



Joyce Brown Fannin

January 27, 1930 - June 3, 2023

Elizabeth Joyce Brown Fannin was born in Holy Name Hospital of Teaneck, New Jersey on January 27, 1930, and departed this life on June 3, 2023. She was the middle child of William Earl Brown and Rose David Brown. She was predeceased by her brothers: Lt. Gen. William Earl Brown, Jr. and Reginald Wesley Brown.

Joyce attended Coulter Memorial Academy, a Presbyterian school in Cheraw, South Carolina, which played a significant role in the history of black Presbyterianism in America. She was an outstanding student graduating Valedictorian of her high school class. Then, she attended Hampton Institute (Hampton University) where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Education with a major in Social Studies and a minor in Business in 1951. Joyce participated in a number of organizations and social clubs, making many lifelong friendships. It was at Hampton where she found her calling and began a life dedicated to the service and nurturing of children and their families.

After graduation, she joined the staff of the Virginia State School for the Deaf and Visually Impaired. While she enjoyed her time there and would remember sign language long after her employment, she left to join her college sweetheart, Wayne E. Fannin. Joyce and Wayne were married from 1955 – 1977 and had three daughters. As their family expanded, they moved from the Bronx, to the Dunbar Apartments in Harlem and then to Teaneck. She was a devoted mother and her children were the priority of her life.

Joyce worked for the City of New York for over 30 years. She was part of the inaugural team for the federally funded Head Start Program and reached the pinnacle of her career when she was appointed Assistant Deputy Commissioner. Under her direction, her staff administered the operation of early childhood centers throughout the five boroughs. Many NYC mayors and organizations honored her for her work. She was proud to be presented a lifetime membership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for her contributions to social justice and equality.

In retirement, which began in 1991, Joyce had more time to focus on her family and personal interests: gardening, music, connecting with neighbors, museums, church and civic activities. She loved to read and do jigsaw/crossword puzzles. She kept up with politics, current events, and popular culture. She even embraced technology in her later years.

Joyce was happiest surrounded by her family and friends. She is survived by her daughters Linda, Toni and Jill; grandchildren Keisha (David) and Keenan; great-grandchildren Quatez, DeSean, Daxson, Noelani, Nevaeh, David, Neriah and Harper Elizabeth; sisters-in-law Gloria and Constance; nieces Nancy (Tim) and Michelle; nephews Lou and Bill; and a host of grandnieces/nephews, as well as many cherished friends and neighbors.

Family and friends are invited to the celebration of life of Joyce on Saturday, June 17 2023 at Presbyterian Church of Teaneck at 12PM. Interment to follow at George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus. For more information or to visit Joyce's tribute page, please visit www.volkleber.com

Cemetery Details

George Washington Memorial Park

234 Paramus Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUN 17. 12:00 PM (ET)

Presbyterian Church of Teaneck
1 Church Street
Teaneck, NJ 07666

Tribute Wall



“ *Joyce Brown Fannin*

October 08, 2023 at 09:59 PM



“ *Joyce Brown Fannin*

October 08, 2023 at 06:27 PM



“ *Mama Joyce was so elegant, warm, and inspiring. She showed me that you can be a strong tough and independent woman while being loving and encouraging and doing the right thing. I cherish my memories of chatting with her and Mama Rose when I was in college with Toni. I am in awe of all she accomplished and the legacy she leaves. Jill and Keenan thank you for sharing for those lovely memories. Love and hugs Toni, Keisha, Keenan, Jill and Linda. Best, Mary and Toni and Nico Rerisi*

Mary Rerisi - June 17, 2023 at 01:13 PM



“ *She was a very special lady. I'll miss seeing her every week pop out the door just to say hi. so sorry for your loss the Cerniglia family* ❤️ 🥺

matthew cerniglia - June 15, 2023 at 07:27 AM