



Mrs. Nettie Odell Backstrom

March 19, 1920 - August 23, 2020

"The Warmth of Other Suns" describes and illustrates the number of Black Americans who migrated from the segregated south to other parts of the country for enhanced economic opportunities and professional endeavors. Mrs. Nettie Chase Backstrom can be described as an "Icon" by the thousands of people according to Dr. Isabel Wilkerson. Dr. Isabel Wilkerson: "They did what human beings looking for freedom, throughout history, have done-they left.

Mrs. Nettie Backstrom was born March 19, 1920 in Houston, Texas and is a graduate of Houston Public Schools. She certainly had a quest for knowledge. As a result, her ambition further emerged and she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Houston College for Negroes, which is now Texas Southern University. Nettie obtained her Master of Science Degree in Counseling at California State University, Hayward, (East-Bay). Being a progressive young talented female from the South, Mrs. Nettie Chase Backstrom lived in Washington D.C. for a brief period. Subsequently, her "True Love" emerged and she met the debonair, sophisticated, polished, and ambitious Mr. Hardie W. Backstrom and they were married in Oakland, California. The couple has one daughter Donna Yvonne who is the pride, delight, and joy for them. The family in earlier years, resided in Vallejo, Oakland, and Berkeley California. In 1967, they moved to Lafayette, California where she lived for the past fifty-three years.

Unfortunately, Mr. Hardie W. Backstrom transitioned after the family moved to Lafayette, California.

Mrs. Backstrom began her teaching career at Lafayette Elementary School in Oakland, California. She described her first teaching assignment as a 5th and 6th grade combination. Even though, she was petite in stature, she indeed proved to be assertive in nature. She said, many of the students were taller or as tall as her. Fortunately, the students were all quite motivated and eager to engage in the educational arena. At that time, Lafayette Elementary School did not have a librarian and she served as a volunteer Librarian. Her students were quite knowledgeable and were always seeking information and as a result they frequently visited the library. Her next teaching assignment was at Clawson Elementary School located in West Oakland. Unfortunately, Clawson Elementary School closed in the mid 1980's. As the saying goes: "when one door closes, another one

opens up"; joyfully and pridefully, she became the first Counselor at "The New Marcus Foster Middle School" which served 6th through 8th grade students. After thirty years of employment with the Oakland Unified School District. she retired from Marcus Foster Middle School.

Nettie confessed "Christ" at an early age and united with Trinity United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas. Following the principles of spirituality; Mrs. Backstrom was a devoted, active, and faithful member of First African Methodist Episcopal Church in Oakland for over sixty-five years. It goes without saying her talents, traits, positive attributes served and impacted upon many of the youth at the church. She was a Sunday School Teacher, a member the Inspirational Guild and the Willing Workers. She was a member of several organizations which included the following: San Francisco Bay Area Pan Hellenic Council, California State University Alumni Association. Cal RTA Division 2, and The Oakland Bay Area Urban League Guild.

Not wanting to be a sedentary retiree, she enjoyed reading, shopping, bookkeeping, working in her flower and vegetable gardens. Mrs. Backstrom loved traveling. During the summer and holidays, she traveled by air and took cruises to the Caribbean Islands. Her other travels were to Venezuela, England, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Canada, Korea and China. In addition, she traveled extensively throughout the United States. In the earlier days, she loved playing Bridge, attending concerts and volunteering for the Red Cross and Cancer Society. It goes without saying, that she was extremely proud of her daughter who is a retired Oakland Unified School District Educator.

Lastly, Mrs. Nettie Chase Backstrom was a lifetime, loving, caring and devoted "Member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Epsilon Phi Zeta Chapter for "EIGHTY YEARS."

Nettie departed this life on Sunday, August 23,2020. She was preceded in death by her husband, Hardie W. Backstrom; parents Willie and Essie Chase; brothers Eli Chase and Willie Chase; sister, Dorothy Patterson; nephew, Dr.Myron Chase. Left to cherish her memory and legacy are her loving, caring, devoted daughter and son-in-law, Donna Backstrom-Jones and Dr. Marvin W.Jones; niece, Greta Backstrom Walker, Esq., husband, Ronnie Walker; special cousins, Betty Crawford Jackson and Sandra Crawford Boutte; a host of nephews, nieces, extended family members, Zeta Sorority sisters and friends.

Events

SEP **Visitation** 03:00PM - 04:45PM

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Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home

3665 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, CA, US, 94609

SEP **Service** 10:00AM

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Comments



“ Mrs. Backstrom was a gracious woman, always pleasant, always welcoming. I have so many fond memories of the times our families came together. Mr. Backstrom, and my Dad, both worked for GSM. Our families were friends. Donna and I remain friends. We go way back and will continue our friendship. Nettie will always live in our hearts. Rest In Peace. Donna and Marvin, hold each other close. We're here for you.
Tal and Rhonda Hazard

Rhonda Hazard - September 10, 2020 at 06:52 PM



“ Thomasina (Tomi) Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Nettie Odell Backstrom



Thomasina (Tomi) Johnson - September 05, 2020 at 06:41 PM



“ Dear Donna and Marvin,

Mrs. Nettie Odell Chase Backstrom ("Mama B") is a very special lady who brought light, joy, wisdom, lessons, and a heartwarming smile with an embracing hug. She epitomizes grace and dignity and leaves a wonderful spiritual legacy embodied in both of you.

It is a blessing to have had her in our lives and to be part of the extended family.

As you continue to celebrate Mama B.'s life, find comfort in knowing that God continues to embrace her and you!

Love always,
Tomi Johnson on Behalf of the Johnson Family

Thomasina (Tomi) Johnson - September 05, 2020 at 06:39 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Janet Miller Evans - September 05, 2020 at 03:05 PM



“ Denise Miles lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Nettie Odell Backstrom



Denise Miles - September 05, 2020 at 12:55 PM



“ Dear Donna and Marvin,

Extending our deepest sympathy to you during this time. Wishing you comfort of loving memories and the feeling that you will always be connected to someone so close to your heart. Our prayers and blessings are with you .

Sincerely,

Art and Sherdella Sims

Sherdella Sims - September 05, 2020 at 11:23 AM



“ Donna, Marvin & The Backstrom Family

Today and always may loving memories bring you strength and peace.
May God continue to wrap his loving arms of comfort around you and your family.
Prayers & God's Blessings,
Jacquie and Murcelle

Jacqueline Johnson - September 05, 2020 at 04:03 AM



“ To Donna & Marvin you are two special people's in my life because of your Mother Donna & Mother In Love Marvin May God continue to watch over you both keep his loving arms around you two know that God won't give you too much you can't bare Peace and Blessings

Sherry McGhee - September 05, 2020 at 01:57 AM



“ Rest Peacefully Mrs Backstrom you are going to be missed But God Has Assignment for you in Heaven You looked so Beautiful today in your Blue Donna had you Laid Out so nice until we meet again Love you Your Student 5&6 grade Sherry McGhee

sherry McGhee - September 05, 2020 at 01:51 AM



“ To Donna and Marvin,
My heartfelt condolences to you and your family. Remember you are in God's care and my prayers are with you today.

With Deepest Sympathy,
Daisy Davis

Daisy Davis - September 04, 2020 at 06:06 PM



“ To Donna and Marvin,
Our heartfelt condolences to you and family members. Mrs. Backstrom "Mama B",
will always be remembered as someone with an engaging personality, a beautiful
smile, and an inspiration to all of us who will try to reach that magical number of 100
year old!
Know that you have been and will remain in our prayers.
Sincerely,
Philippia and Anthony Pegram



Philippia Pegram - September 03, 2020 at 04:28 PM



“ Donna and Marvin,
We will continue lifting you and your family up during this time of bereavement in
your loss of Nettie. May your hearts be comforted and strengthened.
Betty Jackson and Family



Betty Jackson - September 03, 2020 at 04:13 PM



“ Donna & Marvin Jones and Family.
May, God's grace be with you. Trust that God hears your prayers. And, is a comfort during you time of sympathy.

Trinail & Stephen McClendon



Trinail McClendon - September 03, 2020 at 01:42 PM



“ With deepest sorrow allow us to express our condolences to Donna and Marvin and their family. With joy and appreciation, we are so honored to have met Mrs. Backstrom and to feel her kindness and warmth, listen to her wisdom, and share her experiences. She will be missed.

With Deepest Sympathy,
Marilyn and Jerry Varnado

Marilyn Varnado - September 03, 2020 at 10:06 AM



“ Marilyn Varnado lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Nettie Odell Backstrom



Marilyn Varnado - September 03, 2020 at 09:56 AM



“ There are special people in our lives that never leave us even after they are gone. Mrs. B is one of those people. Once we met her, we knew we were in the presence of a special angel. Rest in peace as you brought peace to others in your life.

We send our condolences and love to the Backstrom Family. May the peace of God be with you always,
Janet Miller and Timothy Evans

Timothy Evans and Janet Miller Evans - September 01, 2020 at 12:05 AM



“ Timothy Evans And Janet Miller Evans lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Nettie Odell Backstrom



Timothy Evans and Janet Miller Evans - August 31, 2020 at 11:57 PM



“ JM Evans lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Nettie Odell Backstrom



JM Evans - August 31, 2020 at 11:55 PM