



We little knew that morning,  
God was going to call your name;  
In life we loved you dearly,  
In death we do the same.  
It broke our hearts to lose you,  
You did not go alone;  
For part of us went with you,  
The day God called you home.  
You left us beautiful memories.  
Your love is still our guide;  
And though we cannot see you,  
You are always by our side.  
Our family chain is broken,  
And nothing seems the same;  
But as God calls us one by one,  
The chain will link again.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

"Jesus promised us -- they who mourned would be comforted."  
During our hours of bereavement, this promise has been fulfilled by you, our kind and loving friends and neighbors. Thank you for helping us bear our grief. Your calls, visits, prayers, kind acts and deeds shall never be forgotten. God bless you all.

#### FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

Bernard F. Dowd, Inc.  
Funeral Home  
165-20 Hillside Avenue, Jamaica, New York 11432  
(718)739-8117

# CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR ERNESTINE CLEMONS

JANUARY 25, 1939 - DECEMBER 18, 2013



#### SERVICES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2013 - 10 AM

BERNARD F. DOWD FUNERAL HOME  
165-20 HILLSIDE AVE., JAMAICA, NY 11432

REVEREND VICTOR T. HALL, PASTOR OFFICIATING  
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, JAMAICA, NY

#### INTERMENT

NASSAU KNOLLS CEMETERY  
PORT WASHINGTON, NY

# Obituary

Ernestine Clemons was born on January 25, 1939 at Queens General Hospital in Jamaica, New York. She was the third of seven children born to Elease and Ernest Blocker. As a child, Ernestine joined Amity Baptist Church under Rev. James R. Moore, where served on the Junior Usher Board and was part of the Youth Fellowship.

After graduating from Jamaica Vocational High School in 1956, her excellence in typing and shorthand led to a legal secretary position with the American Civil Liberties Union and a 38-year career at the New York Port Authority as one of the first African-American legal secretaries. While at the Port Authority, she worked for engineers at JFK and LaGuardia airports, as well as the World Trade Center in New York City.

In 1962, Ernestine married Daniel Edward Clemons from Andersonville, GA. Together they had a son, Wayne Edward Clemons on March 19, 1965, with whom she had an unbreakable bond.

Ernestine was a lifetime lover of the arts. She played the violin as a child and loved the theater, opera, and classic movies. Her family members have many memories of spending days in her living room watching movies like *Gone with the Wind* and taking trips with her to Broadway and the Metropolitan Opera.

She also loved to travel with family and friends and took many wonderful journeys throughout the United States, Europe and Africa. Many people in her life experienced being lost with Ernestine but her sense of adventure and unflappability made those moments enjoyable and full of laughter.

Ernestine was never at a loss for words and loved to share her opinions about everything. She was also quite the storyteller who loved to tell vivid tales about her travels, her family, and her childhood in New York. She also loved to tell scary stories and her children, nieces and nephews all have fond memories of laughing and being afraid while she told them.

After she retired from her job in the early-1990s, Ernestine's love for children led her to become a foster parent. At that time, three wonderful sisters came into her life—three-year-old Diane, and infants Khyaisa, and Shyaisa. Their bond was so strong that she eventually adopted the girls. Her desire to provide the best education and quality of life for her children led her to move from Queens to Middletown, NY and later to Fayetteville, GA.

Ernestine's family and friends will forever remember her beautiful smile, the twinkle in her eyes, her sense of humor, her infectious laugh, her funny "holter," and her overwhelming generosity.

She leaves to mourn son Wayne; daughters Diane, Khyaisa and Shyaisa; grandchildren Erika, Natasha, Christopher, Daniele, Tristan and Trinity; sisters Thelma Jones (Harold), Elaine Blocker and Laraine Harrison; brothers Edward Blocker (Claretha) and Ronald Blocker; uncle Curtis Blocker (Mary); great-aunts Hazel Cadle and Gladys Williams; nieces Darla Jones, Lena Jones, Dawn Ritter, Dina Hardy, Angie Hewlett, and Elease Blocker; nephews Terence Blocker, Mark Harrison, Eric Blocker and Kevin Blocker; cousins Rev. James Blocker and Ernest Darby; and a host of other relatives and friends.



# Order of Service

## CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

## SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Psalm 90: 1-10.....Mark Harrison  
New Testament 2 Timothy 4: 7- 8

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....Deaconess Lois Smith

## SELECTION

## REMARKS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

.....Reverend James Blocker  
.....Mark Harrison  
.....Terence Blocker

OBITUARY.....Dina Hardy

## SELECTION

EULOGY.....Reverend Victor T. Hall  
Calvary Baptist Church

## RECESSIONAL

## REPAST

Calvary Baptist Church

111-10 Guy R. Brewer Boulevard, Jamaica, New York



