

*Forever in our Hearts...*



## *Juanita Clayton*

*Phenomenal Woman*

*Queen of 139th Street*

*Member/Treasurer Community Board of the 32nd Precinct*

*Gone but will forever be in our hearts.*

## *Acknowledgments*

Our family wishes to extend our profound and sincere gratitude for the outpouring of love, support, and prayers during this difficult time. Through our cherished memories, **JUANITA** will live on in our hearts forever. May we continue to celebrate her life by living freely and with gratitude every single day that we have the ability to take a breath.

*Arrangements Entrusted to:*



630 St. Nicholas Avenue  
New York, NY 10030  
Phone: (212) 281-8850  
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*In Loving Memory of*



## *Juanita Clayton*

SUNRISE: JANUARY 27, 1927 - SUNSET: NOVEMBER 5, 2024

## *Funeral Service*

Saturday, November 23, 2024 • 10:00 A.M.

**GRACE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HARLEM**

310 West 139th Street • New York, NY

**PASTOR NIGEL PEARCE, Officiating**

## *Interment*

**MT. HOLINESS MEMORIAL PARK**

Butler, New Jersey

# Order of Service

## MUSICAL PRELUDE

## INVOCATION

## MUSICAL SELECTION

CARLTON TAYLOR

## SCRIPTURE READING

PASTOR NIGEL PEARCE

## PRAYER OF COMFORT

## MUSICAL SELECTION

CARLTON TAYLOR

## REFLECTIONS

FAMILY & FRIENDS

(TWO MINUTES PLEASE)

## OBITUARY READING

JOYCE CHESLEY HAYWARD

## MUSICAL SELECTION

CARLTON TAYLOR

## EULOGY

PASTOR NIGEL PEARCE

## BENEDICTION

## RECESSIONAL

# Obituary



JUANITA CLAYTON was born on January 27, 1927, in Wilmington, N.C., to Floria Cooper and Willie James. She was the oldest of 5 siblings. After graduating from school in Wilmington, N.C., she moved to New York City.

Juanita was married twice but had no children from either of these unions. Later in life, she took in and adopted 3 young children, 2 of her great-nephews, and a great niece. (Tyrone Clayton, Jonathan Clayton and Lynette Clayton)

After coming to New York City, Juanita worked as a Bookkeeper for a doctor's office and then as a Bookkeeper for a well-known Black-owned plumbing company. After her retirement, Juanita dedicated herself to raising her 3 children. She made sure they got the best education and dedicated all her time to them and her neighborhood. She also took care of her mother during her final days. Juanita loved to travel and loved her family, and she regularly visited their family and took her mother (and then Lynette) on trips to reconnect with family in North Carolina, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

Juanita Clayton was the pillar of not only her family but also her community. In the 1970s and into the early 1980s, while a resident and owner of her brownstone on the 300 Block of West 139th Street, Juanita was able to purchase her 2nd brownstone. Along with some of her neighbors in the block, they formed what is now known as the '300 Block Association.' The 300 Block Association, headed by Juanita, was able to purchase 3 buildings in the block as well as 2 other buildings in the immediate area of Harlem. These buildings were purchased for the purpose of, and provided housing for: the homeless; persons released from prison; affordable housing for low-to-moderate-income families. Juanita used all her knowledge, energy, and talent, as well as her community connections, to not only purchase these buildings but also to obtain grants from the City to refurbish and make necessary repairs to the buildings, so that buildings which were sitting in significant disrepair could be fully functional and utilized for the good of the community.

Under the leadership of Juanita, the '300 Block Association' also cleaned up the surrounding streets and areas on 8th Avenue (now known as Frederick Douglass Blvd) to rid the areas of unlawful establishments that were riddled with drug trafficking, garbage in vacant lots, vagrancy etc. Juanita also made sure the city installed fences around these areas after they were cleaned so they did not revert back to the prior problem areas. These are just a few of the things Juanita and the Block Association did in and for the community. In addition, on an annual basis they also: Held a Back-to-School Block Party (that people came from all around to attend, including City and State dignitaries); Held a Halloween Party ( which was open to all neighborhood children with bagged treats provided at the end of the party); Held a Christmas Party (also for the children, with a gift for each child in attendance), gave flowers to the Elders in the block on Mother's Day; and brought in a "Jazz Mobile" as a treat for adults!

We could go on and on, but just to let you know a little about Juanita Clayton; a powerhouse of a woman who made a lasting impact in, with and through her life and leaves a beautiful legacy. She might be gone, but she will definitely not be forgotten.

Juanita leaves to mourn her memory Tyrone Clayton, Jonathan Clayton, Lynette Clayton, Nieces and Nephews, and a host of cousins and family as well as Neighbors and Friends.