

Celebrating the Life of
Ruth Johnson-Martin

SUNRISE: March 15, 1931 - SUNSET: July 22, 2024



Tuesday, August 6, 2024
Viewing: 10am - 11am
Service: 11am

Shiloh Baptist Church
2226 7th Avenue • New York, NY 10027
Rev. Dr. Calvin G. Sampson, Officiating

Obituary

Ruth Johnson-Martin was born in Early County, Blakeley, Georgia on March 15, 1931. She was the 10th child between her parents, Vallie and George Rogers; 37th child that her father had from 2 previous marriages, her mother Vallie was his 3rd wife. Her parents were sharecroppers in Blakeley, GA. Her great grandmother was born after 1869 and she was born free and all of her descendants.

My mother tells the story of her older sister Marie, sponsoring a trip for her and her sister Mary to her home in Detroit, Michigan. She reports that after seeing lights come on in the street by electricity, there would be no more kerosene lamps for her back in Georgia. She said that she was city bound. She married Bennie James Johnson and of this union there were 3 children. One surviving child Delores Johnson who she referred to affectionately as her one and only. They migrated to Daytona Beach Florida, and then to New York City. There she embraced the City and enjoyed it to the fullest, she had left the South and didn't look back. After that marriage, God sent her a very good man and one that was good to her, her second marriage. His name was Wade Martin.

She continued her education where she received her High School Diploma. Ruth refused to accept a G.E.D. she wanted the benefits of a full education, that was very important to her to receive her High School Diploma. With the help of fellow parishener Edith Randolph, she was encouraged to take Civil Service Exams, which she passed and started her career as a Bookkeeper for the Department of Finance for the City of New York. Where she stayed employed for 23 years and then she retired, but she always took upgrading exams. She received a lot of recognition and certificates for her work performance.

God gave her the talent for cooking, but she didn't care if there was a kitchen in her house or not. Oh did she love her sweets! Chocolate, sweet potato pie, and especially banana pudding those were second to the casino where she was very lucky. She enjoyed traveling to Atlantic City. Ruth was an outdoor person...

She embraced the Christian faith early in life. At one time she had seven ordained ministers in her family. She joined Shiloh Baptist Church where she served as the president of the young adult choir for many years. She was an active member of the Seasoned Citizens Bible Study. Her oldest nephew has a street named after him in Deland, FL. He faithfully served his church in Deland and a street was named after him in his honor, Rev. Walter Sanders was the street name.

Ruth Johnson Martin never outwardly showed any signs of WORRY. She worried about nothing! I know that she prayed often inside our house. I now realize that she took all her worries to the Lord and left them there. She prayed and trusted in him and knew that he would order her steps, and his will would be done. She was a free spirit and I used to say, "She was a bit to Free Monetarily at me and my stepfathers Expense!" I learned from one of her co-workers that she would brag how my stepfather and I would spoil her. I can reflect on my life growing up she made a lot of sacrifices on my behalf and I never went hungry a day in her house. She did the best she could and alright by me. I'm glad I had the opportunity to show and tell her how much I appreciated all and what she did for me. I thank God for that. I prayed to God for her when she couldn't; asking him to remember her on Judgement Day. She loved and gave him good service til the End. By the Grace of God he allowed her to stay alive as long as he did. I hated to see her go, but that was her journey. I love her and I will miss her. She is survived by a host of family and friends; and her devoted niece, Willie Mae McCray.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

“We Come This Far By Faith”

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 10

New Testament - Acts 4:12

Prayer

Terry Rogers (Cousin)

Selection

“You Can’t Make Me Doubt Him”

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Odessa Allen (Friend)

Patricia Wright (Neighbor)

Valerie Fryar (Micie)

(Devoted Friend)

Obituary

Selection

“Order My Steps”

Eulogy

Committal

Recessional



Interment
Calverton National Cemetery
Calverton, New York



Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.

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J&J