Carol Diane Powe Newton

Carol Diane Powe Newton (aka Mimi, Grammy, Mom, Auntie, Cookie-doll), loved fellowship and friendship. She was compassionate, unassuming, humble, brilliant, witty, humorous, generous, determined, adventurous, courageous, ambitious, considerate, giving, patient, practical, frank, hardworking, mentor, loyal, beautiful inside and out. Important to her were her family, friends, her life's work, and food!

A lifelong resident of the City of Paterson, Carol was one of six siblings, educated in the Paterson Public School system. After several years in the workforce, she attended William Paterson University earning a bachelor's degree in political science and went on to Rutgers Law School where she acquired her Juris Doctor. Prior to becoming an attorney, she entered the corporate world at Rayco Manufacturing Company, a division of BF Goodrich Corp in Paterson where she gained invaluable experience in the corporate world. Later, The National Theater Supply Company, a division of Singer, prepared her for sales and as a liaison between manufacturers and national retailers. It was during the civil rights movement in the late 1960's that she set her sights on becoming an attorney and providing access to legal services at affordable fees to her community. To that end, she found employment in the law office of Herman W. Steinberg, Esq., becoming the first African American legal secretary in Passaic County. She worked as a secretary, attended undergraduate and law school, and began her law practice at that firm, ultimately becoming a single practitioner and maintained her office in Paterson. Her experience and involvement in the community led to an appointment as secretary to the City of Paterson's Planning Board. She also became General Counsel for the City of Paterson's first African American bi-monthly newspaper, "The Greater News". As Carol gained experience in the legal system, she was appointed as a Municipal Court Judge for the City of Paterson and was later appointed Paterson's presiding judge. Carol served as a judge for more than 14 years and was the first female and first African American judge in Passaic County, N.J. She considers her greatest accomplishment to be the construction of 47 townhouses on Pearl Street in Paterson. Collaborating with Concerned Parents for Better Housing, Inc., Sojourner Truth Village was the first major construction project undertaken and completed by all minority women. She has been bestowed numerous honors over the years and was most recently recognized with the Constance Baker Motley award as a 2023 Black History Month honoree in honor of her distinguished career, public service, and contribution to her community.

Carol, a published author, wrote four children's books addressing the issue of bullying. She attributed her accomplishments to her love of reading, a talent inspired by her parents Gus, and Lucille Powe. Her goal was to encourage all minorities, young and old alike, to read and discover the magic of the written word. She said that the ability to read helped ignite the passion for our freedom and remains the lifeblood of our future. Verona Brewton describes her as her soulmate and the keeper of her family. Brother, Reginald, although a very successful businessman, says Carol was HIS hero personifying a can-do attitude against all odds. Her sister Sharon believes she was a Supernova (a colossal explosion of a star). Carol had a huge heart according to nephews Joshua and Jason Powe. They believe she was most unique in that that she always welcomed people into her home and supported them by extending love and care to both friends and family alike. Her sense of humor, laugh and smile which could fill a room will never be forgotten! Brother Edward (Buddy) considered her one of his anchors and is thankful he could spend quality time with her this past Thanksgiving. Daughter-in-law, Opal, describes her as an angel to all and the best

mother-in-law one could ever hope for. Grandchildren Brigitte, Aaron and Landon will miss her love, hugs, life lessons, guidance, huge celebrations for no reason at all, and like everyone who knew her…her cooking! Her children, Derek (Nicky) and Andrea describe her as their partner, confidante, pride and joy and simply as “the wind beneath their wings”.

Carol is survived by son, Derek Newton and daughter, Andrea Newton, grandchildren, Brigitte Newton, Aaron Newton, and Landon Smith; her four siblings Reginald Powe, Edward Powe, Sharon Herman, and Eric Powe. She joins her best friend Jonnie Ruth Bouie and great friends, Carol Dobbins, Pearlina Jenkins, Debbie Stevens-Poche, and Helen Van Riper. She will be greatly missed by sister-friends Wilma Brooks, Cecile Dickey, Dr. Mary Garner, Karen Gilbert, Cousin Pam Howell, Marilee Jackson, Essie Patterson.