



Elizabeth Wells

April 16, 2018

Elizabeth “Ann” Wells, Ann as she affectionately was called went to her heavenly home on April 16th 2018 after battling a long illness. Ann, daughter of the late Arthur Johnson and late Elizabeth Wilson Batiste was born on February 25, 1939 in New Orleans lead a full, and adventurous life. As a young child, she dreamed of traveling and experiencing all that the world had to offer. She got a quick taste of entrepreneurship with her first snowball stand and having long conversations about how she was going to make it “BIG and go up the line to New York City”. She made that dream a reality when she arrived in Harlem at the YWCA on February 25, 1959.

Ann was known for her determination and can’t stop attitude; thus quickly making a mark for herself in careers ranging from finance to modeling in the fashion industry. With her grace and charm (always reminding those of how she learned her etiquette and polish from charm school with the late Ophelia De Vore) she caught the eye of her soon to be husband the late Joseph Turner Wells and they were married in Brookline, Massachusetts on August 3, 1966.

Ann worked with her husband in the Historic Harlem landmark, Wells Restaurant, touted as the original “Famous Home of Chicken & Waffles” until its closure. Ann was always serving either in the restaurant or in the community. She had a passion for giving to others that included fostering children with the Edwin Gould Foundation; championing young women’s progress in youth homes and being a member of the Gamma Phi Delta

Sorority, Inc.'s Beta Omega Chapter of Yonkers New York.

After years of battling with COPD, she left her beloved New York and returned to New Orleans on New Year's Day 2014. She departed her earthly life peacefully at home, and she leaves to cherish her memory, her loving son Thomas Gant Jr. (Linda) of New Orleans, LA., Sister Barbara Johnson of Brooklyn Park, MN., Granddaughters Desiree Gant Jacobs (David) of Canton, Ga., Ariyana Gant Bragge (Conor) of Hong Kong, China, Kindall Nicole Gant of New York City, her Great Grandsons David and Dawson Jacobs, including Aunt Wilhelmina Edwards, Uncle Gerald Johnson, and a host of loving relatives and friends.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Memorial Services on Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM at Esplanade at the Park Clubhouse, 3443 Esplanade Ave., NOLA 70119. Interment was held at Mount Olivet Cemetery. Arrangements by: D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home 3933 Washington Ave., NOLA. Please visit www.rhodesfuneral.com to share online condolences.

In lieu of flowers please make donations in memory of Elizabeth Ann Wells to:
Culture for One, 110 E. 42nd St. Suite 18, NYC, NY 10017

Or Online At

Cultureforone.org (Make Sure To Say In Honor of Elizabeth Ann Wells)

“Bring the Power of the Arts to Children in Foster Care”

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 5. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Esplanade Park Clubhouse
3443 Esplanade Ave.
LA 70119

Tribute Wall

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“ Today I found out that Ms. Wells passed and my heart is heavy. Ms. Wells is someone I admired, respected, and loved very much because she was real to the core. She reminded me of my Mother and even resembled her. A true human being, unapologetic, aware of everything, and owning a tell it like it is built in grace only that generation could produce. The stories she shared with me I remember in great detail. They were wrapped in historical awe, unbelievable but actual facts, and amazing people with incredible experiences. When I was asked to be manager I knew who she was, until I really knew who she was, and the pleasure was all mine. So proud to be getting it straight from Ms. Wells herself. My time at Wells is a priceless gift I will never forget and one of the highlights of my life. We are the builders of our own experiences. Every opportunity to sit with her when things calmed down I couldn't wait for the wisdom and stories to flow. I always looked forward to sitting at that round table every night in the back with her. Arms folded and scanning the room making sure things ran smoothly. She shared so much of her Harlem Legacy that for her, was just her life. I am so blessed that my path crossed hers. Her stories for me, were and are, iconic history. We lost one of the nations greatest entrepreneurs that was for the people. Something that today seem to be equated in dollars with not enough sense. I know the family appreciates The Wells Legacy continuing on. I know Roscoe is glad he had those conversations with her right at the same table her and I sat at before he got started look at him now. Also to every restaurant in Harlem and the world serving chicken and waffles. A gift to the world placing smiles on the faces of children, families, hard workers, and in their hearts. I wonder how many know that it was a dish served to third shift workers free as an experiment. Rest in peace and love Ms. Wells you were the best of us, on the square. To the family, my deepest condolences and prayers to you. My light to yours..

Elliot Young - February 17, 2020 at 12:33 AM



Truly love eating there very classy be place thank you to the Wells Family

Theodora Crawford - March 26, 2021 at 01:22 PM