



Joyce Talley Hemmons

November 18, 1942 - April 4, 2018

Joyce Talley Hemmons was born in Washington, DC on November 18, 1942 to Luther Watkins Hemmons and Olivia Lucretia Talley Hemmons.

In 1947, Joyce and her family moved to Lakin, West Virginia. While living in Lakin, a segregated community, Joyce, and her older sister Toni, were forced to attend schools across the Ohio River in Middleton, Ohio. In 1957, the Hemmons family moved to Cleveland, Ohio where Joyce graduated from Shaker Heights High School in 1960. After graduating, Joyce returned to Washington, DC to join her beloved sister Toni, at Howard University.

Joyce was always active. In middle school she played the clarinet in the marching band. She was an avid swimmer and trained to become a certified life guard. While in high school, Joyce worked as a life guard during the summer. In her early fifties, she trained and ran the Marine Marathon.

Joyce began her professional career as a buyer for Woodward and Lothrop, Inc. In this position she was able to fuel her adventurous spirit and travel to many countries around Europe. She expanded her career aspirations and became a sales representative for Xerox Corp. As one of the first African American females in this role, Joyce would prove to be a pioneer and trailblazer. In 1976 she moved to Atlanta, Georgia to further her career aspirations with Xerox, until pursuing other opportunities with AT&T in the

evolving telecommunications field.

Joyce's desire to become a mother was fulfilled with the blessing of a son on November 18, 1981 (Joyce's birthday), when Jeffrey Emanuel Hemmons came into her life. They were there for each other, as a mother and son should be—sharing lots of love, laughter, care, and support. Joyce and Jeffrey remained a united pair until her passing. Jeffrey was by her side throughout her illness.

In 1990, Joyce and Jeffrey embarked on a new adventure and returned to Washington, DC, where they became active members in Peoples Church. Joyce continued to work for AT&T, Joyce returned to college--enrolling in evening and weekend classes. In 1994, Joyce graduated from Trinity College, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Joyce retired from AT&T in 2000, but her career aspirations were far from done. Joyce opened her own business, HemmonsWork, LLC, and she continued to provide contract services for several years. Her clients included the National Council of Negro Women, where she had the pleasure of working with Dorothy Height. Joyce continued working, and in semi-retirement, she began substitute teaching in the DC school system. She especially loved the kindergarten children!!! She introduced herself as Ms. Hemmons—"it rhymes with Lemons". The children never seemed to get the name right, so Joyce became "Ms. Lemons".

Joyce loved her dogs: Sally Wiggles, Freddie, Ethel and Maxine.

Joyce is survived by her devoted son, Jeffrey E. Hemmons, her nephew Russell T. Crockett, Jr. (Valerie), her niece Courtney L. Crockett, and a host of loving family and friends. She was predeceased by her parents Luther and Olivia Hemmons and her sister Olivia (Toni) Crockett.

Previous Events

Memorial service

APR 21. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

People's Congregational Church
4704 13th Street NW
Washington, DC 20011

Repass

APR 21. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

People's Congregational Church
4704 13th Street NW
Washington, DC 20011

Tribute Wall

BP

“ You know she is my sister, the one my birth parents did not bless me with, and she will always be with me.

Betty Pair - April 21, 2018 at 07:17 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joyce Talley Hemmons.



April 21, 2018 at 07:15 AM

KS

“ Joyce and I grew up together and I considered her one of smartest and brightest persons I have ever known. Her grandmother and my mother were sisters and we were basically the same age. I was always amazed at how knowledgeable and determined she was at a very early age and knew she would accomplish great things in her life. Joyce had a great love for family and friends. She was fun loving but also very focused which resulted in many personal and professional successes in life. We had not been close in many years but I will miss her smile and wit. My sympathy to Jeffrey and the family. I will miss you cuz. Kirk

kirk saunders - April 20, 2018 at 09:21 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joyce Talley Hemmons.*



April 20, 2018 at 12:08 PM



“ *A Full Life was purchased for the family of Joyce Talley Hemmons.*



April 19, 2018 at 08:51 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Joyce Hemmons*



Johnson & Jenkins Funeral Home - April 19, 2018 at 12:00 PM

JT

“ I remember Joyce first from her family's visits from West Virginia to Louisville when we were children. She was sometimes a 'tag along ' behind her older sister and myself but she always behaved well and never stopped talking! Her Cocker Spaniel, Sally Wiggles traveled with the family. Our families remained close over the years and whenever we met as adults, we enjoyed reminiscing!

To Jeffrey, the center of her life, and other family and friends, I extend condolences.

Joyce Brown Tyson and family
Brooklyn, New York

joyce brown tyson - April 17, 2018 at 09:36 PM

DD

“ Joyce was one of my best friends. We could talk for hours about anything. We did crazy things together. And I could always count on her when I needed help, or a favor or just a shoulder to cry on. She was an amazing person who made the world a better place.

Deb Duchon - April 17, 2018 at 09:20 PM

DF

“ It's been a privilege to have known our cousin, Joyce since her baby days. Our family, the Cochran's, found her to be a joyous, interesting person, sharing her personality and love with all. When visiting, Joyce generously entertained the then children of our families. May she Rest In Peace. Doris Cochran, et al

Doris Cochran & family - April 14, 2018 at 12:06 PM

JQ

“ You surely will be missed.
I remember fondly our long conversations.
Especially The conversation we had about the Louvre in Paris.
You describe so vividly the "The Wing Victory".
Your conversation prompted me to travel to Paris to see exactly
what you were talking about.
I thanked you then and I thank you now Rest in peace with love.
Juano Queen

Juano Ricci Queen - April 11, 2018 at 03:29 PM