



Mrs. Cecile Catherine Joseph

February 28, 1933 - June 15, 2017

Sister Cecile Catherine Slaughter Joseph

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, June 24, 2017 at 11 A.M. in Bellevue Street Baptist Church, 326 W. Bellevue Street, Opelousas, Louisiana 70570.

Interment will be in the St. Joseph Garden of Bellevue Memorial Park Cemetery.

Sis. Cecile Catherine Slaughter Joseph was born on Feb. 28, 1933 to Victoria White and Isaiah Small in Alexandria, LA. As an infant, she was adopted by Martha Slaughter and Atchyn Slaughter who loved and nurtured her through adulthood. She departed this earthly life on Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 7:12 pm at Senior Village Nursing Home in Opelousas, LA.

Sis. Cecile Joseph was a graduate of the Public Schools of Rapides Parish in Alexandria. She furthered her education at Leland College in Baker, LA, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education. She taught in the St. Landry Public School System for more than two decades before retiring. Sis. Cecile Joseph was baptized during her early teens by the late Rev. C. D. Day at the Union Baptist Church in Alexandria, LA. There she remained a faithful member until she was united in marriage to Bro. John Wilfred Joseph on December 24, 1955 whom she loved and cherished for over 61 years. To this union, eight children were born. After marriage, Cecile Joseph united with the Starlight Baptist Church of Opelousas, LA under the leadership of her father-in-law, the late Rev. Adam Joseph. There, she served

as a choir member for numerous years and then as choir director for the youth choir as well as the Senior choir. She was also a faithful Sunday School teacher for the primary class for many years. Her membership at the Starlight Baptist Church allowed her to experience the joy of being an active member of the Southwest Missionary Baptist Association serving as 2nd Vice-President of Mission II Dept., Registrar of the Association's Sunday School & BTU Congress, member of the association chorus, and Brotherhood Department's secretary (while her husband served as Brotherhood President). Sis. Cecile was also active in the work of The Louisiana Home and Foreign Missions Baptist State Convention, Inc., where she served in the State Youth Department as a supervisor and a teacher in the State Congress of Christian Education for many years. Later, she and her husband joined Progressive Baptist Church in Lafayette, LA under the leadership of Rev. Lloyd Joiner, Jr. She continued her faithful Christian service as a member of the Sanctuary choir for a few years, until her health began to decline, and as Deaconess, until her earthly demise. One of her most treasured duties was serving as the First Lady of Louisiana's third oldest city, Opelousas, LA. As the wife of the first African-American Chief Executive of the City of Opelousas, "Mrs. Joseph" represented her husband, the Honorable Mayor John W. Joseph, their city, and herself with excellence, grace, dignity, and honor during his eight years of outstanding service. As the first African-American to serve in that capacity, she, too, was a trailblazer, who created a path for others to emulate. She leaves to cherish her legacy and memories: her husband, John W. Joseph of Opelousas, LA; eight children: Cynthia Bridges (Jesse) of Elk Grove, CA; Brenda Bullard (Jerone) of Shreveport, LA; Shelia Jolivette (Gerard) of Garden Ridge, TX; Rev. John Keith Joseph (Keita) of Fort Worth, TX; Juan Joseph (Janya) of Opelousas, LA; Sonya Helaire (Edmond) of Gilbert, AZ; Justina Lazard (Rev. Darwan) of Ville Platte, LA; and Brent Joseph (Shirley) of Carencro, LA; 24 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren; one brother-in-law, Former U.S. Ambassador (to South Africa), Rev. James A. Joseph (Mary) of Chapel Hill, NC; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins,

and special friends.

The family request visiting hours be observed from 9 A. M. - 10:45 A. M. on Saturday, June 24, 2017 in Bellevue Street Baptist Church.

Share words of comfort with the Joseph family at www.williamsfuneralhomes.net

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas, 337-942-2037.

Cemetery Details

Bellevue Memorial Park

Opelousas, LA 70570
(337) 942-7055

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 24. 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

Bellevue Street Baptist Church
326 W. Bellevue St.
Opelousas, LA 70570

Service

JUN 24. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Bellevue Street Baptist Church
326 W. Bellevue St.
Opelousas, LA 70570

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Cecile Catherine Joseph*

January 28, 2023 at 08:52 AM



“ *TO THE FAMILY OF MRS. CECILE JOSEPH,
YOU ALL HAVE MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY..
TO HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN JUAN
AND JANYA YOU ALL ARE IN MY
PRAYERS. MAY HER SOUL CONTINUE TO
REST IN GOD'S HEAVELY PEACE AND IN THE MEMORIES OF
ALL WHO LOVES HER..*



STAY STRONG , CATHERINE ANDERSON (JEFF)

CATHERINE S ANDERSON - June 29, 2017 at 05:04 PM



“ *It is with deepest sympathy that I just read the
obituary of the loss of your loved one. My
prayers are with the family to endure the pain
and the loss. Juan, Brent & Mr. John Joseph,
you all are and will always be special to me;
as well as the other family members that I have not had the
opportunity to work with. Cherish all the memories, they will last in
your hearts forever.*



Ester Scott Bazile of Morrow - June 28, 2017 at 01:10 AM

DM

“ *Denise Moore lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cecile Catherine Joseph*



Denise Moore - June 23, 2017 at 09:47 PM

EB

“ *TO MY DEAR COUSINS WEEP NO MORE SHE HAS FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT AND GOD HAS CALLED HER HOME TO SING WITH THE ANGLES IN HEAVEN LOVE YOU ALL EDNA BROUSSARD*

EDNA BROUSSARD - June 23, 2017 at 07:57 PM

BT

“ *You have my sincere sympathy in the lost of your loved one. Barbara W. Thomas*



Barbara Thomas - June 23, 2017 at 09:18 AM

DP

“ *Duke and Renee Perkins purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Cecile Catherine Joseph.*



Duke and Renee Perkins - June 22, 2017 at 09:58 PM



“ *Mary Colomb lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cecile Catherine Joseph*



Mary Colomb - June 22, 2017 at 05:15 PM

AM

“ *Alfreda Martin-Black sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Cecile Catherine Joseph*



Alfreda Martin-Black - June 22, 2017 at 02:49 PM

DL

“ *Delbert T. Lewis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cecile Catherine Joseph*



Delbert T. Lewis - June 22, 2017 at 02:00 PM

JA

“ *Johnny Austin purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mrs. Cecile Catherine Joseph.*



Johnny Austin - June 22, 2017 at 01:04 PM

DF

“ *Dartez Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cecile Catherine Joseph*



Dartez Family - June 22, 2017 at 11:42 AM

SB

I will always treasure the special time that I spent with Sister Joseph and Brother Joseph. I visited their beautiful home and listened as they shared so many stories with me. She was so proud of her husband, her children and her family. I was Blessed to capture some of these memories and history in my book, Images of African-Americans in Lafayette and Southwest Louisiana. Heaven just got a little brighter. Her rich legacy will live on through her husband, children, and grandchildren and friends, like me, who will never forget her. With prayers and love, Sherry T. Broussard

S. T. Broussard - June 24, 2017 at 08:13 AM

DA

“ *DOLORES AUZENNE lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cecile Catherine Joseph*



DOLORES AUZENNE - June 21, 2017 at 08:20 PM

DA

much love and prayer are sent your way in this difficult time

DOLORES AUZENNE - June 21, 2017 at 08:22 PM

FJ

“ *One so beautiful and graceful; certainly, heaven is rejoicing for another soul has finally reached its true home.
Family, you have our deepest sympathy.
Fred Shillow, Jr & Family*



Fred Shillow, Jr. - June 21, 2017 at 06:45 AM

AB

“ *Andrea Brisco lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cecile Catherine Joseph*



Andrea Brisco - June 20, 2017 at 11:44 PM

ES

“ *Emily A. Sam lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cecile Catherine Joseph*



Emily A. Sam - June 20, 2017 at 07:57 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Cecile Catherine Joseph.*



June 20, 2017 at 04:38 PM

TS

“ I WAS A STUDENT OF HER'S AT SOUTHWEST ELEM. IN THE 70'S. SHE WAS A AWESOME TEACHER, TO MY CLASSMATE JUAN YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAVE MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY.

TODD TYLER SR. - June 20, 2017 at 03:53 PM