

*Celebrating The Life  
Of  
Nathaniel Sutton*

*Sunrise  
October 12, 1929*

*Sunset  
September 7, 2019*



*Friday, September 13, 2019 - 11:00 a.m.*

**Woody “Home For Services”**

163 Oakwood Avenue  
Orange, New Jersey 07050

*Rev. Dr. James A. Johnson, Officiating  
Myron Smith, Organist*

# Obituary

Nathaniel Sutton was born on October 12, 1929 in Wayne County, Goldsboro, NC to Stephen and Willie-Ann Sutton. He was the brother to Lucille Whitley and Thelma Isabel Whitfield. Nate attended Central High School in North Carolina before joining the Air Force. He spent most of his days learning that 'old math'. He earned several stripes before leaving the Air Force. After the Air Force, Nate relocated to Newark, NJ. He would hang out with friends and attend parties. One day, he saw the prettiest girl at a party but never got her name. Nate asked his buddies in Newark who the pretty girl was with five sisters. Everyone knew who the girl was. Nate fell in love with that pretty girl, Willie-Mae.

In 1959, Nate and Willie-Mae married. The two built a wonderful home with 3 children. Two daughters, Elane and Carolyn, and one son, Nathaniel.

Nate worked for Ocean Leathers starting at the bottom and working his way up to becoming the Chemical Plant Manager. He knew everything about leather and the quality of it. His knowledge about chemical dyes, mixing up the right ingredients, and keeping leather at its finest was his job.

Nate knew all the good recipes for hats, gloves, coats, boots, anything you could make out of leather and change with chemicals he could do. After working there for 30 years, he retired in 1996 as a Chemical Engineer.

Nate enjoyed retirement with Willie-Mae, taking trips and going to the casino where that 'old math' worked magic. After losing the love of his life in 2000, Nate had to find a new normal. He kept busy mingling with the local seniors in the community. Neighbors could set their clock by watching Nate because his new routine was consistent. He knew when it was time to play cards and 'counting'. Nate always had stories to tell about everything. If you had an experience, he had an even better and crazier experience story to tell.

Nate would have his pocket full of money, always wrapped in a rubber band. He never talked about what he did for people, or the love he had for them. He was a silent giver. He would boast only on his experience and tell great stories, but never about what he did for others. Nate lived a top shelf life, wanting to still drive as his life deteriorated.

On September 7, 2019 he said he was going home and had the greatest caregivers, and lived a great life.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Stephen and Willie-Ann, wife, Willie-Mae, sisters-in-law, Clarestine Hayden and Kate Smith.

Nathaniel leaves to cherish his memory: his daughters and son, Elane Sutton-Knowles of North Carolina, Carolyn Robinson and Nathaniel Gawayne (Savi) Sutton of New Jersey; four grandchildren, Adam and Jason Knowles, Amaya Robinson and Wesley Chotalal; two sisters, Thelma Isabel Whitfield and Lucille Pridgen-Whitley in North Carolina; two sisters-in-law, Carolyn (Dr. Reginald) Jenkins of New Jersey, Rose (Pete) Brown of North Carolina, and one brother-in-law, James Smith of South Carolina, and a host of aunts, uncles, great-grandchildren, family, and great friends.

# Order of Service

Organ Prelude.....Myron Smith, Organist

Hymn of Comfort.....“Blessed Assurance”

Prayer of Comfort

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 23.....Lucille Pridgen Whitley

New Testament - John 4:1-7.....Darlene Brown Burwell

Solo.....Kim Armstrong

Remarks.....Brian Smith

Acknowledgements and Resolutions

Obituary.....Myron Earl Pridgen

Solo.....Tyrone Dunlap

Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. James A. Johnson, Sr.  
Peaceful Zion Baptist Church • East Orange, New Jersey

Recessional.....Clergy and Family

**Interment**

*Rosehill Cemetery*

*Linden, New Jersey*

# To Those I Love

To those I love and those that love me,  
When I am gone, release me, let me go  
I have so many things to see and do  
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears  
Be happy that we had so many years.  
I gave you my love, you can only guess  
How much you gave me in happiness  
I thank you for the love you each have shown  
But now it's time I travel alone  
So grieve for a while for me if you must  
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.  
It's only for a while that we must part  
So bless the memories within your heart  
I won't be far away, for life goes on  
So if you need me, call and I will come  
Though you can't see me or touch me, I'll be near  
And if you listen with your heart you'll hear  
All my love around you so soft and clear  
And then, when you must come this way alone  
I'll greet you with a smile and say,  
"Welcome Home."

-Author unknown

## Pallbearers

Family and Friends

## Acknowledgement

The family of **Nathaniel Sutton** wishes to extend their sincere thanks and deep gratitude for all expressions of sympathy and acts of kindness shown during our time of bereavement. May God bless each and every one of you.

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Woody "Home For Services"

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