

*Celebrating the Life of*



*Joan McIlwain*

**SUNRISE: April 26, 1947**

**SUNSET: October 21, 2022**

**Saturday, October 29, 2022 - 9:30am**

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

**2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027**

# Obituary

**Joan Prudence McIlwain** was born on April 26, 1947, in New York City's historic Harlem Hospital to Calvin and Ruth Jenkins McIlwain. She was the fifth of fourteen children: Lloyd, Maxine, Lionel, Calvin Jr., Bruce, Deborah, David, Paul, Darrell, Rodney, Linda, Joel and Michael. Joan attended Franklin K. Lane High School. Joan was raised in Harlem and later in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. She later married, and from that union, Joan had four children: Guy Clayton, Tasha Joanna, Casey Robert and William Ray.

She worked for New York City's Summer Youth program in addition to a few retail positions. She also enjoyed her time volunteering as an aerobics instructor. But her greatest achievement was being a homemaker and mother to her children. Her children fondly remember the small rituals Joan created like giving handfuls of change in exchange for missing teeth, making candied apples and baking blueberry pies.

Her hobbies included baking, traveling, pop culture, trivia and watching horror films. She was a coffee aficionado who couldn't begin her day without a mug and a challenging crossword puzzle. Joan loved listening to WBLS FM's "The Quiet Storm". She loved Motown and Philly Soul music; her favorite singing groups were The Dramatics, The Delfonics and all of the Motown acts. One of her favorite songs was "Shake You Down" by Gregory Abbott.

She is survived by her beloved children: her sons, Guy, Casey and William McIlwain; her daughter, Tasha McIlwain; her sisters, Maxine Beckett and Linda Perez; her brothers, Bruce, Paul, Darrell, Joel and Michael McIlwain; her aunt, Vivian Johnson; several nieces and nephews; a host of cousins; and numerous friends and neighbors.

Joan was a devoted mom, daughter, sister, aunt, niece, cousin and friend who always went the extra mile to help her loved ones. She was truly one of a kind and will be sorely missed.

# *Order of Service*

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**Processional**

**Selection**

**Scripture Readings**

**Prayer**

**Selection**

**Acknowledgements**

**Remarks**

**Obituary**

**Selection**

**Eulogy**

**Committal**

**Viewing**

**Recessional**

**INTERMENT:**  
Mt. Rest Cemetery  
Butler, New Jersey



## *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.*

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*Clifford V. James, President & CEO*

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