

In Loving Memory of



Canover D. Means

Sunrise

November 10, 1925

Sunset

April 17, 2020

Monday, April 27, 2020

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

1025 Bergen Street • Newark, New Jersey

Reflections of Life

Canover Dunston Means was born on November 10, 1925 in Nash County, North Carolina to the late Daniel Fate Dunston and Eula Bryant Dunston. Canover had 7 siblings, Nebraska, Luther, Geraldine, Elmo, Charles, Leona, and Joseph, who all predeceased her.

When Canover was 6 years old, her father passed away and, for health reasons, her mother moved to Newark, NJ, where some of her siblings had started to migrate. Canover remained in North Carolina living with her grandparents, Stephen and Lettice Bryant. As a teenager, she moved to Newark to live with her mother and continued living in Newark for most of her life.

Early in her career, Canover worked in the food service industry. She was one of the first African-American women to be hired in a newly constructed cafeteria at a local manufacturing plant. Although she had limited sewing experience, she believed herself to be a fast learner and obtained a position as a seamstress. She was a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the United Textile Workers of America. After working as a seamstress for several years, she was employed at the world's largest and oldest flag making company, the Annin Flag Co., in Bloomfield, NJ. She continued sewing flags there until her retirement.

Canover's long life allowed her the opportunity to experience many things. She was married for a brief time to Dillard "Jack" Means. She was always fiercely independent and outspoken with her thoughts. No one was immune from her candor or her loyalty. Besides her sewing skills, she loved to cook. She made many meals and baked goods from scratch, regularly shopping at the market for ingredients. She gladly fulfilled requests to make delicious dishes for many of her family and friends.

Canover is survived by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

In Memory of Canover D. Means

What moves through us is a quiet sadness,
A longing for one more day, one more word, one more touch.
We may not understand why you left this earth so soon,
Or why you left before we were ready to say goodbye.
Little by little we begin to remember
Not just that you died, but that you lived.
And that your life gave us memories too beautiful to forget.

Professional Services Provided By

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