

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF  
*Mrs. Juanita Harris Jones*

Sunrise: November 19, 1940

Sunset: January 13, 2022

Mrs. Juanita Jones was a native and lifelong resident of Sumter County, Georgia. She was born on November 19, 1940, in Americus, Georgia to the parentage of the late Joseph Harris, Sr. and the late Mrs. Lizzie Wallace Harris. She was joined in Holy Matrimony to the late Mr. Paul Jones who precedes her in death. She was a graduate of the Sumter County Public School System graduating from A.S. Staley High School at the age of 16. Juanita joined the Welcome Baptist Church, at an early age, and remained a faithful and dedicated member until she transitioned to her heavenly home.

**“A Legacy of Education”**

Juanita believed in training up a child in the way that they should go. As such, all five of her children graduated from high school with four holding college degrees. Juanita, herself, obtained a bachelor’s degree from Albany State College and a master’s and specialist degree—both in education—from Georgia Southwestern College. Mrs. Jones’ commitment to education extended beyond the walls of her home. She spent over 30 years as an educator teaching 4th grade students in the Americus Public School System. During her time as an educator, she also nurtured and encouraged other adults to further their education. In addition, Mrs. Jones frequently taught Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School classes at her beloved Welcome Baptist Church teaching lots of children and adults about the love of Jesus.

**“A Legacy of Community Service”**

Beyond her home and school, Juanita Jones was a committed servant of others, both individually and through various organization. Through the Welcome Baptist Church, she organized a food bank through Second Harvest of South Georgia, which served the community for over 20 years. Mrs. Jones was a member of the Habakkuk Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star #70, and she was a charter member of the Americus Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. where she served in various capacities including chapter president. She worked tirelessly through both of these fine organizations. She served the community well. Additionally, Juanita volunteered with the Americus Sumter County Tourism Council where she met former President Jimmy Carter. She was also an advocate for many disabled children who did not have a voice. She worked as a Court

Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer for many years visiting the homes of disabled children to make sure that the children were receiving adequate care and supervision.

### **“A Legacy of Family & Friends”**

Juanita’s home was always open to everyone: family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances. Her home was often the family gathering spot for her family after church on Sundays. People really enjoyed her cooking and she enjoyed sharing her culinary skills with others. You could always get something good to eat at her house. When relatives could no longer live alone, they were welcomed into the Jones’ home for as long as they needed care. Upon the death of her parents, Mrs. Jones became the matriarch of her family. Her in-laws loved her dearly as did members of the community at large. She was affectionately known as “Mrs. Jones” or “Neet” or “Aunt Neet” throughout her family and community.

### **“A Legacy of Love”**

Mrs. Jones leaves five loving and adoring children to cherish her memory: Bonnie (Donald) Heath of Conyers, GA; Kelvin (Antondria) Jones of Fayetteville, GA; Vincent Jones of Atlanta, GA; Kia (John) Hurst of Atlanta, GA and Christi Jones of Fairburn, GA; her loving grandchildren: Jatanna Hurst, Kristen Callahan, Seaman Joshua Hurst, Caleb Hurst, Donald Heath, Jr. (DJ), Kelvin Jones, Jr. (JR), Leilah Jones, and William Paul Jones; her loving and devoted siblings— sisters: Ella Harris, Bernice Harris, Betty Harris, Constance Hollis, and Lillie Ann Evans; brothers: Otis (Ethel) Harris, Joseph Harris, Jr., Charles (Archie) Harris, and stepbrother, Benjamin Ison. In addition, she is survived by a loving and devoted sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary Walker, of Pompano Beach, FL. Additionally, she is survived by a goddaughter, Mrs. Nathelma Maxwell and her family; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, devoted friends, neighbors, sorority sisters, and her Welcome Baptist Church Family.

### **“A Virtuous Woman”**

Mrs. Juanita Harris Jones was the epitome of a virtuous woman. In her servitude to others, often ahead of herself, Juanita understood the significance of “what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, if he loses his soul.” She wanted to live for the Lord, and she wanted to help others. Now, she has received her eternal reward safe in the arms of Jesus.