

Ayanna Ade, Houston Revolutionary and Humanitarian, Dies at 62

Written by Ashura M.I.R. Bayyan
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Ayanna Ade Johnson, known and respected as an activist, and a true friend to everyone who met her, died Friday morning May 23. “Mama Ayanna,” as she was known affectionately, having delivered over 2,000 babies as a Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM), fought in the Black Power movement as a member of the Original Black Panther Party in both Oakland and the Houston Branch with other Party members like Carl Hampton, James Aaron, and Steve Edwards.

Looking at her life it becomes clear that she was a woman of great depth dedicated to a lifelong cause of social responsibility, leaving much to be admired. As a student completing undergrad work at Texas Southern University she joined the Houston Chapter of the Black Panther Party in 1972. In 1974 she went to Oakland, California where she joined the Oakland Panther chapter, teaching biology at the Oakland Community School and taking part in establishing the free breakfast program which has since been nationally adopted. She returned to Houston in 1978 where she continued to relentlessly serve people as a nurse, and upon receiving her Masters degree in Midwifery at Columbia University School of Nursing she set out on a career that has brought over 2000 babies into the world.

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