

Juliette Whittaker

PEORIA — Ms. Juliette Whittaker, 80, of 6701 W. Plank Road, Peoria, passed away at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 2, 2007, at Belwood Nursing Home.

Ms. Whittaker was born Aug. 26, 1926, in Prairie View, Texas, to Francis and Julia (Evans) Whittaker.



**JULIETTE
WHITTAKER**
1985

Whittaker.

Ms. Whittaker leaves to cherish her most precious memories her loving and devoted sister, Martha (Lawrence) Collins Sr. of Houston, Texas; her

nephew and niece, Lawrence (Jacquelyn) Collins II. of Pearland, Texas, and Julia (Clint) Holthus of Herndon, Va.; a grand-nephew and grand-niece, Lawrence "Trey" III, Jacole Collins and her namesake, Juliette Holthus; and the Peoria community all of whom she adored.

Ms. Whittaker leaves an outstanding legacy. She is well known in Peoria, the African-American community and the nation as a whole as the music and drama director at the George Washington Carver Association, where she was Richard Pryor's mentor. As so eloquently stated by Mr. Percy Baker, Executive Director of the George Washington Carver Association, "Ms. Whittaker had a huge impact on the baby boomer generation, sacrificing her own personal life to help promote positive futures for many of our children in the Peoria community." She was the founder and principal of the School of Arts and Drama and became a 1990 inductee into the African American Hall of Fame in the field of education.

Ms. Whittaker received her undergraduate degree from Talladega College in Talladega, Ala., and earned her graduate degree from the University of Iowa. She was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

As a faithful member of the Baha'i Faith, a funeral service will be held noon Monday, May 7, 2007, at her beloved George Washington Carver Association Center. A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service, beginning at 11 a.m. The Spiritual Assembly of Peoria will officiate. Ms. Whittaker will be laid to rest at Parkview Cemetery. Simons Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.