

A Celebration of Life



Rita Ann McClain

Sunrise
August 3, 1950

Sunset
July 27, 2017

Service

Thursday, August 3, 2017 - 11:00 a.m.

Zion Hill Baptist Church

152 Osborne Terrace

Newark, New Jersey 07112

Pastor Douglas L. Williams, III, Officiating

Obituary

Rita Ann McClain, our beloved mother, wife, sister, aunt, cousin and friend. Born August 3, 1950 in the small town of Choccolocco, Alabama to the late Thomas "Bud" Crawford and Buena Vista Crawford. Rita was the youngest of eight children.

Rita was raised in South Plainfield, New Jersey and graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1969. She held several factory line positions before becoming a long time employee of Ethicon in Somerville, New Jersey where she dedicated 30 years of her life. Rita later retired from Actavis Pharmaceuticals in 2013.

Rita was once married to the late William Thomas Knight and they had one child together; Shalea Browne. After many years of waiting for love to return, Rita married Thomas McClain Jr. on August 16, 2015.

Once a member of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Newton, New Jersey, she enjoyed singing in the choir and helping with after service dinner on Sundays.

Rita enjoyed spending time with her three treasured granddaughters. Tiffany Haynes, Alivia Browne and Kendall Browne. It brought her so much joy watching them grow. She also enjoyed concerts, comedy shows, traveling and shopping. Coupon in hand she always found a great deal. Rita's laugh was infectious and she truly enjoyed life. Rita would walk into a room and light it with her natural glow and warmth. She also enjoyed music classics such as Smokey Robinson and The Supremes to name a few. Rita loved to "cut a rug."

Surrounded by her loved ones at the JFK Hospital in Edison, New Jersey; Rita departed from earth and made her transition on July 27, 2017. She was predeceased by her mother Buena Vista Crawford and father Thomas "Bud" Crawford, her only sister Catherine "Cat" Darby; her brothers Andrew, Billy Rogers, Joe Lewis and Robert Crawford and her beloved niece Mary Young.

Rita will forever be remembered by her daughter and three granddaughters, her brothers Ben Earl and Fredrick Douglas, her three stepchildren Tonya Brown, Kimberly Knight and William Knight Jr., her devoted husband Thomas McClain Jr. and his four children Marcel, Julian, Brian and Katrina along with countless other friends and family.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude.....Mr. Carlton Pope

Opening Selection.....“*Never Would Have Made It*”

Scripture Readings

Old Testament.....Psalm 23

New Testament.....John 14:1-7

Selection.....“*The Lord’s Prayer*”

Special Tributes.....Family & Friends
(2 minutes please)

Special Reflections.....Mr. Thomas McClain, Jr.
Husband

Reading of the Obituary.....Safiya Wilson

Selection.....“*Take Me To The King*”

Message of Hope.....Pastor Douglas L. Williams, III

Recessional.....Clergy, Family & Friends

Interment

Hillside Cemetery
Scotch Plains, New Jersey

A Gift From Heaven

*I am with you always, I live in your heart
I speak to your soul, We are not far apart*

*When you feel a light breeze,
Hear the songs the birds sing
Know that I see every smile,
Your kindness can bring*

*I see you building your dreams,
With wisdom and grace
And asking His guidance,
With each challenge you face
I am more than a memory,
You will feel our love grow
I am forever your angel,
Some things you just know*

*Please tell me your thoughts,
Your hopes and your fears
And know that through faith,
He will heal all your tears*

*For today, I can share, That in heaven above
God has taken my hand,
I am complete, I am love*



In Appreciation

*The family of **Rita Ann McClain** acknowledges with sincere appreciation your prayers, words of comfort and out pouring of support. Your friendship and presence is a great source of support and strength during this period of sorrow.*

Professional Services by:

Whigham Funeral Home

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Newark, New Jersey 07102

973-622-6872

Carolyn Whigham, Director

