



*Celebrating The  
Life of*

*Mattie R. Mercer*

*Sunrise  
December 27, 1936*

*Sunset  
August 27, 2011*

## *Reflections of Life*

Today, God called us together to witness the Home Going of one of His children, **Mattie Ruth Mercer**, who also was lovingly known as “Aunt Matt” and “Nana.”

Mattie Ruth was born on December 27, 1936 to the late Vinson and Rose Anna Barnes in Wilson County, NC.

In the early morning of Saturday, August 27, 2011, at Presbyterian Hospital in NYC, God in his infinite wisdom called his servant home to rest.

Mattie received her education in the Wilson County Public School Systems.

In 1955, she married the late James Croom, Jr. and from this union a son, James Earl Croom (Tuttie) was born.

In 1958, Matt and her young son James Earl (Tuttie) relocated to New York City. There, in May of 1958, she married the late Marvin Mercer II, and from that union a second son, Marvin Mercer III was born.

Mattie was faithful and accepted Christ as her Savior and attended Convent Avenue Baptist Church in NYC.

Mattie Ruth retired in 1999 from the Community Affairs Corp as a Home Attendant.

She also was a devoted Foster Mother for the Angel Guardian Home where she was given some of the toughest cases which she handled diligently with much love and care until her health began to fail.

Mattie Ruth was known to have a feisty spirit, outgoing personality, a person you could always count on. She would make you laugh with various jokes, old sayings and pranks. She was known as the tough one in the family and would say she could out box her brothers any given day.

However, she was a no nonsense person when it came to her family. She was a devoted friend, counselor, as well as a surrogate mother and grandmother to many children.

Mattie was preceded in death by her brother, Leroy Barnes.

Her memory is engraved in the hearts of: her children, James Earl Croom (Tuttie) and Marvin Mercer III; one daughter-in-law, Tanya Mercer of NYC; two sisters, Earlene Brown of Virginia Beach, VA and Carolyn Mazyck of Baltimore, MD; three brothers, Joseph Barnes of Norfolk, VA, Benjamin Barnes (Carrie) of Virginia Beach, VA and Luther Barnes (Sarah) of Bronx, NY; a sister-in-law, Margaret Barnes of Los Angeles, CA; five grandchildren, Samantha, Justin, Kendra, Brianna and Christine; a great niece, Taylor, who was like a granddaughter; a special niece, Regina Rich of White Plains, NY; a special nephew, Renard Barnes of West Orange, NJ; and a host of other loving nieces and nephews, cousins, friends and a special friend, Ronnie.

# *Order of Service*

## **VISITATION**

*Tuesday, September 6, 2011 - 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.*

NEWKIRK FUNERAL HOME, INC.

### ***Remarks***

Reverend Dahlia Walks-Moore  
Family & Friends

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## **VISITATION**

*Saturday, September 10, 2011 - 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.*

HAMILTON FUNERAL HOME

### ***Remarks***

Family & Friends

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## **GRAVESIDE SERVICE**

*Saturday, September 10, 2011 - 12:00 Noon*

***Reverend Victor Vaines, Officiating***

Wilson Chapel Church Cemetery  
Wilson County, North Carolina



# I Am Free

Don't grieve for me, for I am free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took His hand when I heard Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day.

To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,

Then fill it with remembered joy.

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.

My life's been full, I savored much.

Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.

Lift up your heart and share with me,

God wanted me now

He Set Me Free!

## Acknowledgement

*The family of **Mattie Ruth Mercer** wishes to thank each and everyone for their many acts of kindness shown at this time of sorrow. May God forever bless and keep you all.*

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted to:

**NEWKIRK FUNERAL HOME, INC.**

210 West 145th Street • New York, NY 10039 • (917) 312-3984

&

**HAMILTON FUNERAL HOME**

726 South Tarboro Street • Wilson, NC • (252) 291-0234