



Estocia W. Berry

November 12, 1925 - December 8, 2010

Estocia W. Berry, affectionately known as “Sto”, 85, a long-time resident of Hudson, NY, died Wednesday December 8, 2010 at the Pines at Catskill Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation.

She was born on Nov. 28, 1925 to Richard and Annabelle Cochran in Harlem. She attended Wadleigh High School in Harlem, where she was trained to become an expert stenographer and typist. Her family moved to Hudson in 1945. She married Fred Wise in 1947. She later married Frank Berry in 1961.

Estocia became an expert stenographer and typist. She served as an Executive Secretary to four governors of New York State over the course of 20 years. When the Metropolitan Transit Authority was established, she was asked to organize their secretarial pool and served as Executive Secretary. In 1976, she served as Manager of the secretarial staffs for the Chancellor of the New York City School System until she retired in 1982, after which she established her own secretarial business for two years.

She returned to Hudson in the early eighties where she was active in Hudson’s community affairs. She served as President of the Columbia County NAACP Branch for over ten years. In that capacity she founded and chaired the Annual Community Forum recognizing the contributions of African-Americans to the local community and the American community at-large. She

also served as Chairperson of the Mayor's Advisory Board for the City of Hudson and actively participated on many other projects and organizations.

Estocia loved gardening, good food and socializing. She genuinely loved helping people in need. She had natural gifts as an organizer, superior orator and storyteller. She lived by the motto: "If I can help somebody, then my living will not be in vain."

She was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Annabelle Cochran; step-daughter Christine Berry Finlay; brother, Nathaniel Cochran; sister, Ethel Loveless, in that order.

Estocia is survived by her niece, Rae Banks; three nephews, Arthur Banks, Darryl Banks, and Deryk Banks; one granddaughter, Monica Davis; two great-grand children, Carl Rollins Jr. and Maya Davis; nine grandnieces and nephews, Cerri, Kendall, Deryk Jr., Lamar, Karim, Leslie, Jayln, Shem, Aida; her closest longtime friend Celestine Chance of Hudson; and many friends that dearly loved her but too many to list.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Bates and Anderson Funeral Home, Hudson, NY. Calling hours will be held at 10:30 a.m. and the service is at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, December 13, 2010 at Shiloh Baptist Church in Hudson, NY with the Rev. Ronald H. Grant presiding.

"Strive to succeed. Success is its own reward."

Adopted by Estocia W. Berry for the Annual NAACP Freedom Fund
Appreciation Dinner