



## Cleo Washington

July 3, 1925 - August 19, 2021

### Celebrating the Life and Legacy of a Virtuous Woman

Cleo Washington went home peacefully to be with the Lord on August 19, 2021, lovingly surrounded by her children. She was born to the late Frederick Sr. and Victoria (Brown) Gaymon July 3rd, 1925 in Sumpter, South Carolina. Cleo grew up in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, where she graduated from Kobe Bryant's (as she would boast) alma mater, Lower Merion High School. An avid sports fan, she was involved in all sports and, coming from a spiritual family, was part of the Bible club. From a young age, Cleo assumed the role of protector with the motto "if you mess with my family, you mess with me". She was headstrong and determined to live the life of her dreams, on her terms, and wanted nothing less for those she called family.

Cleo received her Degree in Nursing from the School of Nursing for Women. Shortly thereafter, she met and married the love of her life, William Washington Sr. The story of how they met on the PandW train in Norristown reads like a true romance novel. Complete with a handsome military gentleman and a beautiful nurse from the mainline, it was love at first sight. He would call her Dad's business phone from where he was stationed, and would eventually ask her Father for his blessing to marry his lovely Daughter Cleo. They wed on December 22nd 1951 and shared 55 anniversaries together, still as in love as the day they met.

When her young family moved from Philadelphia to Phoenixville, on Grover Street, she became an active member of the community. Working as an LPN in the Phoenixville Hospital Maternity Ward, she was present for the birth of many of her grandchildren. She retired after more than 30 years at Phoenixville Hospital, yet that didn't stop her from joining the Senior Softball League and volunteering at the Senior Center, where she made countless close friends. Mrs. Washington is known for many things, including her famous Sticky Buns. She would make them for church and even sell them at the Annual Dogwood Festival.

She was a member of Grimes AME Church in Phoenixville and later joined Mt. Calvary Church of God in Pottstown, where she would donate her famous desserts for canteen. She was last a member of New Beginnings Church of God, pastored by her Son Bishop William Washington Jr. Cleo had a natural musical ability from her Father who sang in a Gospel Quartet, and she picked up piano by ear listening to her Mother play. She was a virtuous woman of God, loved to sing solos at church and sang in the church choir. Endearingly known as Mother Washington, she would impart wisdom and evoke her faith in God, lovingly serving as a surrogate Mother for many.

Cleo Washington instilled so many values into her family. She would always say "honor your mother and father that it may go well with you" and, more importantly, she practiced it. After growing up without a family vehicle, in 1951, the year she got married, she gave her Dad money to get his first car. As a Mother, she was her children's biggest supporter and loudest cheering section. Grandmom Washington believed that family should stick together. She witnessed the births of several of her great grands and, more importantly, for any significant event in the lives of her loved ones, she was present. A devoted wife, she cared for her Husband and held his hand as he took his last breath. She held her dear husband close to her heart until God decided to

extend His own hand to guide her home.

Cleo is preceded in death by her Husband, William Washington Sr., Sons, Mark Washington Sr. and Julian "Tony" Washington Sr., Sisters, Doris Gaymon and Harriet Sydnor, Brothers, Frederick Jr., William and Curtis Gaymon. She leaves to honor her memory, Sons, William Washington Jr. and Garry Washington (Kristy), her only Daughter, Victoria Washington-Hill (Elisher), Brothers, Earl, Herbert and Larry Gaymon, a dear Cousin, Evelyn Gaymon, 18 Grandchildren, 39 Great-Grandchildren, a Great-Great-Grandson, and a host of Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, In-Laws, Godchildren, Church Family, Friends and Loved Ones.

Cleo Washington lived through several global pandemics, the Great Depression, World War II, the Civil Rights movement, two Great Recessions, the election of the Nation's first Black President and Black Female Vice President, the Eagles winning a Super Bowl over her Patriots, all while herself becoming true living history. She strongly believed in treating people the way she wanted to be treated, and it worked. Her faith, grace, strength, principles, warmth, and sense of humor are gems that all who were blessed to receive them will be honored to share with generations to come. Hers was truly a life well lived and a legacy worth leaving.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend her life celebration at the Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc., Main Street at Fifth Avenue, Phoenixville, PA on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 10:30 am. Masks will be required to enter the funeral home. Officiating will be Bishop Richard S. McCray. Burial will follow in the Morris Cemetery. Friends will be received at the funeral home on Thursday from 9:30 am - 10:30 am. Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc., Phoenixville, PA.



# Cemetery Details

## Morris Cemetery

428 Nutt Road  
Phoenixville, PA 19460

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 26. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc  
610 South Main Street  
Phoenixville, PA 19460

## Funeral Ceremony

AUG 26. 10:30 AM (ET)

Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc  
610 South Main Street  
Phoenixville, PA 19460

# Tribute Wall

MG

“ I worked with Cleo at Phoenixville Hospital. She was a delight. I am richer for having known her. May she rest easy & gently in God's loving arms. Mary Ann Godlewski LPN



Mary Ann Godlewski - August 26, 2021 at 10:43 PM

KW

“ Kristy Washington lit a candle in memory of Cleo Washington



Kristy Washington - August 26, 2021 at 05:25 PM

GW

“ Garry Washington lit a candle in memory of Cleo Washington



Garry Washington - August 26, 2021 at 04:04 PM



“ Robin Sissy lit a candle in memory of Cleo Washington



Robin Sissy - August 26, 2021 at 11:44 AM



*Such a beautiful woman inside and out always an encourager loved her sticky buns she will be missed she is a much better place your family is in my prayers*

**Robin Sissy** - August 26, 2021 at 11:45 AM



*“ Karen Thompson lit a candle in memory of Cleo Washington*



**Karen Thompson** - August 26, 2021 at 10:50 AM



*"Our deepest sympathy for your loss. Words fail to express our deep sorrow for your lost. Our hearts go out to you and your family."*

**Karen Thompson** - August 26, 2021 at 10:52 AM



*“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE*



**Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home** - August 24, 2021 at 11:54 PM

BL

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Washington family. Aunt Cleo will always be remembered for her sweet, kind and loving spirit. We pray God's blessings of comfort and peace for your family.

Love,  
Beth and Shearn Lee

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**Beth Sydnor-Lee & Shearn Lee** - August 23, 2021 at 11:53 PM

BL

“ Beth Sydnor-Lee & Shearn Lee lit a candle in memory of Cleo Washington



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**Beth Sydnor-Lee & Shearn Lee** - August 23, 2021 at 11:09 PM

SP

“ Rest Easy Mother Washington you will truly be missed

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**sherry Paschall** - August 23, 2021 at 03:19 PM

JB

“ my shero..a a beautifully phenomenal woman of God...consistent..devoted to her family.we were neighbors on Grover St.in the 50s and early 60s...as well as m.embers of Grimes AME church...Rest well in Paradise ❤️🙏

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**Joyce brickley** - August 23, 2021 at 09:24 AM



AK

“ Dear Washington family, I had the honor of working with Cleo right after I graduated nursing school, I loved her...so kind and very compassionate.. she taught me many things I didn't learn in nursing school, things I carried with me my entire nursing career...she was a dear, and such a joy to work with... when we worked together she always made my days lighter... her family was everything...she made me feel like family... we were all so lucky to have known her...God Bless you all!!❤️ Andrea berish kling

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**andrea berish kling** - August 23, 2021 at 09:08 AM

RD

“ My sincere condolences to the Washington family. Mrs. Washington was such a kind hearted woman ❤️ RIP



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**Rebecca Domarasky** - August 23, 2021 at 08:27 AM

SD

“ Dear Washington Family,  
I had the honor and pleasure of working with Cleo at the Phoenixville Hospital. She showed compassion and love with everyone she cared for. I went to school with the Washington children(Tony was in my class) and Cleo was always there for them. Some things never end, like love,memory, and the legacy of a life that meant so much. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.  
Suzanne Sheaffer Dietz

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**Suzanne Dietz** - August 22, 2021 at 04:17 PM

SP

“ *Syl and I offer our finest condolences on the passing of this dear woman. We will never forget her loving care and watchful presence during the births of our twins, Samuel and Sarah at Phoenixville Hospital many years ago.*



*May her memory be a blessing.*

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**Sal and Sylvia Katz of Phoenixville, PA** - August 22, 2021 at 02:43 PM

YA

“ *41 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Yalonda** - August 22, 2021 at 01:06 PM

YA

*You were always with us and always will be. You carried us and now its our turn to carry you! Love Always; Legacy Forever*

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**Yalonda** - August 22, 2021 at 01:09 PM

SW

*Prayers and Strength for Washington Family, Mrs. Washington was a beautiful person she will be missed. Sending love Patricia & Nook & Family.*

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**Sandra Williams** - August 23, 2021 at 03:21 PM

DW

*I love you so much Grandmom , may you rest in God's everlasting arms peacefully, Love Always your grandson Derek*

**Derek Washington** - August 23, 2021 at 06:01 PM

CB

“ *For our matriarch. Mrs. Washington was the example of Love. Rest now. Love you forever. Prayers to the family.*



**Cathy Barr-Wright** - August 22, 2021 at 11:36 AM

TK

“ *Toby Barr Knight lit a candle in memory of Cleo Washington*



**Toby Barr Knight** - August 22, 2021 at 11:30 AM

P♥

“ *Phil And Debbie Washington ♥ lit a candle in memory of Cleo Washington*



**Phil and Debbie Washington ♥** - August 22, 2021 at 09:19 AM

BJ

“ Mom you where the best Rest on and enjoy the heavenly neighborhood up there with the Jesus our Lord we will truly miss you ❤️



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**Bishop William H Washington Jr** - August 22, 2021 at 08:57 AM