



*In Loving Memory of*

*Elsie E. Lawrence*

*Sunrise*  
*October 26, 1942*

*Sunset*  
*October 3, 2019*

*Service*

*Saturday, October 12, 2019 • 11:00 a.m.*

**ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**

1066 Bergen Street • Newark, New Jersey

**Pastor Phillip Gilmore, Officiating**

# *Obituary*

**Elsie Elizabeth Boxton** was born on October 26, 1942 in Montezuma, Georgia to the late Hershel Boxton, Sr. and Elsie E. Curry. Within her first year of life, they relocated to Newark, New Jersey where they would raise her with her sisters and brother. Elsie received her formal education in Newark Public Schools and graduated from the former South Side High School presently known as Malcolm X Shabazz High School. As the oldest of four siblings, Elsie earned the lifelong nickname of “Sista”. She was a Registered Nurse which perfectly fit her natural born hunch for caregiving and good hospitality.

In August 1959, she married Jessie D. Lawrence, Sr., a laborer who worked with her father. Together they would go on to raise a family with three sons in Newark and, later, Irvington, New Jersey. Their lives, side by side, were filled with great memories, countless family trips, and travels to the south to visit relatives. Elsie and Jessie were happily married until his passing in May 1991.

After widowed, Elsie continued a happy life with a lifelong friend and entrepreneur Willie Joe Jones. The pair maintained a small but successful pest control business named Jones and Jones Exterminating, while she was employed as a caregiver for young families in suburban Essex County. They spent over a decade living, working, and traveling together until his passing in July 2007.

On the morning of October 3, 2019, Elsie was unexpectedly called home to glory in Union, New Jersey. She was predeceased by her parents, Hershel and Elsie Boxton, her husband, Jessie Lawrence Sr., and son, Tony Lawrence. Elsie will be lovingly remembered by her sisters, Terrie Ann (Thomas) Zimmerman and Barbara Jean Boxton, brother Hershel Jr., and her two sons, Jessie Jr. (Latisha) and Peter (Wilhelmina). She will also be fondly remembered by her six grandchildren, Tamikah (Willie), Shenifa, Jessie III (Nicole), Michael (Jessica), Jayauna, and Peter Jr., nine great-grandchildren, her aunts, Jessie Joe White and Bessie Wilson, and a host of nieces and nephews -- in addition to many great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, extended family, and dear friends.

# Order of Service

Processional

Selection  
*Adrian Price*

Scripture Reading  
*Old Testament*  
*New Testament*

Prayer of Comfort

Selection  
*Adrian Price*

Remarks  
*(Two minutes each please)*

Acknowledgements

Obituary  
*Annie Ruth Thornton*

Selection  
*Adrian Price*

Special Tribute To My Mother  
*Jessie Lawrence, Jr.*

Eulogy

Recessional

**Pall Bearers**  
Family and Friends

**INTERMENT**  
Graceland Memorial Park  
Kenilworth, New Jersey

*Repast*  
***Immediately following the services there will  
be a repast held at the church.***

# *I'm Free*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard Him call*

*I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day.*

*To laugh, to love, to work or play.*

*Tasks left undone must stay that way,*

*I found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,*

*Then fill it up with remembered joy.*

*A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,*

*Oh, yes these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow,*

*I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.*

*My life's been full, I savored much.*

*Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,*

*Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.*

*Lift up your heart and share with me,*

*God wanted me now, He set me free!*

*-author unknown*

## *Acknowledgement*

The family of **Elsie E. Lawrence** wishes to extend our sincere gratitude for all acts of kindness and sympathy shown to us at our time of bereavement. God bless you all for your thoughtfulness and concern.

### **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

