

Obituary

Edith Dianne Ragin Saxton, born March 1, 1949 in Monroe, North Carolina, affectionately known by her family as "Dianne", peacefully transitioned this life on Friday, June 22, 2018. Edith was the first child of two siblings born to Leola Marsh Ragin and Willard Ragin.

Edith accepted Christ as her Savior at an early age. Belief and commitment to her faith were indicative by her involvement in the Church; she was an active and dedicated member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church; faithfully serving in various capacities that included the Musical Choir and hosting African children from abroad, through the International Children's Outreach Ministry. Additionally, she served as a member of the Trustee Council and assumed the leadership role as chairperson of the Council for fiscal operating years 2013 and 2015.

Edith's formative education occurred in the public schools of Union County. She spent her High School years at Allen High School (Asheville, N.C.); a renowned private school for African-American young ladies. Upon graduating from Allen High School in 1966, at the age of 16, Edith enrolled at Howard University (Washington, D.C.), and later earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. She often expressed how extremely proud she was of her experiences at Allen and Howard; these experiences were mirrored in institutions that promoted academic excellence, preparation for life and embracing a love for self. One of her most significant occupational achievements was the acquisition of the Certified Public Accountant designation and the establishment of her private practice as a CPA. Edith served a myriad of clients for over thirty years, encompassing Religious, Academic and Businesses Institutions throughout the Charlotte Metropolitan Area, Washington, D.C. and other U.S. Cities. She was also a longtime member of the Charlotte Chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants, INC. (NABA).

Edith took deliberate pride in looking her best, setting high goals, and exceeding expectations relative to all aspects of her life; thus, actualizing them in an excellent way. She always displayed a sweet spirit and a zest for life. She loved to travel and was an avid cook who loved to gift her food dishes and recipes with her family, friends and colleagues. Edith also enjoyed a fifteen-year friendship with a multi-cultural Women's Social Group that meets monthly. This group of women, who she fondly adored, shared endless love and support.

Her brightest joy was spending time with her 2 year old granddaughter, "Hayden Raye", as she so affectionately called her. Her love was reciprocated and Hayden will reflect fondly on the memories with her "Nana," as she affectionately called her. Hayden was unequivocally, without any doubt, "The Love of Her Life!"

Edith is survived by her daughter, Whitley Curtice Stewart, her son-in-law Darian Ray Stewart and her granddaughter, Hayden Raye Stewart and was preceded in death by her parents, Leola Marsh and Willard Ragin and her brother, Donald Ragin (Diane); Edith also leaves to cherish her memory a host of Aunts, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, and Friends.