

You Will Never Walk Alone

When you walk through the storm,
hold your head up high
and don't be afraid of the dark.
At the end of the storm is a golden sky
and the sweet silver song of a lark
Walk on through the wind,
walk on through the rain,
for your dreams be tossed and blown
Walk on, walk on,
with hope in your heart
and you'll never walk alone,
You'll never walk alone
Walk on, walk on,
with hope in your heart
and you'll never walk alone,
You'll never walk alone

Pallbearers

Family and Friends

Floral Bearers

Nieces

Acknowledgement

We, the family of the late Ruth Jean McClerklin, thank each of you for your prayers, cards, calls, and other expressions of love. Your many gestures of kindness have made our time of loss a little easier to bear. May God bless and keep each of you in His care.

Services Entrusted To:

Taylor Street Chapel 1831 Taylor Street Columbia, SC 29201 (803)771-7799 I. S. Leevy Johnson -Owner & Director-	Leevy's FUNERAL HOME 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-
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In Loving Memory of

Mother Ruth Jean Powell McClerklin



Saturday, August 10, 2024

1:00 p.m.

*Refuge Temple
Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ
4450 Argent Court
Columbia, South Carolina*

*Bishop Sylvester Reid
-Pastor-*

Obituary

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.... II
 Timothy 4:7

“You must take it to the Lord in prayer” and “Trusting God is what works for me” are the foundational responses and sage advice that Ruth would give when the storms of life raged. Her faith and relationship with God caused her to endure tremendous trials and conquer many battles. She was the quintessential Proverbs 31 woman.

Ruth Jean (Powell) McClerklin was born on September 9, 1939, in Durham, NC. She was the youngest child and only daughter of Joseph Powell, Sr. and Virginia Austin Powell. While still a young child, her family moved to New York where she grew up and developed her northern flair. Although she was the youngest and the only girl, she was a dedicated supporter and protector of her family. After high school, Ruth married her childhood sweetheart, Fred “Mike” McClerklin and accompanied him on his many military tours and lived in many countries where she learned the native languages. During their union, Ruth and Mike reared 5 children.

Ruth accomplished many monumental things during her lifetime. She was the sewing instructor at the Heyward Career Center. Her sewing talents sparked her entrepreneurial desire to start her own business, RJM Collections, where she designed and sewed formal wear for weddings, proms, funerals, clerical wear, choir robes, and upholstered fine furniture. Ruth was a philanthropist who worked diligently with her husband, Elder Fred McClerklin, to form the “Willing Workers,” a group of people who served residents in convalescent facilities throughout the city of Columbia. Dedicating her leadership skills and musical talents to the church, Ruth served as the youth president of the ABYPU (Armor Bearers Young People’s Union) and was the directress of both the adult and youth choirs in several churches. “Ride on King Jesus” and “It’s Gonna Rain” were among the many requested songs which she directed. She discovered and developed many vocal talents with her musical coaching skills. She had the ability to dig deep and pull out the talent hidden inside of others. Ruth was a true teacher with a passion for children and teenagers. She was the listening ear and problem solver for many people, children, and adults alike. Yet, her abilities began at home with her own children. Ruth had a fervent desire for her children to become more successful than her. She pushed, coached, encouraged, and celebrated her children as they all achieved levels of success, each of them inheriting her entrepreneurial skills. She was the epitome of the wife described in Proverbs 31.

She was a tireless supporter of her husband and was the backbone of his successes. Her goal was to achieve her own dreams while humbly helping others achieve their dreams.

Ruth is survived by her husband, Fred McClerklin (married 64 years); her children, Anthony (Sarina) McClerklin, Juanita McClerklin, and Chris McClerklin; her brother, Lorenzo (Judith) Powell; her sisters, Yvonne Powell, and Alesia Powell; her grandchildren, David Bookman, Jr., Tiffany Bookman, Michael McClerklin, Jr, Jeremy McClerklin, Joshua McClerklin, and Jonah McClerklin, Jalen Tobin, Justin Tobin, and Alexis McClerklin; great-grandchildren, Destiny, Jayden, Faith, Kash, Empress, Justine, and Justiniano. She also leaves many nieces, nephews, a host of other relatives, and friends.

Memories



A Service of Remembrance

- Prelude
- Processional.....Officiant and Family
 “Total Praise”
- Opening Selection.....“Highway to Heaven”
- Scripture Reading:
 Old Testament.....Evon Powell
 New Testament..... Olivia Ashford
- Prayer of Comfort..... Olivia Ashford
- Selection.....Anthony Outten & City Wide Chorale
 “Ride on King Jesus”
- Remarks(Three Minutes, Please)..... Alfreda Eaddy
 Estelle Boutry, Kimberly Grant, Brittany Paige,
 Alexis McClerklin, Sheree Thomas, Anita Brown, Pat,
 Shirlene Stewart and Evon Powell
- Selection..... Anthony Outten & City Wide Chorale
 “It’s Gonna Rain”
- Words of ComfortThe Children of Mrs. McClerklin
- Viewing*In the Vestibule*..... Funeral Directors
- Recessional.....“Trust Me”
- Postlude



Committal, Benediction and Interment

12:00 Noon, Monday, August 10, 2024
Fort Jackson National Cemetery
4170 Percival Road
Columbia, South Carolina