



Janet R. Johns

January 21, 1935 - August 2, 2020

Janet Romaine Johns, daughter of the late Samuel and Dora Pettigrew, was born on January 21, 1935. She was the youngest of nine (9) children and an identical twin. She grew up in a God-fearing home surrounded by love. The Lord prepared the way and called her home on Saturday, August 2, 2020.

Janet was educated in Baltimore public schools. She attended the infamous Frederick Douglass High School during the 50's. In high school, she participated in sports and was exceptionally competitive in basketball. Like many other identical twins, she and her sister loved to pull pranks. Janet would often tell stories of how she and her twin, Jean, would attend classes for one another fooling folks because people couldn't tell them apart.

Janet loved and adored her children, pouring her life into them and encouraging their hopes, dreams and ambitions. Demonstrating through her sustaining faith in God and care for them, she influenced Jacqueline, JoAnn and Derrick to tenaciously pursue their dreams. Her love for her family was passionate and enduring. No one could pluck her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren from her nest as the family remained strong throughout Janet Romaine Pettigrew-Cooley-Johns' legacy.

Janet was trailblazer, she became the first of many African-Americans to be employed by the Social Security Administration (SSA) in Woodlawn. She was

a proud pioneer during an era when many African-Americans pursued better education and advancement in the workforce. Taking care of her family often meant personal sacrifice. Janet frequently volunteered to work overtime in order to provide a safe, secure and protected future for her family. It was at SSA, the "Peyton Place" of Baltimore, that she met and married, her beloved husband the late Russell Lewis Johns. They were married on August 3, 1974 until he was called home by our Heavenly Father.

Janet's cornerstones in life were faith, family and love. Janet's faith increased as she became responsibility involved in various ministries at Sharon Baptist Church on Stricker and Presstman Streets. Membership at Sharon Baptist was a legacy passed down from her mother, the late Dora Pettigrew, who was a member starting in the early 1950's. Janet was an active member, respectfully serving as a Deaconess, a member of the James L. Moore Birthday Circle, Ethel S. Quarles Church Life Circle, and the treasurer of various choirs. Janet was highly regarded, cherished and a trusted member of her church and the Body of Christ. There was a closeness between she and her sisters which often resulted in eruptions of laughter, lots of fun and good eatin! Janet's belief was it didn't matter your age, title or position in life, she loved people and the Word of God! Janet was an Ambassador of Christ, a woman of royalty and a Sassy, Jazzy Lady." When calling special family members and friends, her famous greeting was to sing "I Just Called to Say.. I LOVE YOU!" That was Janet! "If you need me to call me".

Janet's Community Service it was an important factor in life. Her volunteer contributions include: work with March Funeral home, the Attorneys General Office, The Share Program at Sharon Baptist Church. Janet's love for people was infectious. In fact, her role as a Greeter at Walmart would often result in more talking than greeting. Janet was strong contributor and vital part of the Sandtown Community.

Janet's husband, Russell, and son, Derrick Cooley, preceded her in death. Also: two brothers; brother/cousin Leroy Pettigrew, brother Samuel (Helen) Pettigrew Jr. and six sisters: Mable Giles, sister Doris (Alvin) Johnson, Vera (Lawrence) Saunders, Jean (Robert) Jowers, sister/cousin Eleanor Yinchoski, sister/cousin Lucille Wheeler.

Janet leaves to cherish her memory: her daughters, Jacqueline Cooley, JoAnn(Michael) Brooks; her blended family: Mark (Angie) Cooley, Bryan Cooley, Bonita White-Cooley, Wykean (Donna) Cooley, Dwayne Cooley, Annette Williams; grandchildren: Ramon (Sheila) Toon, Darnell Pearson, LaDora (Michael) Harvey, Dayvon Cooley, Derica Cooley, Britany Cooley; great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Arbutus Memorial Park Cemetery

1101 Sulphur Spring Road
Baltimore, MD 21227

Previous Events

viewing

AUG 11. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Wake

AUG 12. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Service

AUG **12**. 12:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Janet R. Johns, Please Click the Link below.*



March Funeral Homes - August 07, 2020 at 09:21 PM



“ *Janet R. Johns*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Love and will miss you Aunt Janet.*

Richard and Alisha Parker

Richard James Parker - August 12, 2020 at 11:31 AM



On behalf of the National Congress Of Black Women/Jacksonville Chapter, we send our condolences to the John's family. We pray that God will comfort the family and friends with his love, grace, mercy, and peace. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Glorious Johnson - August 12, 2020 at 05:52 PM

HG

Our sincere condolences to the family. We pray that you will find comfort and peace. May God Bless you.

George and Hazel Gillis, Jacksonville, Florida

Hazel Gillis - August 14, 2020 at 11:43 AM

PT

Dear Family, be comforted in the loving arms of our savior! We thank Him for Mother. We praise Him for knowing what's best. We trust Him for peace. Lean on Him, for he is able to carry you through. If you don't know Him, seek Him! If you do know Him share Him! We love you and will continue to lift you in prayer.

Love, Michael and Donna Terry, Scottsburg, Virginia

Pastor Michael and Lady Donna Terry - August 24, 2020 at 05:41 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Janet R. Johns.*



August 05, 2020 at 03:42 PM



“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

March Funeral Homes - August 04, 2020 at 01:54 PM