

# Celebration of Life



Patricia Evelyn Wright

October 25, 1940 – January 6, 2023

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

Saturday, February 4, 2023

Visitation 12:00 PM

Service 1:00 PM

## LOCATION

Conestoga High School Auditorium

200 Irish Rd.

Berwyn, Pennsylvania 19312

## RECEPTION

Friends are welcomed to fellowship with the family in

THE ATRIUM

immediately following the memorial service.

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The family requests cash or check donations be made to the

Conestoga High School African American Student Union

For the Pat Berry Scholarship Fund

c/o Allyson Bennett (in partnership)

Donations can be mailed to:

48 Walnut Avenue

Berwyn, PA 19312

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Thank you kindly for every thought, every prayer,  
and every memory you shared.*

*Your thoughts and prayers are deeply  
appreciated and will always be remembered.*

*Sincerely,*

*The Family*



725 MERCHANT STREET  
COATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

610-384-0341 | wrightfuneralsvs@aol.com

Ventnor T. Wright, Funeral Director, Supervisor



*Celebrating the  
Life and Legacy of  
Patricia Evelyn Wright  
(Berry, Crutchfield)*

Patricia was born in Coatesville, PA on October 25, 1940, and spent most of her life as a resident of Berwyn, PA. She was the eldest daughter of the late Hamilton Elmer Wright and Evelyn Mary (Young) Wright. In recent years, she was a member of the New Hope Baptist Church of Paoli. Patricia married (late Charles Paul Berry) in 1962 and raised four children. Her early career started at Downingtown Industrial School, Downingtown, PA where she was employed for many years as an Administrative Secretary. After Downingtown Industrial School she accepted a position at her alma mater, Conestoga as the Coordinator of the Attendance Office where she worked until retirement.

During her tenure, she supported the cheerleading and dance team that performed at school during social and sporting events. Her most cherished and memorable participation happened when school administrators asked her to assist with transforming and shaping the AASU (African American Student Union, formerly BSU) as a Sponsor. The foundation of the AASU she helped build still serves as their cornerstone today. She became so immersed in her work as an advocate for students ensuring students had access to resources and opportunities - that this became her life legacy. Pat was a mother to many, a friend to all, social worker, a therapist, a protector, advocate, a caregiver/provider, cheer mom, the voice of reason, the truth teller and a safe place for students and others to go. Her presence was commanding – she was an educator of life.

During her tenure at Conestoga, most of her purposeful work centered around her personal mission to enrich the student's awareness of the heritage, contributions, and significance of African Americans in our history. She also understood the importance and significance of raising the level of awareness and inclusiveness to all – with that being said, she thoroughly enjoyed planning events during Black History Month. Some of the activities that she organized, annually, were, multicultural events and exchanges, fundraisers and food festivals. She was also very instrumental in bringing/hosting notable guest speakers during Black History Month which included:

- Julian Bond (American civil rights leader, politician, professor, writer, television host and commentator on America's Black Forum)
- William (Bill) H. Gray (American civil rights leader, politician, minister, President, and CEO of United Negro College Fund (1991-2004), Pennsylvania US Congressman, US House of Representatives Majority Whip (1989-1991).
- Sonya Sanchez (African American poet)
- Edward T. Welburn (Vice President of Global Design, General Motors), alumni
- Rachele Farrell (Vocalist, musician, songwriter, contemporary jazz singer), alumni
- Dane Tilghman (Contemporary African American artist), alumni

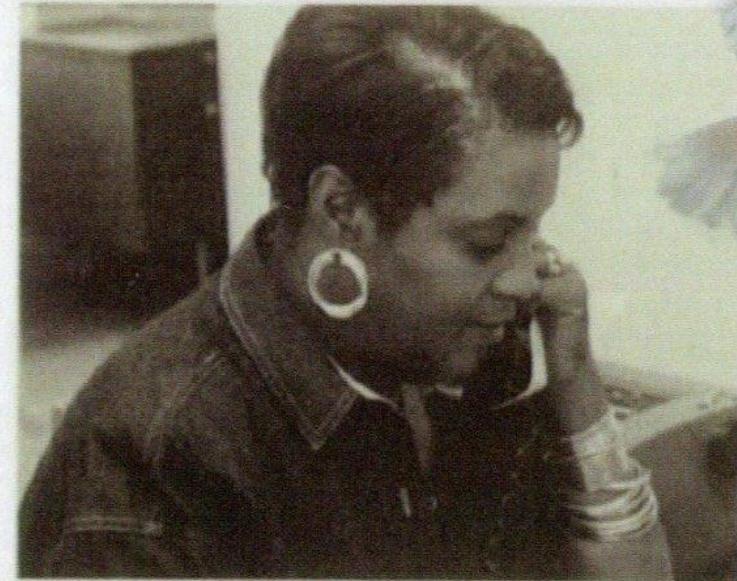
Her events were always well attended and supported by students, parents, faculty, members of school administration and community. She believed it takes a village!

Pat's passion extended beyond Conestoga, she saw an opportunity to partner with Mr. Frank J. L. Johnson, who was an equal rights children's advocate for the Main Line, serving on many township and district boards. She later founded and named the Frank J.L Johnson Scholarship that is awarded annually during programs held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Devon, PA. to African American students entering college. Part of the proceeds raised by the AASU annually went towards the contributions to the Frank J. L. Johnson Scholarship Fund. This was a perfect partnership guided by two individuals with the same the mission.

With all that she was involved with, Pat realized there was more work needed in effort to strengthen the opportunities of African American and minority students. She formed a program called Navigate at Conestoga. The program created a pathway for students in grades 9-12 to "navigate" through their academic experiences from the first day of school to the transition into college. The program was an integral adjunct to the guidance department – providing a mentor/mentee relationship to assist students with identifying and focusing their goals on their future for their future. Pat proudly claimed Navigate as her most important accomplishment in the growth and vitality of the AASU.

After retirement and up to recent, she remained committed and active with the AASU. She also stayed busy with volunteering her time and services doing community outreach as a board member of the RTCA of Wayne (most notable was bridging positive community relations with local law enforcement).

Surrounded by family, Pat passed away Friday, January 6, 2023, at her home in Berwyn. She was blessed with and is survived by her four children, Allyson M. Bennett (Gary) of Elkins Park, PA, Craig Paul Berry (Diana) of Reading, PA, Chris P. Berry (Yvonne Coldren) of Chester Springs, PA, and Paula A. Leo (Edward) of Cape May, NJ; eight grandchildren, Autumn Berry, Savannah Gino, Ariele Leo, Torin Verdone, Christopher Berry, Maura Leo, Kendall Bennett, and Brandon Leo; one great-grandchild, Saylor Rose Orsoto; her beloved uncle Harry Wright; two nephews, Juaquin Irons and Eric Reason; and many other relatives, cousins, and friends. Pat is preceded in death by her beloved parents Hamilton and Evelyn Wright; two siblings Phyllis Wright, and Hamilton Elmer Wright, Jr. (Skipper); nephew, Steven Blake Irons; and husband, Gerald Crutchfield.

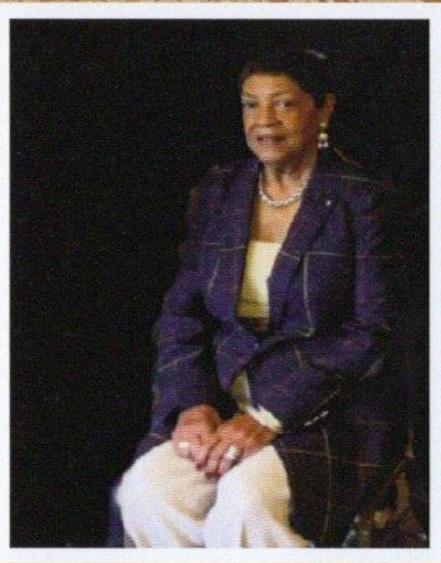


MRS. BERRY- attendance

Pat was a big San Francisco '49ers fan (though could only tell you the name of two – Jerry Rice and Joe Montana!) She enjoyed riding horses; riding motorcycles with husband Gerry; talking on the phone with family and friends; spending time with her "golden girl" friends, grandchildren, and shopping. She was kind, loving and outspoken. She always had time to answer questions, give her two cents, solve problems no matter how big or small. She will be dearly missed by all that knew and loved her.

Today, we honor Patricia Evelyn Wright (Berry, Crutchfield) for her life, love and legacy. The difference she made in people's lives will always be remembered.

Sorrowfully Submitted,  
The Family



## She Was There

*When a calming, quiet presence was all that was needed,  
She was there.*

*In the excitement and miracle of birth or in the mystery and loss of life,  
She was there.*

*When a silent glance could uplift a family member or friend,  
She was there.*

*At those times when the unexplainable needed to be explained,  
She was there.*

*When the situation demanded a helpful hand and a sharp word,  
She was there.*

*When a gentle touch, a firm push, or an encouraging word was needed,  
She was there.*

*To witness humanity, —its beauty, in good times and bad, without judgment,  
She was there.*

*To embrace the woes of the world, willingly, and offer hope,  
She was there.*

*And now, that it is time to be at the Greater One's side,  
She is there.*



## Order of Service

**Officiating Clergy** ..... *Rev. Darrell C. Brown, Jr.*

**Comfort from the Scriptures** ..... *Rev. Scott Dorsey*  
*Old Testament*  
*New Testament*

**Prayer of Comfort**..... *Pastor Kyle Boyer*

**Words of Comfort**..... *Pastor Delrio Ligons-Berry*

**Solo** ..... *Elder Clinton Jackmon*

**Acknowledgements and Resolutions** .... *Courtney Tyus*

**Tribute** ..... *Kevin Stroman*

**Proclamation** ..... *Board Member of RTCA*

**Family Reflections**

**Stories & Memories**..... *Friends and Family*

**Eulogy** ..... *Rev. Darrell C. Brown, Jr.*

**Remarks** ..... *Wright Funeral Services*

**Closing Prayer**