



CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

*Mrs. Pauline Bradford*

*pallbearers*

Ronnie R. Miller  
Aaron Johnsen

Sean Citron  
Nathan Bradford, Sr.

Joshua Bradford  
Harvey Lockett

*Acknowledgements:*

The family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and words of encouragement. Your support, compassion, kindness and generosity are much appreciated. It comforts us to know that so many care.

*In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Portland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Scholarship Fund. Make checks payable to: Piedmont Rose Connection, Inc., P.O. Box 30915, Portland, Oregon 97294. Please designate scholarship fund in memory of Pauline Bradford.*

*For the best...*  
**Willie A. Watkins**  
Funeral Home, Inc.  
*Where the name is service*  
• Douglasville Chapel  
8312 Dallas Hwy  
Douglasville, GA 30134  
770-489-6751  
www.williewatkins.com

*Glanton & Associates, LLC (404) 925-6583*



*JANUARY 31, 1928 - DECEMBER 9, 2020*



## Obituary

Pauline Bradford was born in Greenville, Mississippi following the great flood of 1927. She was the eldest of 4 children born to Sammie and Mary Jackson. She was raised by her grandparents. During World War II, she traveled to the great Northwest to live with her aunt and uncle Sam and Josephine Turner. She worked in the shipyard alongside her aunt. She met her future husband, John, who was stationed at Vancouver Barracks. They carried on a long distance courtship by V-Mail and were married upon his return from the South Pacific. They had three children: Patricia, Ronald and Gloria. Her husband John died in 1999 after 53 years of marriage. She was preceded in death by her parents; grandparents; sister, Rita Edwards; brother, George Jackson; and son, Ronnie Bradford. She is survived by her brother, James Todd (Jean) of Phoenix, AZ; her niece, Kimberly Todd and nephew Jason Todd (Sherry) of Phoenix, AZ; and her daughters: Patricia A. Clark of Montello, NV and Gloria B. Miller (Ronnie) of Douglasville, GA.

Left to carry on the family legacy: Patricia's line: Shalon Nikel Citron (*granddaughter*) of Calabasas, CA, Alexys Patricya Delgado (*great-granddaughter*) of Richmond, VA, Zuri Solaris Delgado-Smith (*great-great-granddaughter*) of Richmond, VA, Alycia Banae Delgado (*great-granddaughter*) of Bushwick, MA, Edual Delgado, Jr. (*great-grandson*) of Bushwick, MA, Natalia Elise Harley (*great-granddaughter*) of Calabasas, CA, Sean Mikel Citron, Sr. (*grandson*) of Portland, OR, Sean Mikel Citron, Jr. (*great-grandson*) of Boise, ID, Cayse Mikel Citron (*great-grandson*) of Vancouver, WA, and Caiya Michealle Citron (*great-granddaughter*) Vancouver, WA. Ronnie's line: Nathan Lee Bradford, Sr. (*grandson*), Breonna Renee' Raines (*great-granddaughter*), Jade Renee' Raines (*granddaughter*), Journee Qiyana Raines (*great-great-granddaughter*), Nathan Lee Bradford, Jr. (*great-grandson*) all of Portland, OR, Nicole Renae Bradford (*granddaughter*) (Aaron) of Portland, OR, and Joshua Edward Bradford (*grandson*) of Portland, OR. Gloria's children: Tiffany Ruth Shaw (*granddaughter*) of Douglasville, GA, and Jon' Paul Shaw (*grandson*) (Tawanna) of Kansas City, MO.

Pauline had a variety of work experiences in low-paying jobs. She took the federal exam in the late 40s, scored high, but did not receive a call until 1951. And then, only as a temporary worker during tax season for the Internal Revenue Service. She and 2 others were the first African-Americans hired. She remained there until she became pregnant in 1954. At that time women were not granted maternity leave.

In 1956, she worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a fiscal clerk and later, as the first African-American female market news truck reporter. In 1964, another first included her decision to take advantage of the newly created college credit transfer program at Portland Community College. As an older student (36-years old), she broke new ground. Later, as several programs encouraged older students to return to school, she was used as an example of success. She received an Associate of Science degree in 1967. Moving to Portland State College, she obtained a Bachelor's of Science degree in Education in 1970. After discussing with her family, she decided to take an offer from Portland Public Schools to teach at Peninsula Elementary School in North Portland.

Mrs. Bradford started as a kindergarten teacher. One year she had students for two, nine weeks sessions, as the goal was to give students one half-year of kindergarten. The next year, the school went to a year-round schedule with four tracks: three tracks in nine-week sessions and one on vacation. In 1979, she took a nine-month sabbatical and completed her Master's in Education from the University of Portland. Shortly after returning to Peninsula school, she was promoted to Teacher on Special Assignment. At that time the duties were that of a Vice-Principal at an elementary school. Staff, students, and parents addressed and respected her in that role no matter how many times she corrected them. The staff at Peninsula School nominated her for Teacher of the Year. She retired in 1989, after seeing the last kindergarten class she taught, graduate from eighth grade. The school went to a Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade schedule in the fall of 1989.

Pauline was a lifetime member of Immaculate Heart Church. A devoted Catholic, she and John ensured that all their children went to parochial schools through high school. Pauline was active in the church and all activities, from Sunday Mass to fundraising events. And even to counting the Sunday Mass collections. She was a past President of the Immaculate Heart Grade School Parents' Club, and past Grand Lady Court #225 of the Knights of Saint Peter Clavier.

Although Mrs. Bradford worked, she also kept a very busy schedule within the community. She was an active member of many social, civic, professional, and national organizations. She also served in leadership roles as well. Her goal was to elevate all whom she came into contact with, and to ensure the preservation of African-American History in Portland, Oregon. Pauline completely embraced the motto: "*Lifting as We Climb*"

Pauline Bradford had a strong connection to the Albina and Eliot neighborhoods in Portland, where she lived for over 75 years. She served as a past president of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods. She also worked with the Portland Organizing Project, an alliance of churches founded in 1985, to eliminate the practice of redlining.

Mrs. Bradford had long been active in the National Association of Women's Clubs (NACWC), the oldest African-American women's organization in the United States (founded in 1896). In the 1950s, Pauline joined the Harriet Tubman Club at the invitation of her neighbor, Annie Conway. At the time, the Harriet Tubman Club at the time was one of 16 member organizations of the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs (OACW). First elected president of the Oregon Chapter in 1982, Pauline served several terms and was also elected as President of the Northwest Region of the Association.

Pauline was respected for her dedication and service to the community and her readiness to share her knowledge of the history of the area as well as advocate for fairness to all. She was also well-known as advocate for fairness to all. She was inducted into the NACWC Hall of Fame in 2012, one of the first inductees. Her crowning pride was being honored in 2013 as one of Portland's Black Pioneers by the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs and the placement of her picture on the top of the Urban League of Portland Plaza building!



## Awards & Acknowledgements

Pauline Bradford was an active member of many volunteer organizations, serving them in various capacities and leadership roles as well. A few of them are listed below.

President of Harriet Tubman Club  
 Past President of Les Femmes Club  
 Past President Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods and Former Board member  
 representing Eliot Neighborhood Association  
 Past Grand Lady Court #225 Knights of St. Peter Clavier  
 Past President of Oregon Assoc. of Colored Women's Clubs & Youth Affiliates  
 First elected in 1982 and served several terms.  
 Past President of NW Region National Assoc. of Colored Women's Clubs Inc. & Youth  
 Affiliates (Oldest Black Women's Organization - Organized 1896 Motto-"Lifting as We  
 Climb")  
 Past Member-At-Large of NACWC Board  
 Past President Alpha Delta Kappa, Oregon Alpha Chapter- Educators  
 Past President of Immaculate Heart Grade School Parents Club  
 Past Vice-President North Area of The Portland Organizing Project  
 (worked to eliminate redlining)  
 Portland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.: Past Recording Secretary and  
 Chaplain

Additional service on boards and advisory committees are listed below:

Interstate Urban Renewal Advisory Board  
 Convention Center Urban Renewal Advisory Board  
 Portland Family of Funds Advisory Board  
 Bosco-Milligan Foundation, Architectural & Historical Preservation  
 Lloyd District Development Strategy - PDC  
 Eliot Neighborhood Association Board and Eliot Land Use Committee

A sample of the awards and nominations:

Delta Sigma Theta - Women of Excellence in Education  
 Teacher of the Year - Nomination by Peninsula Elementary School Staff  
 Spirit of Portland Award - Nomination by NECN Board  
 Volunteer Services Portland Mentoring Program - Portland Public Schools  
 Portland Association of Teachers - Work as school representative  
 Project Down Payment  
 Portland Civic Index Project

Mrs. Pauline Bradford was respected for her dedication and service to the community, her willingness to share her knowledge of the history of the area, as well as advocating for fairness to all. She will truly be missed by her family, friends, community, and the city of Portland.

## Mother Kept A Garden

My Mother kept a garden.  
 A garden of the heart;  
 She planted all the good things,  
 That gave all our lives their start.

She turned us to the sunshine,  
 And encouraged us to dream.  
 Fostering and nurturing  
 The seeds of self-esteem.

And when the winds and rains came,  
 She protected us enough;  
 But not too much, she knew we'd need  
 To stand up strong and tough.

Her constant good example,  
 Always taught us right from wrong;  
 Markers for our pathway  
 To last our whole life long.

We are my Mother's garden,  
 We are her legacy.  
 And I hope today she feels the love,  
 Reflected back from our family.

-Unknown













