



## Mother Blanche Sumpter

August 22, 1922 - September 22, 2024

Our Beloved Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother - Blanche Sumpter - was born on

August 22, 1922, on St. Helena Island - a sea island off of the coast of Beaufort SC, and

transitioned from this earth on Sunday, September 22, 2024 at the felicitous age of 102 years old.

A precocious and only child, Blanche attended the Penn Normal and Agricultural School,

one of the first schools in the nation opened for newly freed people and is now a National

Historic Landmark. Although the Penn School went to the 8th grade (normal for that time),

Blanche was only able to complete the 6th grade. She attended school at a time when

parents had to pay for their children to attend school and this was what her family could

afford. Education was extremely important to Blanche and she instilled the importance of

being educated in her children and family. Although only having attained a sixth grade

education, she insisted that her children, grands and great grands “speak the

language as

it was meant to be spoken.” She had no tolerance for poor grammar or mumbling. She

understood that a good presentation of oneself mattered.

Upon leaving school, Blanche worked at various jobs - the shrimp factory, Parris Island

Marine Base laundry, domestic work and fieldwork - picking tomatoes and other vegetables.

Determined to seek a better life for herself and her children, Blanche along with her mother,

Grace Sumpter, initially moved to Cornwell, CT as she had discovered that many black

teachers would go there to supplement their income by performing domestic work during

the summers. In the mid 1950’s Blanche and her mother eventually moved to Stamford,

CT where she continued to reside until her death. Relatives cared for her children in St

Helena until such time as she was able to secure housing in Stamford and bring her

children to Stamford as well.

Blanche was pivotal in helping others migrate from St. Helena to Connecticut. She

eventually left domestic work and secured employment as a relocation worker with the

Urban Renewal Organization of Stamford. Blanche attained subsequent employment with

the Stamford Health Department, the Stamford Urban League as an outreach worker and

finally, as a circulation clerk with the Ferguson Library, a position she held until her

retirement.

Never one to be idle, Blanche had a stellar record of community service.

She served as the secretary of the Board of Stamford Neighborhood Services colling

committees for AARP of North Stamford and for FISH, Inc (I Feel I Should Help). Blanche

was appointed by the mayor in 1997 to complete the term of Commissioner for the

Commission on Aging Board in Stamford. She was reappointed to serve a full term from

1998- 2000. A dedicated volunteer to a number of causes, Blanche served for many years

on the Stamford Branch of the NAACP, the Friendship House Tenants Association, the now

defunct Douglas-Tubman Democratic club and the Women's Democratic Club of Stamford,

where she was asked to run for city council, but due to family obligations, she declined.

Blanche gave over twenty-five hundred hours of volunteer service at the Stamford Hospital

and served at the Covenant House of Hospitality's Soup Kitchen and the Community of St.

Luke's Homeless Shelter.

Her extensive community service was honored by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, the

Yerwood Center, Stamford Hospital, Council of Churches and Synagogues, The NAACP,

via a citation from the Connecticut's Governor Dannel Malloy and she received a

Proclamation from Stamford's Mayor Michael A. Pavia.

Blanche was a very active and dedicated member of Union Baptist Church for over 60

years. Earning the esteemed title of Mother of the Church, Blanche served on several

church ministries where she often held leadership positions. They included:

The Sanctuary

and Women's Choirs, Church School, the Finance Committee, Greeters

Ministry, South

Carolina Ministry, Senior Ushers Ministry, Nurse's Ministry, The Dorcas Home and Foreign

Ministry Missionary Ministry and Board Member of the Union Social Services Corporation.

Blanche loved to dance and had a fabulous sense of style, a pleated shirtwaist dress was

her signature look back in the day, and she frequently patronized local consignment shops

to create her million dollar looks and those of her children.

She truly enjoyed family gatherings and her love of family instilled a strong, enduring bond

within her family that is immutable. Often formidable, but always caring, Blanche was

known to have frequent phone calls with her children, grand and great-grandchildren to

encourage and lift them. Blanche insisted on cultivating internal fortitude along with

speaking and standing up for oneself.

Blanche loved to travel and to read and was a member of two book clubs.

Blanche was predeceased by her mother, Grace Sumpter (CT), her father Harry S. Legare

(SC), her daughter in law Marie Sumpter (CA), her son in law George W. Washington (NJ),

her grandson Gregory Sumpter (MD), and her daughter and eldest child  
Reverend Girdie B.

Washington (NJ).

She leaves to remember her with joy -

Her son George C. Sumpter (CA), her son Nathan Sumpter, Sr and his wife  
Linda Sumpter

(CT), her daughter Ethel L. Sumpter (SC), her daughter Carolyn C. Frank and  
her husband

Kenneth L. Frank (PA), her daughter Joan M. Sumpter (CT), her grandchildren  
- Kelly JW

and Kirby King (NJ), Audrey D. Washington (NY), Seth E. Washington (MD),  
Renee V.

Sumpter (SC), Heather M. and Marcus Blakemore (TN), Nathan Sumpter, Jr.,  
and partner

Jill Schlacta (CT), Carlendra A. Frank (MD), Damion J. Sumpter, (NC), Aaron  
Sumpter

(CT), Kendra K. Frank (CA), and Kenice J. Frank (PA), Elijah Washington  
(NC), her

great-grandchildren - Nolan B. King (MD), Zalen D. King (CA), Blake JM  
Blakemore (GA),

Clarke MD Blakemore (TN), Xavier Sumpter (MD), Braylon Bigelow (NC),  
Madison

Sumpter (MD), Skyla Washington (NC), Nazareth Washington (NC), Matthew  
W. Sumpter

(CT), Rose V. Washington (NC) and Eissa K. Frank (MD), her god-son  
Richard Jackson,

cousins, friends and church and community members.

We Love you Mother, Sister, Grandma, Nanë, Blanche and you will be dearly  
missed.

May your spirit ever rest in joy, love and peace

Visitation will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2024 from 10:00AM –

11:00AM followed by a service of celebration at 11:00AM at Union Baptist Church, 805 Newfield Ave., Stamford, CT. Officiating Rev. Dr. Andre Bradley. Interment will follow at Woodland Cemetery, Stamford, CT.

# Cemetery Details

## Woodland Cemetery

66 Woodland Place  
Stamford, CT

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ To The Family: Thank you, God, for loaning us this awesome LADY for so many years. Thank you, Sumpter Family, for sharing her with all of us. She was and is Jewel. Jerrol Moore



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**Jerrol Moore** - October 30, 2024 at 06:58 AM

MS

“ I would like to express my deepest and sincerest condolences to the Washington and Sumpter families on the recent passing of Mrs. Sumpter -- who I respectfully and lovingly referred to as the "Grand Diva". May in peace dear Queen.

*Marlene Sheffield*

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**Marlene Sheffield** - October 12, 2024 at 02:05 PM

BF

“ Rest In Peace Mother Sumpter. You will be missed.



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**Barbara Freeman** - September 29, 2024 at 03:41 PM

BL

“ *Our Condolences to the Sumpter Family,  
Yours in Christ; Rev. Curtis and Betty Langley  
of North Carolina*



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**Betty Ann Langley** - September 28, 2024 at 04:07 PM

SD

“ *To The Family of Blanche Sumpter~  
I want to join in with those sending  
condolences on behalf of Miss Blanche-  
Sister. Sister opened her heart and her home  
to me as a young woman new to Stamford  
years ago. She was my mother, my Auntie, my sister and my friend.  
She showered me with so much love and brought me into the folds  
of her wonderful family. We stayed connected through the years and  
I always felt the deepest love for her. Now as she flies with the  
angels I will miss the phone calls and the hours spent catching up  
but I know I will meet up with her again by and by. God bless all of  
you with the wonderful memories of your mother, grandmother and  
great grandmother. Sending you love and covering you in prayer-  
Susan Works Darden*



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**Susan Works Darden** - September 28, 2024 at 12:56 PM

GB

“ *Gail P. Brown lit a candle in memory of  
Mother Blanche Sumpter*



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**Gail P. Brown** - September 27, 2024 at 02:11 PM

GB

“ *My deepest condolences to The Sumpter Family. Wonderful memories from Hawthorne Street back in the day. Whenever I would see Mother Sumpter it was truly a blessing and a pleasure. My prayers are with you George, Nathan, Helen, Carolyn, Joan and the entire family. God Bless you all*  
*Gail P. Brown*

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**Gail P. Brown** - September 27, 2024 at 02:10 PM

HT

“ *Helen T. purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Mother Blanche Sumpter.*



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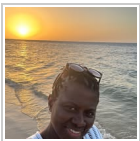
**Helen T.** - September 27, 2024 at 12:39 PM

HT

“ *Helen T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mother Blanche Sumpter.*

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**Helen T.** - September 27, 2024 at 12:39 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to the Sumpter family, Mother Blanche was definitely one of a kind and we will truly miss her. She has ran the good race and now takes her rest. Thank you for sharing her with so many of us.*

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**Catherine Smith** - September 27, 2024 at 09:58 AM

LP

*My Condolences to the Sumpter family. Mother will truly be missed and she will never be forgotten. Take Your Rest Mother Blanche Sumpter.*

**Laura L. Police** - September 27, 2024 at 12:28 PM

OS

*My prayers and condolences to family and friends of Mrs. Blanche Sumpter. RIP Mrs. Sumpter*

**Ophal Sutton** - September 28, 2024 at 01:11 PM

VC

“ *My deepest sympathy, and prayers are with you at this time.*

**Vivian Carey** - September 27, 2024 at 08:25 AM

JH

“ *Mother Blanche, was an extraordinary presence and leaves a void in this world. Family may God's presence and your fond memories bless and keep you all. Rest in eternal 🌿peace Mother Blanche.*



**James Homer** - September 27, 2024 at 04:11 AM

NH

“ *To the Sumpter family sending condolences and prayers for your family. I would always comment on Mrs Sumpter and her beautiful soul and marvelous style. She was truly a beautiful person. Nancy Irick-Hurdle*

**Nancy Hurdle** - September 26, 2024 at 11:29 PM

JP

“ *To the Sumpter family I give my condolences to you all. Mother Blanch was a wonderful woman . God Bless Love Joy Poteau.*

**Joy Poteau** - September 26, 2024 at 07:05 PM

LF

“ To The Sumpter Family:

*May God continue to bless you all during your time of sorrow. Mrs. Blanche will truly be missed. She have touched so many hearts.*

*Grace, Mercy and Peace!*

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**Linda/Shawn Ford** - September 26, 2024 at 06:16 PM

MI

“ My Deepest Condolences to Church Member (Brick Baptist Church St Helena Island, SC) Ethel Sumpter and her entire Family. "EARTH HAS NO SORROW THAT HEAVEN CANNOT HEAL!" Franklin & Mary Ann Evans Johnson) 🙏🙏🙏💖💖💖

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**Mr & Mrs Franklin Johnson St Helena Isla** - September 26, 2024 at 12:50 PM