



## Joan Elizabeth Walters

February 1, 1949 - January 1, 2012

JOAN ELIZABETH BARNES-WALTERS, was born on February 1, 1949. With her beloved children at her side, she quietly entered into her eternal rest on Sunday, January 1, 2012.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Joan was the second child of the union of the late Nettie-Van and Alex Barnes of the Day Village neighborhood of Turner's Station, Maryland. As a child, Joan demonstrated her heart of service, as she helped her mother care for her three younger brothers, babysat other neighborhood children, and enjoyed helping out in her community.

Joan enjoyed attending the Greater St. John Baptist Church in Turner's Station with her parents and siblings. At a young age, Joan decided to give her heart and life to Christ. She became an active member of Greater St. John Baptist Church, and served the Lord alongside her parents, serving in various ministries, including Sunday School, Youth Ministry and the Young Choir.

She received her education from the Baltimore County Public School System, and graduated from Dundalk High School in 1967. In 1967, Joan began working for the Baltimore Sun Newspaper in the library. In 1991, she became an editorial assistant and served in the role until she suddenly took ill in the summer of 2005. During her tenure at the Sun, she was most proud of volunteering her time with the Reading By Nine Program. She enjoyed being

around and helping children, and she was always excited to go spend time with the students she was assigned. She officially retired from the Sun in 2007 after thirty-eight years of faithful service.

Joan enjoyed working in the Sun library, as she appreciated the opportunity to increase her knowledge of the world and a variety of subject matters through the reading and research that comprised her duties. However, the thing Joan wanted to know the most about was the Lord.

So when her friends joined and started the Greater Refuge Church of God in Christ, Joan supported their ministry efforts, and flourished greatly in her relationship with Christ, serving the Lord and helping others along the way. Although Joan was an active and faithful member of the Usher Board and the choir, she was always eager to cheerfully serve and help her new church home grow in any way that she could.

Joan demonstrated her faithful to Christ and her church family by cheerfully serving her pastor, the late Rev. Earnest Nelson and her church family. She routinely demonstrated the unconditional love of Christ by serving her pastor, church family and community by cooking, helping with transportation, or visiting the sick and shut in with a warm smile and a gentle spirit. Joan loved the Lord and sought to have a strong relationship with Him.

During her service to the Lord at Greater Refuge, Joan met and fell in love with Charles McFliggins. The couple married in 1971, and to this union was born a daughter, Maia Bianca. Although the couple divorced, Joan focused on being the best mother possible and gave more attention to her daughter and her hobbies. She was a consistently involved mother in Maia's school activities, routinely attending PTA meetings, serving as a chaperone on class field trips, and encouraging Maia in her Girl Scouts activities.

Joan loved art and was blessed with a wonderful drawing and artistic ability. As a child, she entered a magazine art contest. Her submission was so impressive that the art school that sponsored the contest, sent representatives to her home. They wanted to enroll Joan in a boarding school and have her train with master artist, but Mr. Barnes, being a very loving and protective father, decided to keep Joan at home. Joan, however, never gave up on her dreams of being an artist and architect. So when Maia started school, Joan decided to go to school as well, and work on her dreams.

She enjoyed cooking, sewing, gardening with her parents and being involved in her community. She participated in the neighborhood improvement association, while she lived in Essex, Maryland and in organizations like the NAACP. Joan loved to help and spend time with her neighbors, but she sought to sharpen her understanding of the Word and to direct her Christian service the most, which lead her to take classes at the Maryland Bible College. When her mother's health began to fail, and given the responsibilities of single-motherhood, Joan put aside her studies to take care of her family.

Not long after her parents' passing, Joan found love again, which brought to her son, William Joseph (Joey), who was born in 1986. Joan was excited about her little boy and enjoyed spending time with him. With the birth of Joey came a whole new set of activities that Joan fully embraced. She was totally devoted to helping him pursue his athletic abilities and enrolled him in youth football. Joan had always been a casual sports fan, but her love and appreciation for them grew as she supported and encouraged Joey. Her special activity with him was attending movies.

In 1995, she married the late George W. Walters. They were married until his death in 2004. being married again stirred a desire in Joan to fellowship and share in worship with her family again, as she had during her upbringing. In

1999, Joan joined the New Psalmist Baptist Church where her sister, children, and other family were members. Joan had a deep respect and appreciation for the preaching and teaching of Bishop Walter Scott Thomas. Eventhough her health problems forced her to spend much time in the hospital over the last several years, she stayed dedicated to reaping all she could and learning about the goodness of the Lord from Bishop Thomas, as she faithfully turned into the church broadcast.

After she had lost her husband, and had ensured her children were well-educated, Joan again reached for her artistic dreams. She started the home-based instruction courses offered by the Art Instruction School in the Fall of 2004. Despite failing health she continued to work at her artistic skill with encouragement from Miss Margo Harvey, a young artist she admired.

Joan loved the arts. She was a supporter of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and enjoyed the BSO's Soulful Symphony. Joan faithfully attended and supported the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert. Her favorite symphony was George Duke's "Muir Woods Suite." She enjoyed attending plays, concerts, and visiting museums. Her favorite architect was Frank Lloyd Wright and she loved his falling Water building design. She admired his works, which inspired her to keep pursuing her dream.

She loved politics and would regularly send holiday cards and letters of encouragement to the White House. To her surprise, one of her cards caught the attention of former President Bill Clinton, who responded to Joan with a Letter of thanks. Weeks prior to her death, Joan had made one of her regular contributions to the political campaigns she supported, ensuring her voice would be heard in the 2012 elections. Joan was a smart, witty, generous, peaceable and gentle woman. Her sweet spirit will be deeply missed.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Alexander. She

leaves to cherish her memory: her devoted daughter, Maia B. McFliggins; her dear son William "Joey" Wilson; a sister, Mrs. Dorothy DeShazo (Vernell); two brothers, Melvin and Stanley (Sabrina) Barnes; the great-nephews she adored, Melvin L.(Jr.) and Larry Barnes; her dear and lifelong friends, Doris Carberry and faith Whitman; beloved neighbor. Mrs. Della Williams; three nieces, two nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.

# Cemetery Details

**Mt. Zion**

## Previous Events

### Public Viewing

JAN 6. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

### Family Hour

JAN 6. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

### Wake

JAN 7. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

New Psalmist Baptist Church  
6020 Marian Dr.  
Baltimore, MD

## Service

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JAN 7. 12:00 PM (ET)

New Psalmist Baptist Church  
6020 Marian Dr.  
Baltimore, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joan Elizabeth Walters*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Maia lit a candle in memory of Joan Elizabeth Walters*



**Maia** - January 10, 2012 at 12:19 PM



“ *I'm so sorry for your loss and would like to offer my condolences to your family. Death is such a terrible thing for a family to go through, I actually lost my mom about 3yrs ago. I'm truly grateful that I have the truth about death and look forward to the future when there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous.— ACTS 24:15. I'm sure you would love to see your dead loved one again in the coming Paradise here on earth! Again so sorry for your loss!!*

**Ms Springer** - January 04, 2012 at 11:34 AM



“ *I would like to extend my condolences to the family on the loss of your loved one. Trusting in God's Promises will give you comfort for your sorrow, courage for each day, strength to face this journey, His Word to light your way and His Peace to fill your heart.*

**M. Johnson** - January 04, 2012 at 11:34 AM



“ 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.

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**March Funeral Homes** - January 03, 2012 at 01:57 PM