

The Celebration
~ Of A Life Well Lived ~

Ada Harris Cole

Sunrise
July 8, 1921

Sunset
February 22, 2016

Service

Friday, February 26, 2016 - 11:00 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH

Scotch Plains, New Jersey

Rev. Arthur L. Jackson ~ Officiating

Obituary

Ada Harris Cole

Sunrise July 8, 1921 - Sunset: February 22, 2016

Ada Harris Cole departed this life on Monday, February 22, 2016 at Stratford Manor Nursing Home, West Orange, NJ. She was 94.

Ada was born July 8, 1921 in Roselle, NJ to the Late Lucy Quarles Harris and the Rev McDonald Harris, pastor of New Point Baptist Church, Elizabeth, NJ.

After marrying Rubin (Jay) Cole in the mid 1940s, she and her husband spent their entire married life, on Barclay Street in Newark.

Their apartment was part of the Douglas-Harrison Homes, segregated housing for middle-class African Americans.

Her husband was a jazz pianist, so Ada often traveled with the groups he played with, the Three Sportsmen of Rhythm and the Harlem Blues and Jazz Band, often assisting the singer Viola Wells (Miss Rhapsody).

In the late 1940s, she was a receptionist at the Kenney Hospital in Newark, commonly known as the Community Hospital for colored people. She later worked in Newark at the General Electric Plant as a quality control engineer.

Ada was a long time volunteer for the Newark North Jersey Committee of Black Churchmen.

She was a life member of the Newark Branch National Council of Negro Women for which she held in many positions. She was diligent about her service to the organization and maintaining NCNW tradition.

“Ada was a fashionista,” said Mary Harris, a long time friend. “She was classy, stylish and loved to wear furs.” Anna Scott Holman recalls, “Ada designed and made her own clothes”, and was affectionately known as the “hat lady”.

Ada was an original Legacy shareholder of the Newark-based African American Owned City National Bank. “On many occasions, Mrs. Cole led the opening prayer at our board meetings,” said Lemar Whigham, whose father Charles Whigham founded the bank in 1973.

Ada was predeceased by her husband and their son, Frank. She is survived by a granddaughter, Nicole Cole; cousins, George Quarles, Hagerstown, Maryland, Lovetta Boyd, Linden, NJ, C. Judy Fleming, Frisco, Texas, Ruby Mathis, Roselle, NJ; a support team: Deacon Grandison, Della Moses Walker, Clara Vines; and many friends whom she loved, and who loved her dearly.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Hymn of Comfort “One Day At A Time”

The Written Word

The Invocation Clergy

Hymn “Blessed Assurance” Page 27

Ada’s Life Story

Resolution National Council of Negro Women, Newark Inc.
Mary Harris, Chaplin

Condolences and Remarks

Solo Reverend Gloria German-Smith

The Eulogy Rev. Arthur L. Jackson

Prayer of Consolation Clergy

A Closing Spiritual Reverend Gloria German-Smith

The Benediction

The Recessional Clergy

Interment

Ada will rest with her husband Ruben Jay Cole
Crystal Stream Cemetery
(An African-American Burial Ground
@ Paul Quinn Chapel AME Church)
Navesink, Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey

Repast immediately following in Church Fellowship Hall

Tribute from Bessie Walker

Ada Cole was a woman of great integrity. Ada was an exciting vibrant, loving and caring woman who when she entered a room her infectious smile would light up the place and you would instantly feel the love emanating from her spirit.

Ada loved sharing words of wisdom to young women about how to navigate life's pitfalls and how to carry themselves as a young woman in our community. She was a woman with superb taste in fashion. She loved music and could sit for hours talking about African Americans in the world of jazz and blues and our impact on this world.

This incredible woman was a strong advocate for the senior citizen and youth of Newark. Ada played integral roles as a leader in National Council of Negro Women, Newark Section. She was tremendous in advising on policy and training as required from NCNW from the National Headquarters. She made sure we understood the teaching and philosophy of our founder Mary McCloud Bethune. She drills those traditions of giving service to our community.

She immersed herself in National Council of Negro Women's Annual Youth Essay contest. Where she helped to structure the essay questions for the youth throughout the city to write us their thoughts on the questions she helped to write. Then she would read them and help select our three winners. Ada participated and chaired some of our numerous programs in NCNW like, Black History, Women's History, Homeless Feeding, Nominating Committee, Political Action Committee, Sunshine Committee and many others.

She was an Angel sent by God to bring encouragement and word that would help to empower women.

Phenomenal Woman was Ada Cole.

Sincerely, Bessie Walker

Bessie Walker, Past President of National Council of Negro Women
Former Councilwoman of Newark, New Jersey

Acknowledgement

To The Nurses, Nurses Aides and Doctors at the Stratford Manor Nursing Home; The Hospice Staff; the Missionaries, Deacons and Ministerial Staff of St. John's Baptist Church; Thank you for the years of support, professional expertise and love shared with Mrs. Cole.

Professional Services by:
Whigham Funeral Home

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Carolyn Whigham, Director

