

*the*  
love  
*of*  
a mother



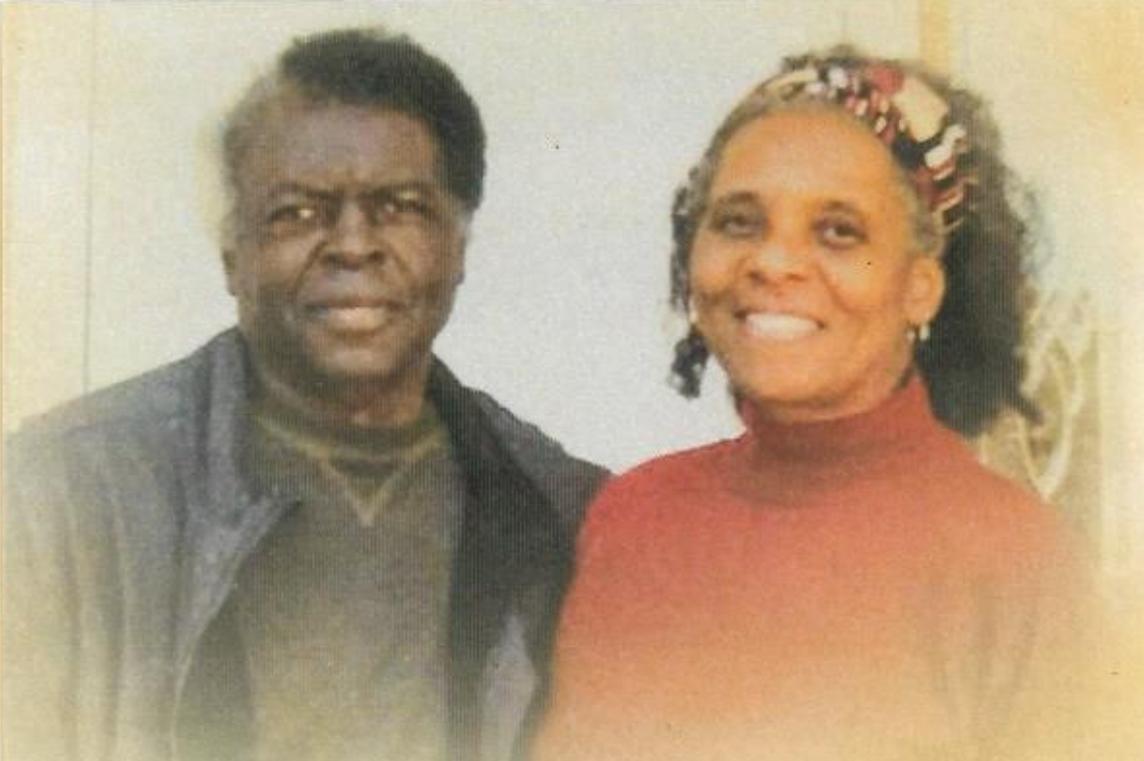
*Joyce Evelyn Henry Bethea*

Sunrise  
March 5, 1950

Sunset  
September 14, 2021

*"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed,  
yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace  
be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you.*

—Isaiah 54:10



## *Life Story*

We were blessed to have 71 years of Joyce Evelyn Henry Bethea. She was from Wakanda, before there was a Wakanda. Her super power was bringing out the very best in others and making all feel loved and important. The God-loving, Black Power, unapologetic, computer tech geek, activist and family matriarch turned superhero; was born on March 5, 1950, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the late Rufus A. Henry and Juanita Thomas. As a child, Joyce was reared, raised and immensely loved by her "Mommy," the late Elizabeth Price. We believe this was where Joyce first tapped into her power - which made sense because Elizabeth was a superhero in her own right.

In her professional life, her alter ego moonlit as a computer programmer, analyst, and activist... think Angela Davis meets Clark Kent.

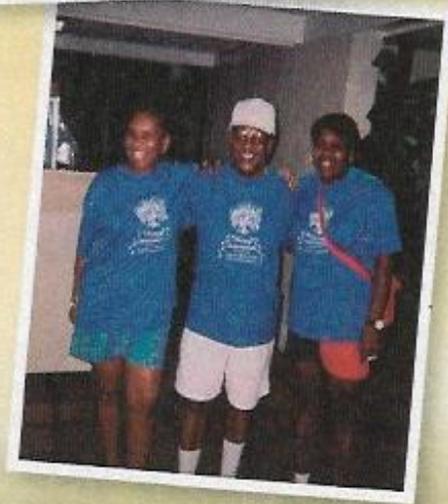
She completed her education in Philadelphia - William Penn High School (class of '67); Temple University (B.S. in Education, class of '71); and LaSalle University post graduate program (Computer Science, class of '82). She was a pioneer, being one of the few Black women in the Computer Science program at LaSalle University. She spent the majority of her career as a Systems Analyst in both the private and public sector. Joyce was most proud of her time working with Training & Management Services in Columbia, South Carolina, where she provided network instruction training to abused and battered women. She also worked for the United States Probation and Pretrial Services - District of South Carolina; The State Record Company, Columbia, SC; Atlantic Financial, Philadelphia, PA; Businessland Inc., Philadelphia, PA, and Camden County School District (Hatch Middle School) in Camden, NJ, where she taught Mathematics.

On September 4, 1976, Joyce married Henry J. Bethea (Mike) and over the next 45 years they raised their tribe of 5 children: Anita Adams, Michael Adams, Tacuma J. Bethea (wife Aisha), Morenike E. Leon and Ayana Henry.

There are two things Joyce loved most: God and Family. Her faith was an important part of her life. She attended Emmanuel Institutional Baptist Church, in Philadelphia, for over a decade and was baptized in 1980. Joyce moved to Hopkins, SC in 1989 where she joined Brookland Baptist Church, taught Sunday School and volunteered with Brookland's Children's Nursery for over 25 years. In 2010, Joyce was recognized by the church as the "Most Dedicated Volunteer" - for 20 years of dedicated service. Joyce showed her faith through her works; quietly gifting to a multitude of non-profit organizations fighting for social justice, combating hunger and supporting many children in furthering their education.

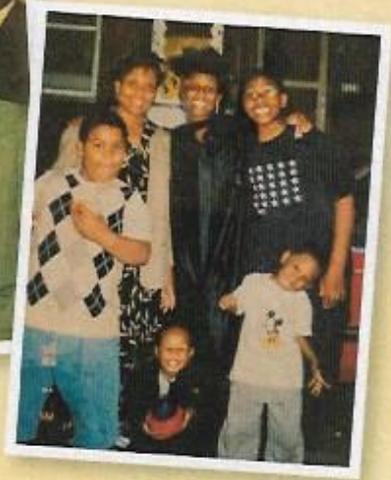
Joyce had an inseparable bond with her big brother, Moses A. Henry. Like her mother, Elizabeth Price, Joyce had a welcoming family spirit. When you were in, you were in! Bloodlines didn't matter, the VILLAGE mattered (think Wakanda Forever). Joyce loved her "other daughters" and "sister-cousins." She never missed an opportunity to fellowship with her Henry family in Philadelphia, Tallahassee, Jacksonville, West Palm Beach and Atlanta.





On September 14, 2021, Joyce (our superhero) received a call, a sort of an offer you can't refuse, for an appointment from which she will not be returning. This assignment comes with a huge sign-on bonus, a reunion with family and friends she has not seen in a long time. Her work here is done for now, but she leaves behind superheroes whom she personally trained. Her husband, Henry J. Bethea of West Chester, PA; her children Anita Adams, Michael Adams, Tacuma J. Bethea, Aisha Goodman, Morenike E. Leon and Ayana K. Henry; grandchildren Khary Henry, Kourtney M. DeVaughn, Jabari A. DeVaughn and Khymel Henry-Coleman; great-grandchildren Kymani DeVaughn, Kylene DeVaughn, Tayla DeVaughn and Zora DeVaughn; her devoted brother, Moses A. Henry (Lou), Philadelphia, PA; sister, Rosa Lee Martin, Tallahassee, FL; uncle, Reverend Allen P. Henry (Marion), Tallahassee, FL; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.





*Because thy*

*loving kindness*

*is better than life,*

*my lips shall*

*praise thee.*

*—Psalm 63:3*





## *Cousin Joyce*

By: K. Unique

*She didn't play the radio*

*But she always let you know*

*Where you stood*

*If she had to move a mountain*

*She would*

*Bring a smile to the meanest child*

*She could*

*Strong in spirit*

*Full of wisdom and wit*

*The warmth of her hugs*

*Is something I will never forget*

*She made you feel safe*

*Cause we all knew Cousin Joyce didn't play*

*I'm thankful to have been*

*A witness to her strength and joy*

*For she was a JOY you CE*

*We'll miss her dearly*

*Resilient until the final hour*

*Forever Rest in Peace and Power*

# *Our Superhero*

# Order of Service

Organ Prelude .....	Markanthony Henry
Processional .....	Clergy & Family
Officiating .....	Pastor George H. Smith Second Baptist of Nicetown, Philadelphia, PA
Opening Hymn .....	"Oh How I Love Jesus"
Scripture Readings .....	Zandra Wilson
<i>Old Testament</i> .....	<i>Psalm 63:3</i>
<i>New Testament</i> .....	<i>John 14:1-3</i>
Prayer of Comfort .....	Pastor George Smith
Selection .....	Lisa Diaby
Acknowledgement of Cards, Condolences & Resolutions .....	Deaconess Ericha Snell
Reflections .....	Khary Bethea Moses A. Henry, Jr. Shenika "Nik" Harris
Reading of Life Story .....	Tacuma Bethea
Selection .....	Lisa Diaby
Eulogy .....	Pastor George H. Smith
Final Viewing .....	Immediate Family Only
Benediction .....	
Recessional .....	

### HOME GOING SERVICES

Saturday, September 25, 2021  
Viewing 9:00 AM • Service 11:00 AM

### SERVICE LOCATION

WRIGHT FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES  
725 Merchant Street  
Coatesville, Pennsylvania 19320

### COMMITTAL SERVICE & INTERMENT

Rolling Green Memorial Park  
1008 West Chester Pike  
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19382

### PALLBEARERS

Tacuma J. Bethea	Khary Bethea
Khymel Henry-Coleman	Jabari A. DeVaughn
Elzia Jawara Hanif Sekou	Moses A. Henry Jr.

### HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Henry J. Bethea	Moses Henry
Michael A. Henry Jr.	Cedric Henry

### FLOWER BEARERS

Allena Harris	Edith Matthews
Tasheika Hinson	Nadeen Cooley Randall

### A NOTE OF THANKS

Our family would like to thank everyone for the love, support and prayers given to us during this difficult time. May God bless you.

Sincerely, The Family



725 MERCHANT STREET  
COATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA  
610-384-0341 | wrightfuneralsv@aol.com  
Venmor T. Wright, Funeral Director, Supervisor