



Ruthie Mae Johnson

October 8, 1930 - November 5, 2021

Beloved Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, Great-Great Grandmother, Daughter, Sister, Aunt, Niece, Cousin and Friend

Ruthie Mae Johnson was born Ruthie Mae Hickson on October 8, 1930, in Newington, Georgia, to her parents, the late Jimmy and Myrtle Hickson. Ruthie Mae spent the majority of her early years in Newington. She was the third of four children and attended Central High School, Sylvania, GA, where she graduated in 1947.

Ruthie Mae married the late Eunice W. Johnson in April, 1952. Ruthie Mae and Eunice had five children, Wadine, Ashley Clair, Sandra, Beverlia and Jestus. Ruthie Mae and Eunice also had the joy of raising their niece, the late Sonsiray Hickson; and their grandson, Nathan Williams, affectionately known as "Nate."

As a young military wife with children, Ruthie Mae had the opportunity to live in several interesting places to include Shreveport, Louisiana, London, England and finally settling in Harrisburg, PA, in the early 60's. Ruthie Mae attended Central Pennsylvania Beauty School where she initially earned a cosmetology license and later became a Master Cosmetologist, initially owning her own storefront beauty shop in downtown Harrisburg. If not the first, Ruthie Mae was a forerunner as one of the first Black-owned businesses

located in downtown Harrisburg, PA. Ruthie Mae later moved her shop to the basement of her home on Sycamore Street where she continued to style clients' hair until she finally retired in her early 70's. During the course of her lifetime, Ruthie Mae was also fascinated with real estate. She purchased several homes in Harrisburg that she rented.

Although Ruthie Mae enjoyed doing hair and being a landlord, her first love was the church. Ruthie Mae loved the Lord. Again, Ruthie Mae Loved the Lord and she loved her church, St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church. As a member of St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church for more than fifty-five years, Ruthie Mae was very involved at church. She was a Sunday School Teacher, participated in the Prison Ministry and sang in the Henley Church Choir. She was also a Deacon, taught the New Members' class and taught Bible Study at church and in her home, to name a few. If the church doors were open, Ruthie Mae was there. Although she had five children of her own, she often "mothered" members of the church who also referred to her as "Mom Ruth."

Ruthie Mae loved her family and her family adored her. She will be remembered for praying before a holiday dinner and requesting that each family member in attendance recite a scripture. Ruthie Mae was also known by her family for her homemade pecan pies and her delicious chitterlings that she would make twice a year for Thanksgiving and Christmas for the few family members who indulged.

Ruthie Mae spent the last two years as a resident at Spring Creek Nursing home in Harrisburg, PA, where she was also treasured, often reading the Bible and sharing scripture with the staff.

On November 5, 2021, Ruthie Mae Johnson at the blessed age of ninety-one transitioned to eternal life. Ruthie Mae was preceded in death by her husband, Eunice Johnson; daughter, Sandra Johnson; sister, Katherine Hickson;

brother, Billy Hickson; nephew, Calvin Hickson; son, Ashley Clair Williams; and a granddaughter, Shonrell Smith.

Ruthie Mae leaves behind a 94-year-old sister, Rosalee Miller of Baltimore, MD; daughters, Wadine Smith of Chicago, IL, Beverlia Taylor (Archie) of Harrisburg, PA; son, Jestus Johnson, II (Justine) of Laurel, MD; and a son/grandson, Nathan Williams (Noel) of Fredericksburg, VA. Ruthie Mae also leaves behind grandkids, John Smith, Vernita Smith, Shonnate Smith, Diana Smith, Ashleigh Bouchelion-Howell (De Forrest) and Jestus Johnson, III; eight great-grandkids, Kayla Williams, Callum Davey, Gisel Williams, Julius Williams, Martay Payton, Monique Cornett, Romel Burns and Roman Howell; two great-great grandkids, Johnnail and Jeremiah Craig; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, godchildren and friends.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLICK ON THE SHARE A MEMORY TAB TO POST VIDEOS, SHARE MEMORIES, CONDOLENCES, REFLECTIONS OR SIMPLY YOUR NAME.

CLICK ON THE PHOTOS & VIDEOS ON-LINE STREAMING OF SERVICE TAB OR MEDIA TAB (MOBILE) AND TRIBUTE WEBCAST TO VIEW SERVICE.

Previous Events

Flower Delivery

NOV 20. 8:30 AM (ET)

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
1201 N. 17th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17103

Viewing

NOV 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
1201 N. 17th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17103

Service

NOV 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
1201 N. 17th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17103

Tribute Wall

CE

“ *Colleen Edwards lit a candle in memory of Ruthie Mae Johnson*



Colleen Edwards - November 22, 2021 at 11:00 AM

TK

“ *I had the privilege of representing Ruthie as her attorney on some legal matters after her husband Eunice passed away. I was impressed that whenever we would meet, Ruthie always carried her Bible in her hands. I remember Ruthie as a kind, gentle, and thoughtful person of great faith. I'm sure she will be greatly missed by her family and friends.*

Ted Knauss - November 17, 2021 at 01:24 PM

MS

“ *To the Family of Deaconess Ruthie Johnson,*

I love to hear her Pray to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at our Deaconess Service at the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church of Carlisle, Pa.. She was one of God's Servants. Our Prayers got out to her Family, just to Know that GOD will provided what is needed for the coming days.

*In His Service,
Deaconess Mary Lee Scott*

Mary Lee Scott - November 15, 2021 at 12:20 PM

BT

“ *Sincere condolences to Bev and the family.*

Beverly Bowman Thomas - November 15, 2021 at 10:28 AM

CE

Hairdresser wasFor HenriettaA beautifulJohnson

Colleen Edwards - November 22, 2021 at 11:02 AM

RS

“ *Miss Ruth was my favorite instructor at Central Penn Beauty School on 3rd St. in Harrisburg in 1967-1968. I never forgot her. Gentle, kind, loving and patient. God called his Angel home. Rest in peace Miss Ruth.*

Rosemary Vajda Stover - November 15, 2021 at 08:07 AM

JJ

“ *To the family of Miss Ruthie please accept my heartfelt condolences...she and my mother friends and she was our hairdresser..so you know I always got the talk of life alone with a hard press that lasted for two weeks. Lol however I was also honor to fellowship with her as member of Saint Paul's Baptist Church she was Prayer Warrior and Faithful Servant....Many Many good memories...Resy Easy as I know you are...*



J Jackson - November 12, 2021 at 04:08 AM