

*In Loving Memory of*  
*Margaret Z. Richardson-Wiley*



Sunrise: June 27, 1934  
Sunset: January 8, 2022

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2022 - 10:00 AM

**Cotton Funeral Service**  
130 Main Street • Orange, New Jersey

## *Obituary*

Margaret Z. Richardson Wiley was born on June 27, 1934 to Mae Willie Branch and Leroy Mitchell in the rural town of Jackson, NC. She moved to New Jersey in her teens and attended Orange High School. It was at Orange High that she met John Earl Richardson, who she married shortly after graduation on May 9, 1953. The couple bore two children, Brian Richardson and Judith Richardson Dunkley; however, the marriage did not endure. She married Sampson Wiley on December 17, 1977, and he remained her devoted spouse until his death in December of 2013.

Margaret was an accomplished woman. She earned a nursing degree, but finding that hospital work did not suit her, went to beauty school. This led to a career in the Black hair care industry, where she ascended to the level of a Vice President at Summit Laboratories – one of only two Black hair care companies with national reach at that time. She also acquired a hair salon, the Americana Beauty Salon in Montclair, which she owned until her retirement from business life.

In 1973, Margaret's firsthand knowledge of the challenges faced by Black businesses led her to accept a position as Assistant Director, and then then Director, of the New York Minority Purchasing Council (later the New York Minority Supplier Development Council (NYMSDC)); a nonprofit organization committed to providing increased procurement and business opportunities for minority businesses. She eventually became the Executive Director of the national organization that oversaw all of the state-level councils – the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC)). She served as Executive Director until a heart condition forced her to retire. However, her efforts as Executive Director did not go unnoticed and she was inducted into the Minority Business Museum Hall of Fame in Seattle, WA in 2014.

Bored with retirement, Margaret became a real estate agent with The Rudd Agency in Montclair. Her success as an agent led her to obtain her broker's license, and she acquired the company from John Rudd when ill health forced him to retire shortly before his death. She ran the business until her own health issues led her to completely retire from business life in the late 1990s.

A devoted wife, mother, sister, friend and successful business woman, Margaret leaves to mourn her two children, Brian and Judith; their spouses Ann Richardson and Ddoyd Dunkley; three grandsons, Tyrone Richardson, Jerrod Richardson, and Daniel Dunkley; one sister, Sandra Mitchell; two stepdaughters, Sandra Wiley and Gwen Priester; and a host of family and friends. She is pre-deceased by her husband, Sampson Wiley, and her brother, Ernest Jenkins.

# *Order of Service*

Opening Prayer  
Rev. Anita R. Wright

1st Scripture Reading  
Jerrod Richardson

2nd Scripture Reading  
Tyrone Richardson

Musical Selection

Prayer and Obituary  
Rev. Anita R. Wright

Remarks and Acknowledgements  
Judith Richardson-Dunkley

Reflections of Family and Friends

Musical Selection

Eulogy & Closing Remarks  
Rev. Anita R. Wright

*Interment*  
Mt. Hebron Cemetery  
Montclair, NJ



## *Promises*

God never promised  
a life without tears  
unending riches  
or set number of years

God just walks beside us  
a whisper away  
our friend and companion  
on good or bad days

Now God has sent angels  
bear you up to his throne  
and we can take comfort  
knowing now you are home

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all 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

57 Clinton Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ  
201-435-1000

