



## Celestine Heard

December 21, 1942 - January 27, 2020

### Celestine Heard Obituary

Celestine Heard, age 77, departed this life peacefully on Monday, January 27, 2020 at University Hospital. She was the cherished mother of Adrienne R. Clark, dear sister of Gretchen M. Heard (deceased), Dr. Lynn Milliner (Terry), Rev. Dr. Margie R. Crawford and Shelley Heard, loving aunt of 3 nieces, 1 nephew and 1 great niece and loved by a host of other relatives and friends. The family will receive friends Saturday, February 1st, 2-4 PM at the E. F. Boyd & Son Funeral Home, 25900 Emery Rd.

### Obituary for Sylvia Celestine Heard

Sylvia Celestine Heard, the eldest daughter of William and Helen Heard (nee Scott), was born in Cleveland, Ohio on December 21st, 1942. She was known as Celestine to her family and friends. Celestine spent her childhood years in a variety of plays at Karamu House. There she also developed a love for dance. Celestine graduated from John Hay High School in 1961. She married William Clark and welcomed Adrienne, their only child, in 1962.

Shortly thereafter, Celestine relocated to Brooklyn, New York in 1964 and always considered Brooklyn her home. As an adult, she received training in Theatre Arts at the Goodman School of Drama, School of the Arts Institute of Chicago and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City.

She was cast in the role of Ekeji-Oja, the mother, in *Death and the King's Horseman*. The play debuted at the Vivian Beaumont Theater at Lincoln Center in New York City on March 1, 1987. The show toured and performed at the Kennedy Theatre in Washington D.C. Her resume also included other stage productions: *Homeostatis: Once More the Scorpion* at the Festival Mondial du Theatre, Paris France, Off-Broadway productions including *A Son Come Home* and *Things of the Heart: The Marion Anderson Story*, and an array of television programs and commercials. Celestine was proud to work under the direction of Wole Soyinka and other well-known directors.

In 2009 Celestine moved back to Cleveland to be closer to her family. Celestine departed this life on January 27th, 2020. She was preceded in death by her parents William and Helen, her sister Gretchen and her stepfather Robert Crawford. She is survived by her daughter Adrienne, sisters Lynn Milliner (Terry), Margie Crawford, nieces Brittany, Ashley Adorno (Arnold) and Traci Milliner, nephew Terrance Crawford grand-niece Aubrey Adorno, and a host of loving family and friends.

To send flowers  
to the family or plant a tree  
in memory of Celestine Heard, please visit our floral store.

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# Tribute Wall

GM

“ I was listening to “œl Love You Porgy” by Nina Simone and naturally i thought of Celestine. It occurred to me i hadn’t spoken to her in some months so i called but to no avail. I was heartbroken to find this. My deepest condolences from brooklyn, where Celestine was dearly loved. Her presence was tremendous in any room. She fought for Park Slope with all of her heart and the neighborhood was never the same without her. I can’t believe she will never again tell me not to put her business out on front street. I love her dearly and am deeply saddened by her passing. My love to her family and friends who share my grief.

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**Greg Morabito** - May 22, 2020 at 02:21 PM

BR

“ I just saw this and wanted to send my condolences to Celestine's family and friends.I had the pleasure of working with her on Death and the King's Horseman.She was a joy to be around,with an infectious energy and engaging smile.She will always be remembered.

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**Barry Reneau** - April 10, 2020 at 11:38 PM

AM

“ May you find peace and strength In the days ahead through the love and caring of family and friends.

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**Andrea Moorer** - January 31, 2020 at 10:57 AM