

*In Loving Memory of*



*Rose Starks*

February 18, 1947 - June 29, 2015

*Service*

*Friday, July 17, 2015 - 12:00 Noon*

**Whigham Funeral Home**

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Newark, New Jersey

## *Obituary*

**Mrs. Rose Starks** entered this life on February 18, 1947 to the late Benjamin and Alice Aghaegbuna in Achi, Nigeria. After a lengthy illness, Rose departed this life on Monday, June 29, 2015.

Rose was educated in the Nigerian school systems before ultimately graduating from the School of Fashion Design in London, England, with a degree in Fashion Design and Merchandising. She was a graduate of Wilfred Beauty School who perfected her makeup skills through Almay Beauty Culture. A shrewd business woman, she quickly set up a beauty salon and MaiRose affectionately known as “Akwa Rose”, a wholesale fabric and couture clothing business. Her business tenacity and ability to “hold her own” led to success in these areas. Her prosperity also ensured the feeding and protection of her relatives in Aghaegbuna Compound during the Biafran Civil War. In later years, this same discipline would lead her to reinvent herself as an Allied Health professional, providing inhome care for patients. She never missed a day of work and was always punctual. Her perfect attendance, charisma and ability to get along with others, made her highly sought after for professional assignments. She worked without interruption in Ridgefield, New Jersey until 2000 when she had a seizure and went into a coma due to stroke. But the tough cookie that she was, she came out of her coma and went on to regain her full speech and mobility through many years of intensive therapeutic rehabilitation.

Rose was as beautiful and as elegant as a rose. Her beauty was admired by many, but only the debonaire and hardworking oil business manager, Mr. John Holmes was lucky enough to capture her heart and win the approval of her “no nonsense” father. Mr. Holmes traveled several times to Achi to meet her father, and successfully performed the traditional marriage ceremony according to native customs. The couple moved to England where she gave birth to Ian, their only son and greatest joy. In later years, Rose did remarry to Mr. Grady Starks.

Rose is blessed to have and be survived by her son, Ian and six grandchildren, Jacob, Tyra, Jalen, Darius, Davian and Adrian; her sister, Elizabeth and brother, Herbert, other sisters and brothers include Ego (Florence), Comfort, Leticia (Chinyere), Martin, Lilly, George, Njideka and Kenneth. Other survivors include Madam Ngozika Aghaegbuna and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Rose was a good daughter, a protective sister, a loving mother, a cool aunt, a proud grandmother and a reliable friend. She was a successful and resourceful entrepreneur, a dedicated and diligent health professional and always looked out for the welfare of her relatives and friends. She fought like a giant, but always behaved like a lady. She was never aggressive, but she was fearless; some who know her may even say “head strong” when she had to be. She respected people and allowed you to be yourself. She was a humanitarian and a role model. She could find and see the good in people and people always wanted to be in her good graces. She was popular but discreet and could always be trusted. She lived a memorable life. Rose will always be cherished and forever admired.

# Order of Service

Visitation

Musical Meditation ..... “The Lord's Prayer”

Family Processional

Opening Prayer ..... Father Ernest

Prayer of Comfort ..... Pastor Lilly Okpara (Sister)

Remarks to the Family

(In Igbo/English) ..... Mrs. Chinwe Roseline Ikedinma-Atkinson

First Scripture Reading, Psalm 23 ..... Mr. Ian Holmes (Son)

Second Scripture Readings ..... by Rose's Grandchildren

    John 14:1-4 ..... Tyra (Granddaughter)

    John 14:5-6 ..... Jacob (Grandson)

    2 Corinthians 4:16 ..... Jalen (Grandson)

    1 Corinthians 15:55 ..... Darius (Grandson)

Hymn ..... “It Is Well With My Soul”

Message ..... Father Ernest

Hymn ..... “Amazing Grace”

Opening Tribute ..... Chief Anyafurugo Elizabeth Iroku (Sister)

Tribute ..... Mr. Ian Holmes (Son)

Reflections ..... Other Family Members and Friends  
(limit to 2 minutes please)

Acknowledgements ..... Chief Anyafurugo Elizabeth Iroku

Reading of the Obituary ..... Betty Iroku (Niece)

Eulogy ..... Dr. Herbert Egbuna (Brother)

Closing Prayer ..... Father Ernest

Vote of Thanks and Announcements ..... Dr. Herbert Egbuna  
(On Behalf of The Family)

## **Interment**

Rosedale Cemetery  
Linden, New Jersey

*“Nothing Gold Can Stay”, Robert Frost*

Nature's first green is gold,  
Her hardest hue to hold.  
Her early leaf's a flower;  
But only so an hour.  
Then leaf subsides to leaf,  
So Eden sank to grief,  
So dawn goes down to day  
Nothing gold can stay.

Pall Bearers

Ken Egbuna	Ian Holmes
Matt Iroku	Jalen Holmes
Mike Egbuna	Jacob Ortiz

*Acknowledgement*

*We appreciate you all, for coming from near and far, to join us in paying our final respects to our dear Rose, whom we love and cherish so much. We would like to acknowledge each and every one of you for rallying around us, in this our moment of grief. Thank you for your responsiveness and words of encouragement. You have allowed us to know that we are not alone in our sadness and that you feel, or understand our loss. Your presence today, speaks volumes. May the spirit of humanity and the blessings of prosperity that Rose shared during her lifetime, continue on in your good deeds of friendship and great works of kindness.*

*The Family.*

