

Everyone should meet at least one person like Juliette Whittaker.

She was born in Houston, Texas. She was the daughter of a prominent attorney and a professor at the University of Houston. Juliette was a gifted child who completed college at the age of 17.

Although young in years, Juliette already knew what she wanted to do with her life. She shunned offers of wealth and comfort with Houston's Negro Renaissance Society. Instead Juliette traveled to Peoria, Illinois to work with underprivileged children. While working at Carver Community Center, Juliette took special pride in passing on her knowledge.

She was drama teacher, playwright, actress, stage hand and director. She was dance instructor, painter, set builder, artist and cabinetmaker. Not only could Juliette accomplish all the above tasks at the same time, but also she could accomplish them while beating you at a game of chess.

I used to envision Juliette's smile when she read this dedication, but unfortunately she passed away in 2007. Juliette, you are my angel. My love for you is eternal. Thank you for teaching me that eternal life is to leave the best part of yourself for those who come after you.

— Matthew Clark