



Savannah J. Jones

March 13, 1946 - June 6, 2022

Savannah “Jewell” Jones was born on March 13, 1946, in Woodville, Mississippi on Salisbury Plantation, in Wilkerson County to parents, Nolan and Frances Jones. She is the second eldest of 5 children. Family, affectionately called her by her middle name, as she truly exemplified a bright and radiant personality. She was named Savannah after her remarkable grandmother, the Matriarch of the renowned Dunbar Family. Most notably, the Dunbar Family is the first African American Family that can accurately trace their ancestors on American soil from the early 1800s. The Dunbar lineage began in America began with Moosa and Katy Dunbar in 1822. Their existence was accurately recorded yearly as inventoried property by two brothers, (one of them was the principal slaveowner of the Dunbars) who were attorneys, and Board of Trustee members at Amherst College and Harvard University. Ironically, Savannah’s grandfather, James Oliver Dunbar, Sr. purchased the land his forefathers and foremothers were enslaved on and lived as an independent farmer and landowner. This is the great heritage Savannah J. Jones emanates from!!!

Savannah was preceded in death by her parents, Nolan and Frances Jones. She is the second eldest of 4 siblings: Frances “Dianne” Barry, Dr. Nolan C. Jones, Peter Jones, and Paget Jones. Her father was of mixed ancestry consisting of African and Native American and French heritage, he was a Houma Indian (the largest Native American Tribe in the State of Louisiana)

from Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana and her mother was the youngest of the Dunbar Family.

Nolan served his country with distinction during World War II and his safe return from service, heralded great news of a new baby on the way. Savannah was born at the very beginning of the Baby Boomer generation. She grew up in Wichita, Kansas and attended Wichita East High School. She was a beautiful young maiden with a perfect figure likened unto a Coca Cola bottle and was known as the “best dressed girl” attending high school. God graced her with it all, she was SBS-shapely, beautiful, and smart!

She worked at Shadow Lane Café, the Café built, singlehandedly by her father, Nolan Jones, as a teenager. The café was the first of its kind to feature a patriotic room with red, white, and blue stars and stripes. Moreover, the café was a wonderful place where Black youth converged for recreation and fun; as delicious food was prepared by Savannah’s mother, and a juke box played the latest and greatest songs. From this experience she developed a love for dancing.

Savannah like many of her contemporaries was deeply moved by the Civil Rights struggle as she took part in sit-ins, marches and demonstrations in both Wichita, Kansas and Chicago, Illinois. She received a letter of gratitude from the Late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for her unwavering support and dedication to that movement, indicative of her profound courage.

Savannah attended Emporia Teachers College following high school and later moved to Chicago, Illinois. Her arrival to Chicago was extremely challenging, but she managed by persevering and overcoming the odds. She worked extremely hard to gain traction in one of the toughest urban environments in the nation. She worked as a social worker for the City of Chicago and retired in 2008. She also held onto her entrepreneurial roots, following the footsteps

of her beloved Aunt, “Matilda Dunbar, aka, “Auntie Sweet, the Barbeque Queen of Wichita, Kansas,” who owned and operated Auntie Sweet’s Barbeque. She worked as an independent bartender, owned and ran a limousine service, and is known by many Chicagoans for her Famous Food Truck, on which she made the best tasting Chicago-style hotdogs. As the song so accurately depicts, “She worked hard for the money!!”

However, Savannah was not all work and no play. She enjoyed life to the fullest and had an infectious smile that would light up the room. She had a powerful presence that attracted many friends and acquaintances throughout her lifetime. She enjoyed wearing elegant evening gowns and attending theatre venues, Mardi Gras celebrations, dancing down Bourbon Street, dancing in civic clubs, as well as traveling to the Bahamas and Virgin Islands. She also loved the water and enjoyed cruising and seafood. Most notably, her heart belonged to Chicago, as she loved the city with all-of-her-heart!!!!

As she grew feeble in stature and weakened from her illnesses, she declared that she was God’s child. She kept a positive outlook on life. Her body was weak, but her spirit was strong. She held up the blood-stained banner, until she died with her faith anchored on the Lord, until he called her home on June 4, 2022.

Savannah leaves to cherish her memory: 4 siblings, her daughter, Shietha and (James) Smith; grandchildren, John Faust, Jr., Justin Faust and Valencia Faust; great-grandchildren, Amaya Kaimoi, John Faust, III, and Nick Faust, and a host of family and friends!!!!

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 18. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home Landmark Chapel
7030 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Funeral Service

JUN 18. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home Landmark Chapel
7030 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Burial/Interment

JUN 18 (CT)

Private

Tribute Wall



“ *Savannah J. Jones*

October 09, 2023 at 04:52 AM



“ *June 28, 2022*

My sincere condolences go to you and your family on the recent passing of your mother, adding to the loss of your dear grandmother. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Among various factors that helped to shape your mother's life, your mother was influenced by the Civil Rights movement and transcended segregation and hardship to become a person of great service to others. This service especially included her public service as a veteran social worker for the City of Chicago and her extensive entrepreneurial service. Both your mother and grandmother infused in you excellence in service to others, among other admirable qualities.

May God continue to guide you with His eternal light. And may He surround you with His everlasting peace, power, wisdom, joy, and grace. Your grandmother and mother can take comfort in knowing they raised one of the best families--including you--for whom our Lord could ask.

Peace and love,

*Peter Hanes
African North American Heritage News
Information Technologist/Editor*

Peter Hanes - June 28, 2022 at 10:19 PM

SS

“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Shi Smith - June 22, 2022 at 03:40 PM

SS

“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Shi Smith - June 22, 2022 at 03:32 PM

SB

“ June 18, 2022

*Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary
St. Francis of Assisi Court #244
Resolution in Loving Memory of Savannah Jewell Jones*

We come together to pay our respects to the memory of one whose life was full of love and now is ended when Savannah Jewell Jones was called to join God in heaven. As Aunt to our beloved Grand Lady Shreda Burkhalter, we share in your sorrow at the loss of her presence, as well as your joy that she is united with the Heavenly Father.

Whereas, the words of Jesus in John 14:1, “Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father’s house are many dwelling places: if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

Therefore be it resolved, that we embrace the family to show our support and love because in the death of a loved one we have a bond that will connect us for the rest of our lives. We cannot replace her, but we will demonstrate her love for you through our prayers.

*Respectfully submitted this 18th day of June, 2022
Lady Shreda Burkhalter, Grand Lady
Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary
St. Francis of Assisi Court #244*

Shreda Burkhalter - June 22, 2022 at 03:13 PM

SS

“ KF Kenneth Falls Ministry

June 18, 2022

To the Family of Ms. Savannah “Jewell” Jones

We, your Uncle and Aunt are sending our deepest sympathies for the loss of your mother, sister, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Savannah “Jewell” Jones.

Our words cannot remove the loss you have endured, nor do we know how you feel. Your mother’s endearing legacy is carried on through your family. Praying you will gain strength to persevere through your time of bereavement. Be comforted by your memories, and know that she is gone from this earth, but will never be forgotten.

Although we are not with you today, know that our prayers and the comfort of God, are upon you at all times. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal. May the Lord bless you, and keep you, and heaven continue to smile upon you.

With Caring Prayers,

Kenneth B. Falls and Aurelia S. Falls

Co-Founders

www.kennethfallsministries.org

P.O. Box 550103|Gastonia|NC|28055|704-719-0279

Shi Smith - June 22, 2022 at 02:38 PM

PB

“ To Mrs. Shietha (James) Smith;

Your church family at World Refuge Ministries sends our condolences, prayers and love during this time of loss. Our God is a mighty God! His Love is all encompassing and Complete! Rest in His Love and Care, now. See you soon! Love. Pastors Ron and Pamaline

Pastors Ron and Pamaline Burns - June 20, 2022 at 11:40 AM

NS

“ *Norman Stewart Jr. and family send our condolences to our cousins of Savannah (Jewel) Jones. May God give comfort and strength during this time of bereavement. Know that he will continue to walk with you daily. Love from the Stewart Family. Baton Rouge, LA*

Norman and Janice Stewart - June 19, 2022 at 04:11 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Savannah J. Jones.*



June 16, 2022 at 07:40 PM

SB

“ *To My Cousin Shi (James) Smith
Your Mother was a beautiful soul. I have lots of fond memories of Aunt Jewel. Her legacy will live on in her grandchildren because of the stories you will share. One thing that stands out about Aunt Jewel was her contagious laughter and smile. She loved to dress in "bright colors". She definitely was a very hard worker and always had an entrepreneurial spirit. I can remember when she would come visit she was always shopping for western wear so she could sell those items in her booth at different flea markets in Chicago. My Aunt Jewell loved Chicago of all the endless opportunities and places you could go everyday. I encourage you to hold your family tight during this difficult time. Shi (James) know that you are in my prayers for the days ahead. God sends us reassurance that we will all be together for eternity. John 14 states " Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also".
Sending Kansas ❤️ Love always
Shreda L. Burkhalter*



Shreda Burkhalter - June 16, 2022 at 01:08 PM

YP

“ I send condolences to the family on behalf of Pearlina Hoy and her siblings, Howard, James, Nancy, Oscar and Harristeena. Sending on behalf of myself and my family. I pray that the Holy Spirit continues to wrap you in comfort. I love you, Shi and all of my cousins.



Truly,
Cousin Lanz

Yolanda Pollard - June 15, 2022 at 07:19 PM