

*In Loving Memory of*

*Hajjah Daphne Benyard*

*Sunrise*

February 24, 1949

*Sunset*

March 28, 2015

*Janazah Service*

Wednesday, April 1, 2015 - 10:00 a.m.

**ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE**

303 University Avenue • Newark, New Jersey

**Wahy-ud-Deen Shareef, Imam,**

# Obituary



**Hajjah Daphne Benyard** was born February 24, 1949 at City Hospital in Newark, NJ to Abu Khabir Rajab and Esther Haygood. She graduated from Weequahic High School in Newark, NJ. A proud alumna, she graduated from Essex County College, Newark, NJ in 1970 with an Associate in Science from the Social Sciences. She went on to attain a Bachelor of Applied Science in Social Sciences and a Teaching Certificate from Upsala College, East Orange, NJ in 1973.

A world traveler, Daphne pursued Advanced Studies in Public Administration at the University of Bristol, England in 1991. Two graduate degrees she earned were a Master of Public Administration from Rutgers University in 1991 and a Master of Art in Counseling/Psychology from New Jersey City University in 2003.

Most of her career was spent at Essex County College where she worked for twenty-nine years. At Essex she was a Counselor and Assistant Professor and her passion was counseling the students.

A phenomenal poet, writer and dancer she gave of her time and talent to uplift the community. She coordinated the community based poetry group Urban Voices. She published three volumes of her poetry in Poetry, Song and Limericks (1984); In Touch (1988) and The Doors are Always Open (1996) and co-authored or was featured in various publications over the years. In addition she was featured in African American Women Writers in New Jersey: 1836-2000 by Dr. Sybil E. Moses (published by Rutgers University Press (2003)). She was also active with Women in Support of the Million Man March (WISOMMM) based in Newark, NJ.

A resident of Orange, NJ Daphne had been engaged in civic efforts over the years. She was also the recipient of numerous awards and honors. At the time of her transition she was an Ambassador for Peace, with the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace. She travelled to various countries including China, South Africa and Saudi Arabia. Her faith was strong and guided her life. She made the Pilgrimage to Mecca in 2000, completed Hajj, and was writing a book about the contributions of women in Islam.

Daphne leaves behind her beloved daughters, Zakia Benyard and Tahirah Raheem (Shareef); and two precious grandchildren, Idris and Nzingha. Also mourning her loss are her siblings, Ahmed Dowdell, Shareef Dowdell, Jamilah Haygood, Dani Hodge, Gary Partt, Ihsan Rajab and Denise Williams, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, colleagues and friends.

# Janazah Prayer

(Funeral Prayer)

The deceased Muslim is placed horizontally in front of the Imaam who stands, according to the Sunnah, at the shoulder of the deceased. The believers stand behind the Imaam. There is no Ruke (bowing) or Sujud (prostration) in the prayer. The prayer is conducted in an upright standing position, Qiyam and contains four takbirs.

**FIRST TAKBIR:** The Imam says “Allahu Akbar” (God is Greatest), raising his hands to his ears and placing them between the chest and the navel. The followers do the same. The Imam recites the Al-Fatihah, The Opening, *In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Most Merciful, Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds; The all Merciful, the ever Merciful, The Possessor of the Day of Judgement. You only we Worship and only Your help we Seek. Guide us to the straight Path; the path of those whom you Bestowed your grace and mercy And not of those who encourage Your wrath.*

**SECOND TAKBIR:** The Imam says “*Allahu Akbar*” without raising his hands. The followers repeat. They then invoke Allah’s blessings upon the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) by reciting Salaatu ‘Alan Nabiyy. *“O Allah, shower Your Mercy upon Muhammad and the followers of Muhammad, as You showered Your Mercy upon Ibrahim and the followers of Ibrahim. Behold You are Praiseworthy. Glorious, Oh Allah, shower Your Blessings upon Muhammad and the followers of Muhammad as You showered Your Blessings upon Ibrahim and the followers of Ibrahim. Behold, You are Praiseworthy, Glorious.”*

**THIRD TAKBIR:** After the third takbir, the Imam and believers pray for the deceased by saying the following:

*“Oh Allah, forgive those of us that are alive and those of us that are dead, those of us that are present and those of us who are absent; our minors and our elders; Oh Allah, whomever of us you keep alive, let him live as a follower of Islam and whomsoever of us you cause to die, let him die as a believer.”*

**FOURTH TAKBIR:** The Imam says “Allahu Akbar and the believer repeat. They proceed with:

*“Oh Allah, do not deny the reward which is due him, do not expose us to temptation after his death. Forgive us and him.”*

The Imam concludes the prayer with:

**“As Salaamu ‘Aiaikum wa Rahmatullahi”\*** and the believers repeat.

**\*Peace and Mercy of Allah be upon you.**

*Interment*

Rosehill Cemetery

1 and 9 South

Linden, New Jersey 07036

**A**llah - there is no deity except Him, the Ever-Living, the

Sustainer of [all] existence. Neither drowsiness overtakes Him nor sleep. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is it that can intercede with Him except by His permission? He knows what is [presently] before them and what will be after them, and they encompass not a thing of His knowledge except for what He wills. His Kursi extends over the heavens and the earth, and their preservation tires Him not. And He is the Most High, the Most Great.

Repast

Essex County College - Gymnasium at 1:00 p.m

On street parking

### Acknowledgements

*The family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.*

Professional Service Entrusted To:



579 Grove Street

Irvington, New Jersey 07111

Khadija Samad, Manager

Telephone: (973) 399-8400

Fax: (973) 399-8405

[www.firdousfuneralchapel.com](http://www.firdousfuneralchapel.com)

