

In Loving Memory



Judith Deferne Braswell

March 19, 1944 – January 26, 2023

Memorial Service
February 25, 2023 at 3pm

Chairman: Joseph Zdyrski
Slide Presentation
Opening Prayer
Discourse: Dwayne Southern
Song #145 God's Promise of Paradise
Closing Prayer: Dwayne Southern
Replay Slide Presentation

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
330 Orange Road, Montclair NJ 07042

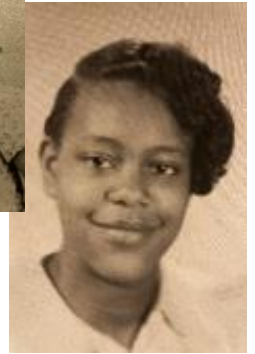
Zoom Meeting opens at
2:30pm
Meeting ID: 881 8357 1943
Passcode: 214107



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88183571943?pwd=MlBwV1NNQVhGNmhvY3BnQTdQSnB5dz09>



Born on March 19, 1944, Judith Curtis was the first of three children born to Charles and Emily Curtis. She was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, where she attended Erasmus High School.



On June 25, 1962, Judy married Elroy Braswell and began their family which eventually included four beloved children: Scarlett, Elroy Jr., Angela and Desiree. They were married for 46 years until his death in 2008.

By the time she was just 25 years old, Judy had suffered the death of both her mother and father. Depressed by such loss, she sought hope and comfort...and didn't have to wait long to find it.



A short time later, while attending a family gathering in Maryland, she was intrigued by her sister-in-law's question, "Would you like to see your parents again?" Judy replied, "I sure would," and accepted the book, "*The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life*." On the bus ride home, she read it cover to cover. The Bible's promise of a resurrection touched her heart and transformed the rest of her life.



As soon as Judy returned to Brooklyn, she asked for a personal Bible study with Jehovah's Witnesses and began attending all meetings at the local Kingdom Hall. Her knowledge and appreciation grew during regular visits with the Witness family that lived downstairs. As the older children played, she asked questions and learned Bible answers until she qualified to go into the field ministry. Judy was paired with a training partner,



another young mom, who became a fast, life-long friend. In less than a year, Judy dedicated her life to Jehovah and was baptized in March 1970.

Judy served as a faithful publisher with the Eastern Parkway and Hampton Place congregations in





Brooklyn. In March 1984, she became a regular pioneer – a privilege she cherished until she fell asleep in death. Judy also had the unique opportunity of participating in the initial renovations of the Brooklyn and Jersey City assembly halls. At quick builds, she joyfully worked as part of the team in the food trailer that prepared meals for the Bethelites in the Kingdom Hall Construction Department.



Secularly, Judy supported herself and her family as part of a secretarial typing pool for an insurance company. She primarily worked from home, transcribing Dictaphone voice recordings.

She wasn't a "tough, city-type" person, but Judy still resisted her children's suggestion to leave Brooklyn. What ultimately convinced her was spending a day exploring Sayreville, N.J., with a good friend. Once she crossed the tunnel, Judy didn't care to return to city life again.

Most recently, Judy served as a beloved and respected pillar of the Nutley, New Jersey Congregation, where she continued to help many to develop a relationship with Jehovah. Her love for Jehovah and others moved her to try learning American Sign Language and Albanian.





Her children often asked, “Mommy, ‘why you gotta’ make friends everywhere you go?” While Judy’s imposing stature commanded people’s attention, it was her warm disposition that drew people to her. In the ministry or in the congregation, she put people at ease and Judy never held back from telling any of the things that were profitable.

She loved life and people, and her face lit up whenever she could talk with them. Over the course of 53 years, she studied with and helped to reactivate more than 25 individuals. Judy became whatever a person needed when they needed it. As a result, she touched many lives and left an impact deeper than she ever realized.

Judy fell asleep in death on January 26, 2023. She was preceded in death by her parents Charles and Emily as well as her youngest sibling Elijah “Brian” Curtis and her husband Elroy Braswell Sr.

She is survived by her younger sister Stephany Curtis-Cooper and her four beloved children: Scarlett Braswell, Elroy Braswell Jr., Angela Huggins and Desiree Braswell as well as her devoted son-in-law Carl Huggins. She is also survived by her dear cousin Randy Mills and niece Tracey Sparrow. Judy will also be missed by a host of family and friends who have been encouraged by her faithful example.

Even though she was limited by mobility issues, Judy never lost her zeal for serving her Heavenly Father. She was excited to participate in special preaching campaigns related to the Memorial of Jesus Death and other theocratic events.

Shortly before her death Judy told her daughter that she wanted to see Jehovah’s power during the Great Tribulation and Armageddon. She longed to walk into Paradise and start working on day one. Mommy may not be there working on day one, but whenever she gets there we will know it is her by her undeniable 6-foot frame, loud laugh and old-school, Brooklyn accent.

