

HOME GOING SERVICES

*IN LOVING MEMORY AND CELEBRATION
OF*

Eddiemae Livingston

Sunrise
July 13, 1919

Sunset
April 14, 2016



Saturday, April 30, 2016 - 10:00 A.M.

Hopewell Baptist Church

17 Muhammad Ali Avenue

Newark, New Jersey 07103

Reverend Jason C. Guice, Pastor

Obituary



***Eddiemae** was one of nine children to Sharecroppers, the late Edward Livingston and Mamie (Hodges) Livingston born and raised in Newberry, South Carolina, on July 13, 1919.*

***Eddiemae** attended Public Schools in her rural small town where she excelled and graduated Valedictorian of her High School Class. Her mom insisted on her children getting an education so they could become independent she taught them that “**knowledge is power and education was the key**”.*

***Eddiemae** furthered her education by attending Benedict College majoring in Mathematics and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree where she graduated Cum Laude Honors in 1942. This would not have been possible if it were not for her mother’s cousin, Louise Gary, who assisted with the tuition for **Eddiemae** to attend college because her parents could not afford to do so alone.*

*Inspired by the assistance from her mom’s cousin, **Eddiemae** vowed from that day forward, if she could, she would help someone else along the way in life to pass on her blessings. Since that time **Eddiemae** has given thousands of dollars every year for over sixty (60) years to children in furthering their education once they were off to college. Her family and friends called her kind acts a “**One-Woman Scholarship Program**”. She never had a process for giving other than “I help people that need help” and “our future depends on whether students are educated”. **Eddiemae** kept her pledge until her passing, not wanting anything in return.*

***Eddiemae** later moved to Washington, D.C., where she took a position with the Federal Government as a Claims Examiner for Soldiers’ Allowances in the Office of Dependency Benefits in 1947. The government was relocating her division to Newark, NJ, but was told black employees were not included in the move, even though their transfers had been approved. **Eddiemae** inquired and was told by the government that the bus tickets for Newark were purchased but later learned that that was not true.*

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) stopped the discrimination when it demanded that the black employees also be given the bus tickets. “The NAACP intervened and I was sufficiently transferred” she recalls in an interview.

***Eddiemae** was an extremely dedicated member, held two Life-Time Memberships and two Golden Heritage Memberships of the NAACP. She served on the Executive Board for many years. She held the title of Board Member Emeritus and raised thousands of dollars for its organization for the Newark Branch.*

*Approximately four years after **Eddiemae**’s arrival to New Jersey, she took a position with the City of Newark. This is where she earned the affectionate name and role of “**Mother Livingston**”. However, her family all called her “**Aunt Suder**”.*

***Eddiemae** performed in various capacities with the Newark Health & Welfare Department and in the Chest Clinic Division, titles including; Clerk-Typist, Clerk-Stenographer, Principal Clerk-Stenographer, Supervising Principal Clerk-Stenographer and Assistant Chief Clerk.*

In 1982, she applied and successfully achieved the position in becoming the Executive Secretary of the former/late Central Ward Councilman, George Branch.

***Eddiemae** worked diligently for Councilman Branch for nine years and was devoted to her duties. She earned respect from her co-workers, friends and all members of the Newark Municipal Council and the City Clerk.*

*In 1992, **Eddiemae** retired after forty-five (45) years of service with the City of Newark and was honored with a Resolution of the City of Newark, New Jersey by the Municipal Council as well as a Proclamation from former Mayor, Sharpe James and a Congressional Record from the late Donald M. Payne, Sr., U.S. Congressman.*

***Eddiemae** shared a love and lasting friendship with Former Mayor, Sharpe and Mary James. Through their many years of commitment to Newark, she knew “Sharpe” stood for the people and that was her passion; putting people first.*

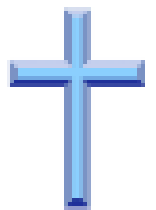
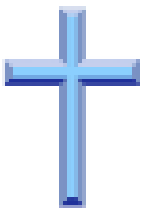
***Eddiemae** had a special friendship and unbreakable bond with **Rev., Dr. Ralph T. Grant, Jr., PhD.** She could call on him for any assistance rather for herself or to help someone else in need, he would “always” be there willingly and always delivered.*

***Eddiemae** served as a board member of the Newark Health Center, she was extremely active as a girls’ Counselor at the Newark YMWCA and worked diligently as a member of the Mayor’s Commission on the Status of Women.*

***Eddiemae** was a committee member and participated in the Senior Citizen’s Fashion and Cultural Extravaganza which was founded by her late boss; Councilman, George Branch, Kitty Taylor, Wilnora Holman and Branch’s original staff members; (Tommy Parks, Renee Knight, Saidi Nguvu and Kenny Watkins), in 1982.*

*All the while living in Newark, NJ, **Eddiemae** sent money home (S.C. and Baltimore) every month to her family. Even though **Eddiemae** had never married or had biological children, her nieces’ **Martha, Vonzella** and nephew **Raymond** were her pride and joy. She never missed sending a card with a check during every birthday, Christmas, graduation and/or any celebrated occasion the family was hosting back home.*

***Eddiemae** was a God fearing and loving woman that spoke of her faith often. She became a member of the Metropolitan Baptist Church when she settled in Newark. There she worshipped with her friend she knew during childhood; Rebecca “Becky” Bowman and the late Charles and Marie Whigham.*



Later, **Eddiemae** moved into an apartment at 92 Quitman Street where she met and became dear friends with the late Mrs. Sykes who was the Superintendent of the building. Mrs. Sykes introduced **Eddiemae** to her church; **Hopewell Baptist Church**. **Eddiemae** felt right at home on her first visit and joined Hopewell immediately in 1963, when the late Reverend Boyd B. Cantrel was the Pastor.

Eddiemae was an active member at Hopewell and served on numerous boards. She never wanted to be a seat-warmer but rather a servant for God. She served as the Church Secretary and one of the Financial Treasurers.

When Hopewell was in a financial bind, **Eddiemae** jumped to the rescue and loaned the Church thousands of dollars of her own money to save Hopewell's doors from closing. She and her church family; Sister Sykes, Sister Annie Jackson, Deacon James Bodison, Reverend Charles & Sister Graves and Sister Sarah Johnson worshipped together for many years and through it all, she remained a devoted, tiding-member during the many changes of Pastors and leadership.



Eddiemae was an avid Bridge Player, earning hundreds of awards and trophies as well as a Diamond Pin for outstanding winnings. She traveled all over the world with her Bridge group; Mildred Crump, the late Glenn Miller, the late Maurice R. Strickland, Esq., Lillian Allen, Mildred McCloud, the late Lovie Brown, Lillian Williams, Sally Carroll and her dear friend Mamie "Gus" Hale, just to name a few.

Her most memorable places she loved to visit were; Las Vegas, St. Louis, Reno and Detroit. She also visited Atlantic City every month, especially the bus rides that her late friend and neighbor, Barbara Cherry sponsored and whatever earnings she won, which were very often, **Eddiemae** shared with others. However, going to Baltimore to see her family was the biggest highlight in her life.

Additionally, **Eddiemae** authored several books which include; a collection of poems "**Poems and Reflections For All Occasions**" and a guide to duplicate bridge "**Bridge Reflections In Rhyme**". She has written several poems honoring family, friends and elected officials. One in particular, she wrote and read to the late Donald M. Payne, Sr. at his swearing-in reception for his first term in Congress. He was overwhelmed with joy and gratitude.

In 1995, **Eddiemae** moved to 1 Court Street Towers where there too, she immediately made friends and began to serve and assist her neighbors. She served on the Tenant Council and was the unofficial lawyer and spokesperson to aid the tenants. Whenever a tenant needed a letter written, documents notarized, a copy made or a loan to pay their rent, **Eddiemae** eagerly provided.

Eddiemae would ride with her neighbors on the seniors' bus to the supermarket but **loved** when "Gus" Hale or Renee would drive her to the market in order that they could make a "pit-stop" to Home Liquors to purchase her "Dewar's" Scotch. She later upgraded to Johnnie Walker and would take her "**nightcap**" every evening as she toasted to "longevity"!

Eddiemae was also known for baking her famous Rum Cake & Gelatin Mold on special occasions and for friends just getting-together which everyone enjoyed.

Eddiemae loved playing bingo, po-ke-no and doing crossword puzzles with her fellow neighbors in the community room. And let's not forget...she was a Pick-It Player...**092** she played every day since 1975.



Eddiemae loved watching and cheering for her favorite Baseball Team... *“Let’s Go Mets”!*

She also enjoyed serving her community and neighbors by passing out commodities weekly in her building and at Hopewell Baptist Church.

Eddiemae recently became ill and fought a good fight. However, **God** said it’s time and took *Eddiemae* to her resting place where there is “no more pain, no more sorrow and no more suffering”.

Shortly after Renee’s daily visit with *Eddiemae*, she made her transition at the University Hospital, Newark, NJ, with her dear friend of fifty-five years Mildred C. Crump, while holding hands at her bedside.

Eddiemae was preceded in death by her parents; Edward and Mamie Livingston, five sisters; Ester Livingston Ford, Myrtle Livingston Wicks, Evangelist Cecelia (Elizabeth “Little Sis” – “The Good Sister”) Livingston, Sarah Livingston Boyd and Maria (“Ria”) Livingston, two brothers; Harold Livingston and Jefferson Livingston.

Eddiemae leaves to cherish her memory; her last sibling; younger brother, Wade Livingston, twenty-one nieces and nephews, twenty-six great nieces and nephews, all residing in Baltimore, Maryland.

Her Extended Family at Hopewell Baptist Church
Members of the Newark Branch NAACP
American Bridge Association (ABA)
Co-workers and friends from the City of Newark



Dear friend(s); J. Barry Washington - For always assisting her with her computer.

Barry Carter - For being a dear friend and for acknowledging her life tributes in the Newark Star Ledger, she thanked him daily for the honor.

Residents and friends of Court Towers; Shirley Burns, Kay Rivers, Mildred Wiggins and Ludia Davis.

Her dear friends and caregivers; Rebecca “Becky” Bowen, Mildred C. Crump, Sister Annie Jackson, Mamie “Gus” Hale, Renee Knight, Shirley Burns and Kenny Watkins.

Eddiemae was one of the most caring, loving and generous human being that one would “ever” meet in a lifetime...she will be missed dearly!

Respectfully submitted,
Family & Friends

Order of Service

ORGAN PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL The Family

SOLO

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT*Reverend Vincent Robinson*

NEW TESTAMENT.....*Reverend Perry Simmons*

MUSICAL SELECTION *Hopewell Mass Choir*

PRAYER OF COMFORT *Dr. Jason C. Guice*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS..... *Sister Joann Lucas, Church Clerk*

&

READING OF OBITUARY

REMARKS Limited 2 Minutes (Please)

Dr. Ralph T. Grant, Jr., PhD

Hon. Donald M. Payne, Jr., U.S. Congressman

Hon. Ras J. Baraka, Mayor, City of Newark

Hon. Kenneth A. Gibson, Former Mayor, City of Newark

Hon. Sharpe James, Former Mayor, City of Newark

Hon. Gayle Chaneyfield-Jenkins, Central Ward - Councilmember

Hon. Mildred C. Crump, Council President, City of Newark

Deborah Gregory, President, Newark Branch NAACP

American Bridge Association (ABA)

Member(s) of the Livingston Family

MUSICAL SELECTION *Hopewell Mass Choir*

EULOGY *Dr. Jason C. Guice, Pastor, PhD*

INTERMENT

Fairmount Cemetery

Newark, New Jersey



OUR BELOVED SISTER, AUNT AND FRIEND

*Sometimes it's hard to understand why things
have to be, but in His wisdom, God has planned,
beyond our power to see.
So looking back in tenderness,
along the paths we trod,
we cherish the many, many years we had with you dear friend,
and leave the rest to God!*

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

*Hon. Donald M. Payne, Jr., U.S. Congressman
Hon. Ras J. Baraka, Mayor, City of Newark
Hon. Kenneth A. Gibson, Former Mayor – City of Newark
Hon. Sharpe James, Former Mayor – City of Newark
Hon. Dr. Ralph T. Grant, PhD., Former Council President – City of Newark*

PALLBEARERS

*Deacon Eric Tennet
Deacon Lee Warren
Charles Bishop
C. Larry Crump, Esq.
Kenneth Watkins*

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with sincere appreciation the many kind acts and comforting expressions of sympathy extended to them in their time of bereavement. May God continue to bless you all for your thoughtfulness, love and concern.

A Very Special Thanks To:

*The staff of: Saint Michael's Hospital, Newark, New Jersey
The Staff of: Roseville Health Care, Newark, New Jersey
The Staff of: University Hospital, Newark, New Jersey
Carolyn Whigham and Staff
City National Bank
1 Court Street Apartments – Tenants Association
1 Court Street Apartments Management*

*Following the Interment, the family would like to invite everyone to join them at 1 Court Street,
(Community Room) for the repast and fellowship.*

Professional Services by:
Whigham Funeral Home

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Newark, New Jersey 07102
973-622-6872

Carolyn Whigham, Director

