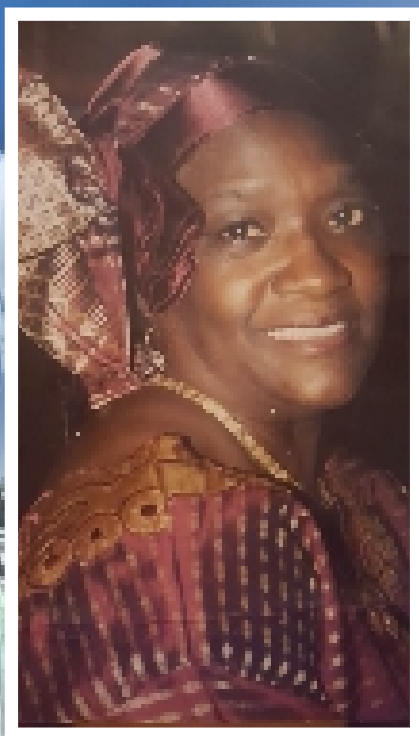


*In Loving Memory of
Joann Varner-Little*



Sunrise
June 14, 1956

Sunset
April 9, 2017

Janazah Service
Thursday, April 13, 2017 – 1:00 pm

Cotton Funeral Home
1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ 07112

Sister Joann was diagnosed with stage 4 Lung Cancer in March 2015 and retired from the United States Postal Service after dedicating 27 years. When she learned of her illness she went to family for comfort, support, and advice. Her daughter Farada advised her to put her "S" on her chest and her cape on her back. Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center took her from a life expectancy of 18 months to well over 2 years. Sadly, on April 9, 2017 Joann's battle came to an end.

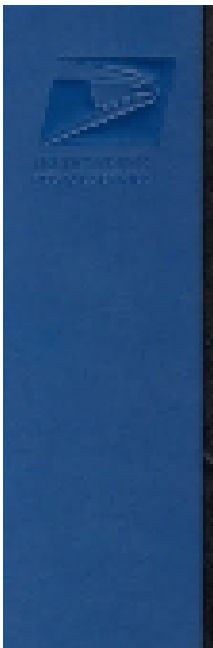


Obituary

Sister Joann Varner-Little was born in Sardis, Georgia to the late Eugene Varner Jr. and Mrs. Charity Mootry-Varner on June 14, 1956.

Sister Joann attended Cousins Elementary School in Sardis, Georgia. At the age of 7, Joann relocated with family to Newark, NJ where she attended South 17th Street School, Quitman Street School, 7th Avenue Junior High School and Central High School, class of 1974. After graduating, Sister Joann attended Essex County College and Rutgers University where she studied nursing.

As a teenager, Sister Joann launched her employment history as a Candy Stripper at Martland Hospital, currently known as the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey and ended her employment at the United States Postal Service after dedicating 27 years.



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

This certificate is presented to

Joanne Little

An official commendation and recognition of your contributions to the United States Postal Service.

For: PERFECT ATTENDANCE FIVE (5) YRS

Name: AMC

Special: _____

February 24, 2005

at _____

Wils Bernard
Post Manager - EPR

Anyone who knew Joann knew that she and her sister Diane were inseparable. When you saw one you saw them both. Nothing and no one could come between their sister bond. They drove the city of Newark day in and day out, often found in Weequahic Park having a Danish and a coffee.

During the Spring and Summer months, Joann found joy and happiness in her backyard; planting and gardening. With her green thumb, she grew the most beautiful plants and flowers. Joann loved cleaning her home and keeping it orderly. Every morning Sister Joann would get her dust mop and make her rounds through the house before hitting Weequahic Park for her daily run. Joann took pride in her home. She would paint the rooms all different colors. She would try a different color paint just about every month.

On nice summer days she and her husband Allen would take trips to New York where they enjoyed eating gyros and walking the garment district where she bought hats and scarves. Sister Joann loved talking to her friends on the phone. She reserved Sundays to reach out to family members across the country, mainly Georgia. Joann was a member of the Weequahic Park Association and International Youth Organization

Joann was affectionately known as Mook, to Stephen Thompson whom she share two children, Farada & Bilal Thompson. She was also affectionately known as Granny to her big brother Leon (Bo-Bo). Sister Joann leaves to cherish her unforgettable memories to her husband, Brother Allen Little, her daughter Farada Thompson, her son Bilal Thompson, 5 love children, Almone, Aziz, Al-Jihad (special to her heart), Laila and Isaiah Little, her sisters, Diane Varner and Carolyn Mathews (Sam Mathews), her brother, Anthony Varner, her grandchildren, Qianna Holloway, Jada Culver, Jalil Seburn, Avery Thompson, Aniya Thompson, Shadaya Thompson, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Janazah Service

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 Sujuud (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-

Evergreen Cemetery
Hillside, New Jersey

As I looked up into the dark sky I see a bright light. I see so many stars that shine throughout the night, you are the one with the brightest light. The light of life dies when your work on earth is done. The light of a bright world dies with the dying sun. No more suffering, pain or sorrow. You are now in a place where there's forever peace and eternal love. You are a friend so close and dear to me. You are everything a friend could be. I can no longer see you, but I know you are there. You are that bright light I see in the dark sky looking down on me. All the memories we shared I will forever hold dear to my heart.

My Forever Friend: by Cynthia Harrison

Acknowledgement

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a floral piece If so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You,
Whatever the part.

Repast
International Youth Organization
703 S. 12th Street, Newark, NJ 07108

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000



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