



Zerita J. Carter

October 1, 1931 - June 14, 2016

Mrs. Zerita Joy Richardson Carter, affectionately known as “Joy” by family and friends, departed this life on Tuesday, June 14, 2016, at 10:10 am, at Sinai Hospital.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, on October 1, 1931, she was the second of four children to bless the union of Wilbert and Ernestine Richardson. The only girl in the family, Joy had three brothers: Wilbert, the eldest, and twins Lloyd Charles and Lewis Paul Richardson. Both parents, as well as all of her brothers, predeceased her.

Joy graduated from Frederick Douglass High School, Class of 1951, and later received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morgan State University, in 1955.

As a teenager growing up in segregated Maryland, Joy worked summers as a dishwasher in Ocean City. She also worked throughout high school at Hendin’s Hollywood Fashions on Pennsylvania Avenue, and played tennis daily in Druid Hill Park. After graduating from Morgan, Joy worked as a recreation leader for McCulloh Homes, Gilmor Homes, and Poe Homes. She was revered for going the extra mile to stimulate children’s interest and creativity in arts and crafts and other activities.

In 1954, Joy married civil rights leader Walter P. Carter, known primarily for

activism and organizing efforts to desegregate public accommodations throughout Maryland and to end housing discrimination in Baltimore City. Together, they had two daughters, Judith Linn and Jill Priscilla.

Following Walter's death in 1971, Joy became a certified teacher and worked as an early childhood educator at Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elementary School #122. She was honored as Teacher of the Year in 1993. After nearly thirty years of service with the Baltimore City Public School System, she retired in 2000.

Joy was a lifelong, active member of Saint James' Episcopal Church, where she volunteered with the food pantry, served as a member of the Rector's Guild, and worked faithfully as part of a group of ladies affectionately referred to at Saint James' as the "Call Girls", who compiled the weekly church bulletin, The Call. An avid collector of Black dolls, Joy was a member of the Charm City Dolling Club. Over the years, she amassed an extensive doll collection. She enjoyed socializing with friends at monthly lunch and pinochle club meetings, and was a long-time member of The Spockettes.

"Mom believed decency was among the most important of human traits, and prided herself on living a life of supreme decency", according to her daughter Jill. "She instilled that in us. She was fiercely loyal and devoted to her family and friends, an unassuming woman with tremendous wisdom. She was selfless in giving of her time, energy, and attention to others and asking nothing in return."

"She taught us that we are not meant to take more than we receive, and without true love, we just exist. She was a wonderfully down- to-earth woman", said her son-in-law, the Honorable Sylvester B. Cox, Jr., Judge for the Circuit Court of Baltimore City.

Joy refrained from being personally active in politics, but she was politically astute and participated in the 5 and 5 Democratic Club in the 1970s and '80s, and also served as a member of the Community Health Council of Maryland. Joy was a consistent and enthusiastic supporter of numerous political campaigns, including those of her closest friends, former City Council women, Iris Reeves and Vera P. Hall, and her daughter Jill's campaigns for the Maryland House of Delegates.

Joy enjoyed reading the newspaper every day and listening to talk radio. She made bargain shopping an art, and could be found many days toiling about local thrift shops and discount stores. She referred to herself as a "collector", and could never be found without a well-stocked collection of gifts in her home to present for every occasion.

A long-time resident of the Ashburton neighborhood, Joy was an ardent supporter of neighborhood initiatives to improve her community. She willingly volunteered when called upon to serve. Joy enjoyed an eventful life with many dear chums; among them were her lifelong friends, Mrs. Phyllis Savage of Washington, D.C., Mrs. Cardrienne Griffin of Baltimore, Mrs. Mary Paige of Pittsburg, and a host of others.

Joy's daughters and granddaughters were the loves of her life.

Joy Carter is survived by: her two daughters, Judith Linn (Carter) Cox, and the Honorable Jill P. Carter; son-in-law, the Honorable Sylvester B. Cox, Jr.; two granddaughters, Lindsey Carter Cox and Erin Taylor Cox; a sister-in-law, Louella Richardson; a nephew, Gregg Richardson; a cousin, Mrs. Shirley Reed; goddaughter Jewel Griffin Lindzey; and a host of family and friends.

Cemetery Details

King Memorial Park Cemetery - Grand Heritage Chapel & Mausoleum

8710 Dogwood Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21244
(410) 944-8300
info@kingmemorialpark.com
<https://www.KingMemorialPark.com>

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JUN 23. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Family Hour

JUN 23. 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

JUN **24**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. James Episcopal Church
1020 W. Lafayette Ave
Baltimore, MD 21217

Service

JUN **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. James Episcopal Church
1020 W. Lafayette Ave
Baltimore, MD 21217

Tribute Wall



“ *Zerita J. Carter*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Condolences to Judy, Jill, Lindsey and Erin. I know this is a very difficult time for all of you, seeing what your mother, grandmother went through and now she in a much better place. May you be touched by the healing power of prayer, feel the warmth of those who love you, and realize you have the courage to carry on. Deepest sympathy. Uncle Jimmie*

Jimmie Howard - June 22, 2016 at 03:43 PM



“ *You are my angel*

Judy Carter - June 22, 2016 at 07:27 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Zerita J. Carter.*



June 21, 2016 at 09:24 PM

VH

“ My deepest sympathy to Jill, Judy and the Carter Family. I can't remember my life without your mom as a part of it. From a little girl to my wedding and the birth of my children. Defiantly a part of the Hall family now and always.

Vera Hall-Skinner - June 20, 2016 at 08:32 PM



“ Condolences to Jill, Judy and all of the Carter Family. Ms. Carter (as I called her from childhood) was an integral part of our family: She was always there to give encouragement and advice--and to exchange a bit of gossip over her beloved desserts. Up until her final illness, she was an indefatigable source of support for my parents when my Dad faced challenges to his sight and health. Hard to imagine my family--and Baltimore-- without her.

Kim Hall - June 20, 2016 at 11:02 AM

Jl

“ We love you mommy! Thank you!

Jill - June 20, 2016 at 08:43 AM

T.

“ My heartfelt condolence to the family. May the MOST HIGH GOD comfort and sustain you during this difficult time. (Psalms 55:22)

T.Parker - June 18, 2016 at 05:38 AM



“ *Garden Accent - "My Mother kept a garden..."
was purchased for the family of Zerita J. Carter.*



June 17, 2016 at 08:07 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.*

March Funeral Homes - June 15, 2016 at 06:02 PM