

*Celebration of
Life Service*

Sunrise
July 15, 1953

Sunset
April 3, 2017

Gwendolyn Etta James

Service

Monday, April 10, 2017 - 11:30 a.m.

New Ephesus Baptist Church

175 Brookwood St. • East Orange, NJ 07018

Rev. Dr. John Shore, Jr., Officiating

Reflections of Life

Gwendolyn Etta James departed this life at Robert Wood Hospital in Rahway, NJ on April 3, 2017.

Gwendolyn, affectionately known as “Gwen”, was born on July 15, 1953 in Newark, NJ to the late Prudence Lucile and William Thomas James. She attended Madison Avenue Elementary and Clinton Place Junior High in Newark, NJ and graduated from West Side High School, “The Roughriders” in Newark, NJ.

Gwen became an employee of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) of the Taxpayer Advocate Service Department for the US Government and worked for years as a Taxpayer Advocate Analyst. In 2008, she was promoted as Taxpayer Advocate Manager and retired from the IRS with 37 years of service in January 2011. She was also a member of AIM-IRS, the Association for The Improvement of Minorities, which was founded in 1969 because of barriers and impediments placed on minority employees seeking career advancement.

Gwen had two daughters, Jamel and Al-Fatimah Emira that she raised with the help of her parents, whom they all cherished greatly as “Big Ma and Pop”. The three celebrated special occasions, went on vacations, and created many memories in their home together.

Gwen was also known for her feistiness and her love for playing cards with her dear friends and family members. Bid Whist and Pinochle were her favorite games. She also loved to play Let It Ride and Video Poker.

In 2004, Gwen gave her life to God and became an active and dedicated member of the New Ephesus Baptist Church where she acted as a Nurse and a Trustee.

In 2014, her health began to decline and she began to battle one health issue after another until she succumbed to these illnesses on April 3rd .

She leaves to cherish her memory: two daughters, Jamel (James) Thomas and Al-Fatimah James, both of Irvington, NJ, two nieces, Patrice Pompey of Kinston, NC and Kareemah Kemp of Newark, NJ and one nephew, Gregory Pompey, Jr. of Kinston, NC, her parents (late) Prudence & William James of Newark, NJ, her brothers (late) Larry Pompey and (late) Gregory Pompey Sr., both of Newark NJ, her grand niece and nephew who were like her grandchildren, Chelsea Pompey of Irvington, NJ and Neaven “Chance” Minott of Kinston, NC, and a host of other relatives and dear friends.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Processional Clergy & Family

Opening Selection Choir

Scripture Readings Linda Whitfield

Moments Down Memory Lane

Solo LaWanda McCombs

Obituary & Acknowledgments Linda Whitfield

Eulogy Rev. Dr. John Shore, Jr.

Recessional

Interment

Graceland Memorial Park
1900 Galloping Hills Road
Kenilworth, NJ 07033

Repast at the church following Interment

*In Loving Memory of
Gwendolyn E. James*

She has gone from this life
Into the soft drift of heaven's clouds.
She has gone from the pain and worry,
Hurt and doubt.
She has gone into the gentle embrace
Of Hereafter.
She has gone into the treasured places.
In our hearts
Where she will spend forever.



Acknowledgement

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, and kindness shown to them during this time of bereavement.

Professional Services by:
Whigham Funeral Home

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

Carolyn Whigham, Director

