

Pallbearers

Family and Friends

Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

*When tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not here to see,
If the sun should rise and find your eyes, filled with tears for me.*

*I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today,
while thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.*

*I know how much you love me, as much as I love you,
and each time you think of me, I know you'll miss me too.*

*When tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand
That an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand*

*The angel said my place was ready in heaven far above
And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.*

*But when I walked through Heaven's gate, I felt so much at home
When God looked down and smiled at me from His great golden throne.*

*He said, "This is eternity and all I've promised you."
Today my life on earth is past, but here it starts anew*

*I promise no tomorrow but today will always last
And since each day's the same day, there's no longing for the past.*

*So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart,
For every time, you think of me, I'm right there in your heart.*

Services Entrusted To:

Taylor Street Chapel

1831 Taylor Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803)771-7799

I. S. Leevy Johnson
-Owner & Director-

Leevy's

F U N E R A L H O M E

Chris Leevy Johnson
-President & Managing Director-

Lower Richland Chapel

9120 Garners Ferry Road
Hopkins, SC 29061
(803) 776-6922

Leverette A. Williams, II
-General Manager-

In Loving Memory of

Mrs. Ruth Mae Johnson Stevenson



Tuesday, June 13, 2023

11:00 a.m.

Reid Chapel A.M.E. Church

704 Gabriel Street

Columbia, South Carolina

Reverend Carey A. Grady, Pastor

Reflections of the Life *of* *Mrs. Ruth Mae Johnson Stevenson*

Mrs. Ruth Mae Johnson Stevenson was born on January 31, 1947 in Harlem, New York to Corine Johnson and Stomes Lorine aka Solomon Martin. The oldest of six, Ruth was raised to be responsible early. She took pride in education, and not disappointing her Mom.

She graduated high school early, due to skipping a grade because of her academic excellence. Then it was off to community college. Ruth strongly felt that a good education gives way to a good career—where she could (and did) provide for her offspring. Aside from having a sincere thirst for knowledge, upward-mobility. “Serial Student,” she’d find herself matriculating: college courses most of her adult life, off and on. When the phone company granted scholarships, she couldn’t believe her luck—to work for a company that would pay her a salary **and** pay for her to go to school...ever grateful! Yes, Ruthie retired from the phone company after nearly thirty years of service. She was with [them] throughout most of their name changes: *Ma Bell, NYNEX, Verizon*. and she shined there too, like she did in school. Most notable, an award luncheon for perfect attendance and punctuality in eleven years. 11 Years! No easy feat. Did I mention *Avon*? That too, for years—dedication to beauty. So much so, it’s her daughter’s middle name, part of it. She also procured her Real Estate License circa late 1980s.

When thinking of Ruthie’s work ethic, her giving nature, other adjectives that start with **R** comes to mind: reliable, responsible, redeeming, religious, her youthful radiant beauty, and exquisite penmanship, just to quickly mention a few. Very generous, especially with her home: many people over the years went to stay at Ruthie’s house. She was giving with food too—never one to be the proverbially *food-police*. It’s believed that’s why she was always blessed with housing and food due to this altruistic nature. Humanitarian work she equated to God’s work. She never wanted to disappoint The Lord, or her Mother. Her Mom was the first to introduce her to God via *7 Day Adventist*. Once grown, she’d later embrace the Baptist faith; then once she and her kids moved to Queens. About six years in, she joined *Abraham Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion*, where, she was a loyal member for nearly forty years. She became a member at *Reid Chapel A.M.E.* in 2018.

Some say she was a hopeless-romantic: married four times. Mothered five, progeny. She never gave up on love—family oriented. It warmed her heart to merge family—when she met her father’s side in Belize, joy overboard! ‘Trips, vacations, she loved to gather in harmony and celebrate life! Upbeat, personable, friendly soul. Never used profanity, never called people *out-of-their-name* (even when upset), didn’t drink liquor or smoke—no, not even in her youth. And yes, again, she’s from Harlem! An anomaly, one-of! Memorable, harmless, humorous, an optimist. Not just for herself, but for the world. She really held the hope that **world peace** is really possible with compassion and The Lord.

Hobbies: *Bid Whist! Spades!* But especially the former! **She** played that game well!

Ruth is survived by her five children: Luther, Arkeshia, Elroy, Jacquana, and Sherman; her surviving siblings: Tyrone, Corine, and Martha. Ruthie is now with her parents; her siblings, Richard and Linda; and other ancestors in Heaven. She is also survived by her grandchildren: Shawnique, Natasha, Justin, Jamik, Jahze`, and Chance; great-grand, Symphony, Ariel, and Kadyne; a host of other relatives, friends, and acquaintances. Gratitude!

Order of Service

- Prelude
- Processional
- Viewing.....Funeral Directors
- Hymn of Praise.....“Amazing Grace”
- Invocation
- Responsive.....“Let The Church Say Amen”
- Selection.....“Yes, God Is Real”
- Old Testament.....Psalm 23
- New Testament.....Philippians 4:13
- Selection.....“His Eye Is On The Sparrow”
- Poem.....Ms. Gionna Nicole
- Remarks.....Mr. Kevin Speaks
Mrs. Carolyn Bethea
Reverend Corine Mack
Mrs. Taylor
- Selection.....“Through It All”
- Words of ComfortReverend Carey A. Grady
- Recessional
- Postlude



Committal, Benediction and Interment

1:00 P.M.
Fort Jackson National Cemetery
4170 Percival Road
Columbia, South Carolina

Acknowledgement

We, the family of the late Ruth Mae Johnson Stevenson, would like to thank each of you for your many expressions of love during the passing of our loved one. We pray that the Lord blesses each you in a very special way.