



*Homegoing Service For*

*Juanita Dawkins*

June 29, 1933 - October 5, 2021

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021 – 11:00 A.M.**

**Cotton Funeral Service**

1025 Bergen Street • Newark, New Jersey

*Officiating – Rev. John Davis*

*Eulogy – Pastor Delbert Baker*

# Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Scripture Reading

Old Testament.....Rev. John Davis

New Testament.....Deacon Arlene Alexander

Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. John Davis

Solo.....Francine Finley

Acknowledgements and Obituary.....Tyhema Alexander

Tributes (2 minutes only please).....Family and Friends

Solo.....Francine Finley

Eulogy .....Pastor Delbert Baker

Final Viewing

*Interment*  
Evergreen Cemetery  
Hillside, New Jersey

***Repast-***

***According to CDC guidelines, please wear a mask***

***219 Alexander St. 1st floor***

***Newark, NJ 07106***

## Obituary

Juanita Dawkins (Lora Dee), affectionately known as Nita, was born on June 29, 1933 to the late Andrew and Cora Ayers, in Hanceville, Alabama. Juanita attended Pleasant Grove Methodist Church in Alabama where she grew up. She obtained her education at Colony High School and Alabama State College. Juanita met and married Albert Dorsey, giving birth to their daughter, Sheree Dorsey (Saunders) from that union. They lovingly welcomed several nieces into their home who were pursuing their college education in Alabama.

Juanita relocated to Newark, NJ and continued her education at Essex County College and obtained her LPN Certification. She was employed at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital in Morris Plains, NJ where she worked for over 25 years as a dedicated nurse. While employed there she gained many lifelong friends as well as meeting and marrying Seward Dawkins.

Upon retirement from Greystone, she returned to Alabama to care for her mother, Cora Ayers. As time went by, she was able to care for her sister, Lillie Mae as well. Juanita had an enormous heart and always opened the doors of her home to family members as they made life adjustments. She was an excellent cook; so, holidays and birthdays were always special occasions to invite family, friends, and neighbors to a feast of feasts.

Juanita was a member of Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church in Newark, NJ which she attended until her health began to wane. She was introduced to Pastor Bert Baker of The Newark Bible Fellowship Church. Juanita often referred to Paster Baker as her “young pastor.” She attended the Newark Bible Fellowship Church when special services were held.

Juanita was preceded in death by her husband, Seward Dawkins, eight siblings: four sisters – Hattie Foster, Lola Bell Johnson, Verla Hubbard, Lillie Mae Boyd and four brothers – James, Ed Walter, George, and Kelly Ayers. Grandson: Davonne Dorsey. She leaves to cherish her memory: daughter, Sheree Saunders, grandson, Derrell Saunders, granddaughter, Aaminah Saunders, other grandchildren, great granddaughters, Shakirah Gaddis-Mike, Sadiyyah Shakoor, JyeAsia Rose, great-great grandchildren: J’Khi, Joel, Johaan and Halo, sister-in-law, Josephine Watson, special daughter, Arlene Alexander, nieces, nephews and a host of other family, friends and loved ones.

Although Juanita only had one biological daughter, she has many friends who are like family and family members who are friends. She is lovingly known to them as Mama Neet, Grandma-Neet, Nita, Ma, etc. No matter the name, you can be assured that she loved and cared for you deeply.

# I AM FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free

I'm following paths God made for me

I took His hand I heard Him call

Then turned and bid farewell to all

I could not stay another day

To laugh, to love, to sing, to play

Tasks left undone must stay that way

I found my peace...at close of play

And if my parting left a void

Then fill it with remembered joy

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss

Ah yes, these things I too will miss

Be not burdened... deep with sorrow

I wish you sunshine of tomorrow

My life's been full I've savoured much

Good friends, good times

A loved one's touch

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief

Don't lengthen it now with grief

Lift up your hearts and share with me,

God wants me now... He set me free.

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family of **Juanita Dawkins** wishes to thank you with sincere gratitude for the loving way you have shared your concerns, kindness, and prayers. All the many gestures of love and support helped to lift our spirits. May The Lord continue to Bless and Keep each one of you.*

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### 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

