



Dr. Janette Hoston Harris

September 7, 1939 - November 2, 2018

District of Columbia Historian, Dr. Janette Hoston Harris, dies at 79

Dr. Janette Hoston Harris was a historian, educator, activist, and entrepreneur who lived her life trying to preserve the history of all people and educating the future generation on their legacy.

Born September 7, 1939 to the late Eluen Hoston, Sr. and Maude Hoston. Harris attended school in her birthplace Monroe, Louisiana, and graduated from Carroll High School in 1956.

As a civil-minded student, Harris' post-secondary studies at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, were interrupted after she was arrested and expelled for leading a sit-in at S.H. Kress Lunch Counter on March 28, 1960.

The Hoston family was kicked out of the state and landed in Washington. When the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled no breach of peace law was broken, heard her trial in December 1961, the determined scholar was already enrolled at Central State University, under President Charles Harris Wesley, in Wilberforce, Ohio, where she obtained a B.A. in Psychology in 1962. This same year, she wed the love of her life Dr. Rudolph Harris, they have two children Rylan and Junie Harris.

Committed to preserving African-American history, Harris went on to earn a Ph.D. in History (1975) from Howard University. She worked for the Peace Corps and the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History.

She taught history in D.C. Public Schools, Afro American History of Women at the University of the District of Columbia, Bowie State University, and at Lorton prison among others.

Harris served as campaign manager for the Carter-Mondale re-election campaign; directed the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations under Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly; served as the first-ever appointed historian for the District of Columbia; and was appointed by Mayor Muriel Bowser to the D.C. Commission to Commemorate and Recognize the Honorable Marion S. Barry Jr. She also founded the D.C. Chapter of National Hook-Up of Black Women and The Washington, D.C. Hall of Fame Society, which celebrates District residents. Harris owned J.H. Harris & Associates, LLC and was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, The Links, the Continentals, the Alpha Wives and RedHat Society to name a few.

The 56-year resident of the District succumbed to an aggressive form of cancer at her home on Friday, November 2, 2018. Throughout her life, Harris received numerous well-deserved awards for her activism, courage, and dedication to her community and her people. In 2018 Janette Hoston Harris was Honored as the 1st Inductee in the Southern University Alumni Hall of Fame.

Janette Harris a loving wife survived by husband Rudolph Harris, children, son Rylan R and wife Beverly, daughter, Junie J, Stepson Ronnie and Dorothy Johnson, grandchild Kennedy G, Sister Wilhelmina Hoston Suttles, In-laws Frank and Sheryl Harris, Linda & Walter Caldwell, and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives and close friends.

Cemetery Details

Fort Lincoln Cemetery

3401 Bladensburg Road
Brentwood, MD 20722

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **15**. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

John Wesley AME Zion
1615 14th Street
Washington, DC 20009

Visitation

NOV **16**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

John Wesley AME Zion
1615 14th Street
Washington, DC 20009

Service

NOV **16**. 10:00 AM (ET)

John Wesley AME Zion
1615 14th Street
Washington, DC 20009

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Janette Hoston Harris*

October 23, 2023 at 08:15 AM



“ *Hi Ruddy...*

This is Purnell Pinkney. Please accept my deepest sympathy at the loss of your wife Janet. She was a friend and colleague for many years. May the peace of the Creator descend upon you and your family in your times of grief and heart ache. God Bless you and your family.

Purnell Pinkney - November 21, 2018 at 02:35 PM



“ *I was proud and honored when Janette asked me to serve on the board of the DC Hall of Fame. She became a mentor, friend, and at times surrogate mother. I will miss you, Soro Janette. Rest in Peace and Power. Love, Nancy Harvin*

Nancy C Harvin - November 13, 2018 at 03:47 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Rylan Harris - November 09, 2018 at 03:40 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Janette Hoston Harris*



Junie Harris - November 08, 2018 at 09:29 PM

KB

“ *Sending love, hugs and prayers of comfort to the entire family. Janette was a trailblazer, wonderful mentor, and a fanastic, fun Lady. I have no doubt that she will be a powerful Ancestor continuing her great work. We must retune our ears to hear and receive her words of wisdom.*



Blessings for healing hearts and healing spirits.

*Love,
Kim Bright*

Kim Bright - November 08, 2018 at 03:06 PM

TW

“ *Sorry For Your Loss
Jesus Christ Loves Me
We Are Special*



Thomas Widgeon - November 07, 2018 at 02:58 PM



“ We the March Family and Marshall-March Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - November 06, 2018 at 08:07 AM

PM

We are thankful for Dr. Hoston Harris' inspiration of Black History and leadership.

The C. DeLores Tucker Legacy Branch of ASALH

Patricia Tyson, ASALH Member - November 14, 2018 at 03:00 PM

AW

I met Dr. Hoston Harris through my boss the late Dr. C. DeLores Tucker. Dr. Hoston Harris was a trailblazer. It was she who alerted Dr. Tucker to others' plans to raise the suffragette statue from the Capitol basement without adding Sojourner Truth to the bust. With that in mind, she was the wings beneath Dr. Tucker's success in getting Sojourner Truth's bust in the U.S. Capitol. God bless you Dr. Hoston Harris for all your good deeds and good works. You will not be forgotten.

*Annette Leslie Williams
Sunderland, MD*

Annette Leslie Williams - November 15, 2018 at 04:14 PM