



## Juanita Parham

June 13, 1942 - May 16, 2025

Juanita Evangeline Dickey Parham, 82 years of age, affectionately known as “Topsy” to her family and close friends, was born on June 13, 1942 in Lynchburg, Virginia. She was born to the late Evelyn Kate McDaniel Dickey and Frank William Dickey, Sr. She departed this earth on Friday, May 16, 2025.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Oscar Lee Parham, Sr. of 52 years in marriage until his death in 2015; her four sisters, Katheryn Dickey Harris, Elsie Dickey Rackley, Audrey Dickey Robinson, Gladys Dickey Hillard and two brothers, Elmore and Frank Dickey, Jr.

She was a member of First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, Somerset, N.J. As a child growing up and into her young adulthood, she was a long-time member of Peaceful Baptist Church in Lynchburg where she participated in youth programs, sang on the church’s choir and played the piano for the church services and programs.

Juanita attended the public schools of Lynchburg, Virginia where she graduated from Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School. She went on to attend and graduated from Virginia College obtaining her baccalaureate degree in Elementary Education with a minor in English. She then continued her post-

secondary education at the University of Virginia completing her master's level certification.

A life-long learner as well as being known in the communities she served as a champion of children, she continued to obtain several educational certifications and training throughout her esteemed career as an educator and special education teacher within the public school system. Later in her career, she also held administrative and leadership roles at the collegiate-level within the CUNY (City University of New York) system focused on the "School to Careers" initiative and associated inaugural programs.

Upon completion of her work at CUNY, and retirement, Juanita made the decision to become an entrepreneur focused on continuing to pursue her work as a champion of children's education. She did this by opening "Learn and Play Daycare" that subsequently led to the growth of an additional daycare named "Peach Tree" within her local community where she lived and served in New Jersey.

Throughout her life on this earth, Juanita worked with, supported and often nurtured thousands of children of various learning levels, grade-levels, learning challenges, backgrounds and all economic levels. She also guided and supported the parents of the children she worked with. There was no child that Juanita did not believe in. Also she believed she could help those children with succeeding not only academically, but oftentimes with accomplishing their overall aspirations and future goals.

Juanita also believed in, continuously loved and supported another group of children until her departure on earth - her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. This was along with a host of nieces and nephews as the legacy holder and matriarch of the Parham Family.

She leaves to cherish her memories and the love she gave to her daughter, Francine Parham of South Brunswick, N.J., Oscar (Gokulapriya Govindarajalu) Parham Jr. of New Brunswick, N.J., Nikki Parham of Charlotte, N.C., Lisa (Kasheem Grady) Parham-Grady of Charlotte, N.C., Maria Parham of Rahway, N.J. and Mark Parham of South Brunswick, N.J.; six grandchildren: Christopher Parham-Darabi of South Brunswick, N.J., Brianna-Azjané Parham of Charlotte, N.C., Matico Matlock of Charlotte, N.C., Michael-Raymond Taylor of Charlotte, N.C., Chloë Parham-Grady of Charlotte, N.C., and Solomon Parham-Grady of Charlotte, N.C. She is also survived by two beautiful great-grandchildren, Charlotte White and Maxine Matlock, both of Charlotte, N.C. along with many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Elmwood Cemetery

425 Georges Road  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JUN 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens  
771 Somerset Street  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
<http://www.fbcsonerset.com>

## Funeral Service

JUN 20. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens  
771 Somerset St  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
(732) 828-2009

# Tribute Wall

LT

“ Lisa’s School Team purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Juanita Parham.



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**Lisa’s School Team** - June 20, 2025 at 07:30 AM

LW

“ LaMar Wright purchased the Simply Elegant Spatiphyllum for the family of Juanita Parham.



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**LaMar Wright** - June 19, 2025 at 11:16 PM

FG

“ Will always remember Mama Parham’s kindness. From her welcoming spirit since I was in High School...always feeding me after school and now even when I have my own children...she was always asking about me, sending me messages on Facebook and commenting on how big my kids were getting. She always cared and loved with all she had! I will miss her dearly.

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**Faith Green** - June 19, 2025 at 08:34 AM

JD

“ James Darabi purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Juanita Parham.



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**James Darabi** - June 17, 2025 at 04:55 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Juanita Parham.

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June 13, 2025 at 10:17 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Juanita Parham.



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June 13, 2025 at 10:17 PM

WJ

“ Juanita Dickey Parham was a well-loved classmate at Dunbar High School in Lynchburg VA. This year marks the 65th anniversary of our graduation in June 1960. Many of us have not seen Juanita since graduation, but she is remembered fondly. My personal condolences are extended to her family.

*William A. Johnson, Jr., Rochester, NY*

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**William A Johnson, Jr.** - May 30, 2025 at 09:06 PM

AB

*In high school, Juanita and I could walk to each other's house in 5min. and often did. Mrs. Dickey, Juanita's mother was a seamstress. Juanita and I would sit on the steps outside her mother's sewing room and gather scraps of fabric to design something. After high school, we lost contact. I regret that we never reconnected. I am happy that I have fond memories. My Heart felt condolences are extended to her family.*

*Annette Lee Brockett*

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**Annette Brockett** - May 31, 2025 at 12:22 AM

EH

*Deepest sympathy and prayers to my cousins in Juanita's passing. Juanita was the wife of my mother's youngest brother, Oscar. I remember Juanita as being such an intelligent individual and very resourceful. It has been a number of years since last speaking with her; however, I know that she is resting in the arms of our Heavenly Father because she was always about a great work for mankind! Peace, love, and great blessings to each of you. Estherine*

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**Estherine J. Harding** - June 15, 2025 at 03:45 PM

DB

*My heartfelt condolences for the loss of your mother. I am the daughter of Naomi, Oscar's sister. Juanita came to visit my mother with my Uncle Oscar. She was very lovely and friendly. May God Bless each of you. Dorothy.*

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**Dorothy Boone** - July 13, 2025 at 12:46 AM