

*Celebrating the Life of*  
*Heather D. Bradshaw*  
February 27, 1953 ~ July 7, 2023



FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023 - 11:00 AM

**Cotton Funeral Service**

1025 Bergen Street • Newark, New Jersey

*Pastor Ivor Keizer, Officiating*

## Obituary

We all have come from near and far to say goodbye to a remarkable soul. Born on February 27th, 1953, around 10 a.m., Heather Dawn Bradshaw graced the world with her presence. That is the last time I will use the name Heather. Though I know she is known to many by her first name, she is remembered as Judy or Aunt Judy. Whether you knew her as Heather, Judy, or Aunt Judy, she left an indelible mark on your life.

Aunt Judy was the first born child of Joyce and Carlos Garnes as well as the First Grandchild of Lilla George. As a child, it was clear that she possessed a spirited nature and an undeniable strength of character. As a little girl, she fearlessly took on the world, unafraid to challenge the status quo. Her siblings called her feisty and determined. Ready to defend or dole out justice to anyone who dared to cross her family. She fearlessly fought the boys and emerged victorious in those battles. I can only imagine the fierce determination that burned within her as she stood up for herself and showed the world that she was not to be underestimated.

Around the age of thirteen, Judy would move to live with her beloved grandmother, Lilla George, while her mother found new financial opportunities for the family. This was a transformative time for her as she navigated the complexities of adolescence and discovered her place in the world. The guidance and love of her grandmother became an anchor during those formative years, shaping the woman she would become. She showed gratitude for her upbringing with her insatiable thirst for knowledge.

Her intelligence was a burgeoning light throughout her life, and she was constantly seeking new opportunities to expand her mind. It was no surprise that she excelled academically, embracing education as a way to unlock her full potential. She would start at the distinguished St. Augustine Girls High School. Life would move her to Northeastern College, where she was a student athlete, playing field hockey while balancing studies.

At Northeastern College, she formed lifelong bonds with a group of girls who shared her dreams, hopes, and aspirations. Together, they laughed, cried, and supported each other through the triumphs and tribulations of life. These friendships were a source of immeasurable joy and strength, reminding her that she was never alone.

Preceded by her mother, she would make the leap and leave home for the United States. There, she would find Medgar Evers College and study Business Administration, excelling as a top student in college as she did in high school. She finished at the top of her class at Medgar Evers and moved on to complete her Master's degree. While studying at Medgar Evers, she would find an internship at Pfizer as an inventory clerk. She would spend the next thirty years moving up the ranks at Pfizer in the accounting department. Without complaint, she commuted from Brooklyn, Connecticut, and New Jersey by bus day in and day out. Pfizer loved her so much that they would include her two year internship as a part of her retirement eligibility. She loved her job.

She would retire from Pfizer and move back home to Trinidad. For the first time in my life, Aunt Judy was not near. She built her home and took full advantage of retirement. If you needed a place to stay while in Trinidad, for as long as you needed, her door was always open.

To know Aunt Judy means you knew she loved playing calypso music on the weekends while piecing her puzzles together. If you walked by, she would challenge you to a game of scrabble. You may also have to endure an old black and white western movie from time to time. If you were lucky, you rode the runaway train with her at Six Flags. If you were in New York City, she would give you a tour of your life. If you were really lucky, you got a chance to go with her to the Jazz festivals.

She has generously donated everything from school supplies to clothes to helping so many with college. She would say, "stop saying you want to borrow with no way of paying back. Just ask." She was more than a humanitarian because to know her was to be loved.

She touched down on every continent and visited many countries. Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Ghana, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Kingdom, Venezuela. These are just some of the ones I can remember.

On July 7th, 2023, at 10:09 a.m., Aunt Judy closed her eyes after living a full life. Judy is preceded by her mother and father, Joyce and Carlos Garnes, and sister Ava. She leaves behind her sister Lystra, brothers Michael and Raphael, nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of family and friends.

Aunt Judy worked hard, played harder, and loved the hardest.

## *Order of Service*

Welcome Remarks & Opening Prayer - Vanessa Boyd

Hymn - "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Scripture Reading - John 11: 25-26

Musical selection - Dr. Pamela George

Tributes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Scripture Reading - 1 Thessalonians 4: 14-17

Tributes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Eulogy - Akeem Charles

Musical Selection - Dr. Pamela George

Sermonette - Pastor Ivor Keizer

Closing Hymn - "To God be the Glory"

Benediction/Prayer of Comfort - Pastor Ivor Keizer

Recessional Song over intercom - Frank Sanitra "My Way"

*Interment*  
Evergreen Cemetery  
Hillside, New Jersey

*Repass - 503 Center Street, Piscataway, NJ 08854*

## *The Master Called*

I'm sorry I had to leave you. My loved ones, oh so dear.  
But you see, the Master called me, His voice was very clear!  
I had made my reservation, A heaven bound ticket for one,  
And I knew that He would call me.  
When He felt my work was done.  
I know that your hearts are heavy  
Because I have gone away, But when the Master called me,  
I knew that I could not stay. Yes, I'm sorry I had to leave you  
My loved ones, oh so dear, But, you see, the Master called me  
And, now I'm resting here. Yes, I've crossed on over to glory  
And to you all I say, Just stay in the hands of Jesus  
And we'll meet again someday.

-Author unknown

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

---

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

