



Mrs. Hazel Blades Racks

January 10, 1929 - June 8, 2021

The family of Mrs. Hazel Blades Racks, age 92, wishes to announce her passing which occurred on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at her home.

HAZEL BLADES RACKS was born on January 10, 1929, in Brooklyn, New York. Hazel was born to Allan St. Osborne Blades and Gertrude Husbands Blades, who migrated to the city of New York from Barbados, West Indies. Hazel was predeceased by her parents and two siblings: Dorothy Blades Moore and Muriel Blades Rowe. She leaves to mourn, her daughter, Dianne Muriel Haynes, son, Eugene Allan Racks, daughter-in-law, Patricia Etta Pearson, granddaughter, Taren Michelle Wrighton, great-granddaughter, Autumn Taliaferrow; as well as nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews; and great-great-nieces and nephews. She will also be sorely missed by her Havanese Buddy, Lola.

Hazel was educated in the City of New York's public school system and graduated from Girls High School in Brooklyn, New York.

For 32 years, Hazel was employed by the New York City Housing Authority in various administrative civil service positions. While there, she developed and maintained lifelong friendships with many of her fellow colleagues. They loved bowling in leagues together, attending Broadway shows in NYC; and sharing in more overseas cruises and vacation trips than can be recounted here. In

particular, Hazel loved visiting Barbados, her parents' birthplace in the Caribbean. Most of her friends predeceased her, but she had fond memories of their great times together.

If there was one way to define Hazel, it would be "Life of the Party". She was a Party Girl who loved to dance, have a good time and live life to the fullest. When she decided to retire from the Housing Authority, she did not stay put. She decided to work part time, as a ticket agent, for Adirondack Trailways in Kingston, New York where she lived for 10 years before relocating to Durham, North Carolina to be closer to her family.

Over the years, Hazel was involved as a volunteer in numerous organizations, some of which were the Interfaith Humani Social Club, The Auxiliary Police of Laurelton of Queens, NY; and NYC Housing Authority's Association of Black Officials & Retirees whose luncheons she attended annually until she was no longer able to travel long distance.

Hazel lived life to the fullest, raised her two children single handedly and rarely complained. She was one who dealt with the joys as well as the trials and tribulations of life with the same positive attitude. Hazel could be counted on to always greet you with a smile, joke or do something that would put a smile on your face. At 92, she still worried about the latest nail polish colors and whether she would be able to twerk at her niece's wedding. In other words, even while up in age, she was a force to be reckoned with, fiercely independent and strong willed but full of fun. Her physical health failed her but her mind was fully intact and sharp until her death.

Sadly, Hazel suffered from multiple severe illnesses from November, 2019 until her passing on June 8, 2021. To say she will be missed, is an understatement but she will never be forgotten. Smiles will come onto many faces when memories of her come to mind. Right at this moment, she is

deeply missed and loved by her family and remaining friends.

Hazel's family would like to express their sincere appreciation for the many words of kindness and support we've received during the passing of our beloved Mother and Aunt, the Family Matriarch. We particularly wish to Thank Kiameshia 'Kiki' Griggs, Marjorie McKenzie and Patricia Pearson for being so tremendously helpful in the day to day care of our Mother and Aunt during her last five months on this Earth.

REST IN HEAVEN MOM AND AUNT HAZEL.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc., 309 N Queen Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701, on Monday, June 14th; Viewing from 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Life Celebration Service at 7:00 p.m.

To view the Celebration of Life Service through Zoom Live Stream:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82686679792?>

Webinar ID: 826 8667 9792

Passcode: 456397

Previous Events

Viewing

JUN 14. 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc.
309 N Queen St
Durham, NC 27701
(919) 682-1171
scarboroughandhargettinc@yahoo.com
<https://scarboroughandhargettfh.com/>

Celebration of Life

JUN 14. 7:00 PM (ET)

Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc.
309 N Queen St
Durham, NC 27701
(919) 682-1171
scarboroughandhargettinc@yahoo.com
<https://scarboroughandhargettfh.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Hazel Blades Racks*

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *Letitia Racks lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hazel Blades Racks*



Letitia Racks - June 14, 2021 at 08:30 PM



Thank You for remembering my Mom during our Grief, Letitia. Love Cousins Dianne & Eugene

Dianne Haynes - June 15, 2021 at 06:24 PM



“ *Wanda Racks lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Hazel Blades Racks*



Wanda Racks - June 14, 2021 at 07:09 PM



Wanda, we really appreciate you remembering our Mom during this time of grief. Love, Your Cousins Dianne & Eugene

Dianne Haynes - June 15, 2021 at 06:26 PM

RT

“ *The members of St. Mark's AME Church in Kingston, New York extend their deepest condolences to her daughter, granddaughter and great granddaughter. Sis. Hazel was an active member before relocating to Durham. May she rest in peace and may God comfort the family.*

Rev. Dr. Faye Banks Taylor, Pastor

Rev. Faye Banks Taylor - June 14, 2021 at 04:19 PM

DH

Dear Rev. Taylor and St. Mark AME Church, My brother, Eugene, daughter, Taren, granddaughter, Autumn and I wish to thank you for your warm words of comfort as we grieve the loss of my Mom, Hazel Racks. It's terribly hard but we will try to get through the hurt while never forgetting her. Love, Daughter Dianne

Dianne Haynes - June 15, 2021 at 06:32 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Hazel Blades Racks.*



June 14, 2021 at 12:06 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Hazel Blades Racks.*



June 13, 2021 at 09:59 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Hazel Blades Racks.*



June 13, 2021 at 05:22 PM



“ *Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Mrs. Hazel Blades Racks.*



June 13, 2021 at 03:19 PM



“ *From Minnie, Joan, Rita, Henry and Lois purchased the Pink Potpourri Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Hazel Blades Racks.*



From Minnie, Joan, Rita, Henry and Lois - June 13, 2021 at 12:26 PM



“ *Mrs. Hazel Racks was a lady who enjoyed life! She was dedicated to her family and modeled a great work-ethic. My parents especially enjoyed her lively friendship. I hope they are smiling with her in Heaven today.* 🕊️🕊️🕊️

🙏 *Pat Smith*

Pat Smith - June 12, 2021 at 06:49 PM



Thank You So Much; Mom considered, you, Roseamer, Shirley and Evelyn and the girls FAMILY; and so do I. ❤️

Dianne Haynes - June 12, 2021 at 09:34 PM



Pat Smith - June 12, 2021 at 10:19 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Hazel Blades Racks.*



June 12, 2021 at 02:49 PM