor
House of God, Matawan, NJ

Congregational Song In the Garden

Reading of Scripture Rev. Louise Scott-Rountree
Clergy Affairs Manager, City of Newark

Old Testament
New Testament

Solo Pastor Fondrea Lynn Lewis

Reading of the Obituary Mary Kornegay

Remarks Officials, Dignitaries - Presentations

Reflections (2.5 minutes)

Solo Pastor Fondrea Lynn Lewis

Eulogy Rev. Ralph T. Grant

Recessional

Miss Me, But Let Me Go

*When I come to the end of the
road and the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom filled room,
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little-but not too long,
and not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared,
Miss me-but let me go.
For this is a journey that we all must take,
And each must go alone.
It's all part of the Master's plan,
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart,
Go to the friends we know.
Laugh at the things we use to do
Miss me-but let me go.*

-author unknown

Acknowledgement

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement.

May God Bless and Keep you!

Professional Services Provided By

130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000

