



Karen Hemphill

August 28, 1956 - April 3, 2023

Karen Johnson Hemphill was born on August 28, 1956, in Washington, DC, and grew up in Silver Spring, MD. She and her siblings spent many summers and school breaks staying with her grandparents in Quinton, VA. Karen earned an A.B. from Brown University and a M.A. from University of California Berkeley.

She decided to work for social change through a career in local California government, first working as the aide to Berkeley City Councilmember Maudelle Shirek and later working for the City of Berkeley as an analyst. Karen retired from the City of Emeryville as the City's Principal Analyst/Assistant to the City Manager which included serving as the City's City Clerk and Public Information Officer.

Karen served on the Berkeley Unified School District School Board from 2006-2018 and was a two-time past Board President. Before being elected to the School Board, she was an active parent for ten years, serving in various school site and district-wide leadership roles.

She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Richelieu Hemphill of Berkeley, CA; son, Elijah Hemphill (Brittany) of Elk Grove, CA; son, Jonah Hemphill of New York City, NY; stepson Richelieu Hemphill, Jr. (Kamili) of New Orleans, LA; grandson, Tahj Hemphill; step-grandson Ellington Hemphill; step-

grandson Matisse Hemphill; sister, Lynn Johnson of Silver Spring, MD; and a host of relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Second Liberty Baptist Church Cemetery

8140 George Watkins Road
Quinton, VA 23141

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY 6. 4:00 PM (ET)

Second Liberty Baptist Church
8140 George Watkins Road
Quinton, VA 23141

Tribute Wall



“ 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 - April 28, 2023 at 02:12 PM