

Doris J. Bailey-Reavis: Community activist

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Doris J. Bailey-Reavis, 93, of Port Chester, died Feb. 5, 2021 at Greenwich Hospital.

She was born May 16, 1927 to Robert and Alice Randall Jones in Port Chester.

As a teenager, Doris spent time at the Carver Center, where the great early NAACP leader Effie Gordon gave the neighborhood girls training in etiquette and ladylike deportment. That training stayed with her throughout her life.

She graduated from Port Chester High School and further completed her education out of state.

As a young woman, Doris went to work in Washington, D.C. After returning to Port Chester, she took a job with Southern Westchester BOCES, which she held until her retirement.

Doris became the president of the Port Chester/Rye NAACP following the retirement of Walter McClain from that position. She served as president for eight years, after which she became the branch secretary up until recently. For the last two years, she was the branch treasurer. "But more than just the offices she held, Doris was a wise elder leader whose years of experience provided guidance to the younger leaders who followed in her steps," wrote current Port Chester/Rye NAACP President Tom Kissner in a message to members.

During her time as president, she lost her only child, Alethia Joy, to illness. "But she also remarried and gained a new husband and helpmeet in John W. Reavis, Jr. Together, they formed a steady part of the core of the NAACP branch's leadership," said Kissner. Reavis died in June 2020.

Among her services to Port Chester, Doris campaigned tirelessly for the hiring of more African American teachers in the schools, served on the committee that hammered out a master plan for the village, and was in the process of serving on the state-mandated committee to review police policies and procedures.

Throughout her lifetime, Bailey-Reavis was honored by numerous religious, civic, governmental, and other organizations. Just a few of the many awards she received were the Westchester County Legislature African American History Month honor, the Westchester Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, the Carver Center Black History Month honor, and continuous recognition from members of the Port Chester/Rye NAACP.

Mrs. Bailey-Reavis is survived by two sisters, Ada (Morris) Foster (Culpepper, Va.) and Alice Henry (Yonkers), and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Alethia Joy, and brothers Robert, Clifford, and Edward Sr.

A private memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Sat., Feb. 13 at First Lutheran Church, 38 Fieldpoint Rd., Greenwich. The service will be featured on Zoom. Details will follow on social media.

Condolences may be sent to Andre F. Baker Funeral Home via their website at www.andrefbakerfuneralhome.com.

