

Home / FindArticles / Business / New York Amsterdam News / Jul 27-Aug 2, 2006
Hazel Whitlock Gray, 91, passes

Comments

Tweet

0

Share http://findarticles.com/p/news-articles/new-york-amsterdam-news/mi_8153/is_20060727/hazel-whitlock-gray-91-passes/ai_n50607443/ on Twitter
The URL http://findarticles.com/p/news-articles/new-york-amsterdam-news/mi_8153/is_20060727/hazel-whitlock-gray-91-passes/ai_n50607443/ has been shared 0 times. View these Tweets.

Like

Long-time Hyde Park resident Hazel Whitlock Gray, 91, passed away peacefully on June 17, 2006, at her home in Hollywood, Florida. She had been diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia on June 4th. She was the eldest daughter of Arthur Brown and Elmyra Diffay Whitlock of Gary, Indiana.

Mrs. Gray attended Roosevelt Elementary and Froebel High School in Gary. In 1934, she obtained her undergraduate degree from North Carolina A&T College, where she was a charter member of the Alpha Mu Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Mrs. Gray completed graduate work at the University of Chicago, and in 1954, received her certification in physical therapy from Northwestern University Medical School.

Her marriage of more than 20 years to the late Atty. Terry C. Gray of Gary, Indiana, ended in divorce in the early 1960s. They had five children.

In 1964, Mrs. Gray moved to Chicago and entered the world of business. She became president/CEO of Midway Technical Institute, Inc., which provided basic literacy skills and vocational training programs for unemployed and underemployed Chicago residents under grants from the National Manpower Training and Development Act.

Throughout Mrs. Gray's professional life, she engaged in various professions, such as elementary school teacher, social worker, physical therapist, and sales associate for Prudential Insurance Company. In 1973, she became an independent real estate broker and later joined ACRES Realty Company in Hyde Park, where she worked for over 15 years. Mrs. Gray also owned and operated Woodlawn Super Low Foods, a small grocery store on 63rd Street.

As an active Hyde Parker, Hazel Gray served on various boards and committees, including the Hyde Park Co-op and the First Unitarian Church of Chicago, which she regularly attended. She also belonged to such Chicago organizations as Altrusa International Incorporated (a non-profit community service group), the League of Women Voters, ACLU, NAACP, and Operation PUSH.

Mrs. Gray, a devout civic activist, marched in anti-racism and anti-war protests in Chicago. She also once confronted the late Mayor Richard J. Daley over Chicago's failure to pass and enforce gun control laws.

In 1991, Mrs. Gray moved to Los Angeles to help her grandson, Michael Pratts, M.D., (a single parent) take care of his son while he attended medical school. In 1996, she joined her daughter in Hollywood, Florida. While in Florida, at the age of 85, Mrs. Gray landed several professional modeling jobs and even acted in a national television commercial.

A true humanitarian and environmentalist, Mrs. Gray, gave faithfully to charitable organizations. She leaves behind a large and adoring family and an even larger "fan club" of friends old and

new.

A memorial tribute in her honor will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 29th at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 2425 W. 19th Avenue in Gary, Indiana. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made in her name to Greenpeace International and the National Leukemia/Lymphoma Society.

Mrs. Gray was predeceased by her parents; a brother, Henry Oliver Whitlock; and her son, Arthur Whitlock Gray. A sister, Rosa Whitlock Morgan, passed away on June 27, 2006.

She is survived by one sister, Arthella Whitlock Allison of Maui, Hawaii; three children: Elmyra Gray Powell (James) of Birmingham, Alabama; Oscar T. Gray (Gail) of Gary, Indiana; and Sarah Gray Freeburg of Hollywood, Florida. Other surviving family members include 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins. All remember her loving presence, her lively wit and intellect, her love of music and art, and her ceaseless spirit of adventure.

Copyright New York Amsterdam News Jul 27-Aug 2, 2006

Provided by ProQuest Information and Learning Company. All rights Reserved

W16