

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

*Rose  
Mary  
LaRose*

Sunrise  
January 27, 1954

Sunset  
October 2, 2024

Friday, October 11, 2024 - 6:00pm

**Gilmore Look & Live Ministry**

68 Haledon Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07522

*Rev. Patrick Farrar, Pastor*

*Rev. Jerry Wilder, Officiating*

# Obituary

Rose Mary LaRose was born on January 27, 1954, in Darlington, SC to the late James Lighty, Sr. and Leeila Mae Lighty.

When the family relocated to New Jersey, Rose Mary attended the Paterson Public School System and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School. She furthered her education and obtained her associate's degree in Business/Accounting.

As a young child Rose Mary learned from her mother how important it was to trust and believe that God was able to do all things. Her and her mother had a special bond. They worked together at White Metal/Colgate Manufacture Company, and they were both expecting at the same time.

Rose was employed by the United States Postal Service for 34 years before retiring. While there, she worked closely with her sister-in-law Gail Coley, brother-in-law Richard Dock, and adopted son Winston Martin. During that time is when she met Pastor Jerry Wilder, and he would always talk to her about faith. Rose once told her sister Elizabeth (Kitty) that he was like Steve Urkel, and she was Laura from the tv show Family Matters, because he was very persistent in wearing her down.

Due to this newfound friendship, Rose joined and became a faithful member of Grace and Restoration Fellowship Church under the spiritual tutelage of Pastor Jerry Wilder. After giving her life to Christ, Rose became a dedicated member and served in various capacities while in the church. She served as an Usher; greeter and she sang in the choir. She was the mother of the church and led GRF's Morning Glory Prayer sessions on Tuesday mornings.

Mama Rose as she was affectionately called by family members and friends, was a prayer warrior, and every Friday along with her prayer partner, Pastor Teresa Gordon not only prayed for one another, but they prayed for the Body of Christ and others. Her favorite scripture was Psalms 91. She prayed that her sons would come to know and serve the God that she loved and served. She was a member of the International F. & A.M. Masons, the Order of the Eastern Star, and Bethune Grand Chapter, Georgia Benjamin Grand District No. 7. She was also a member of Lady Alethia Chapter #188 Paterson, NJ, and the Chaplain for her Chapter and always was asked to be the Chaplain for other sisters alongside Brother David Edwards.

Rose gave so much of her love, time, and energy to her sons. She had a special bond with each of them. She would keep it real with her oldest son Christopher, and have heartfelt conversations about life and love with Kareem. Her bond with the twins was evident in many things that she did. She was always making sure that they were well taken care of. Although Antonio moved to Alabama, they would always keep in contact by talking on the phone.

She loved helping others, and gave back to the community by volunteering at the Grandparent Relatives Care Senior Community Resource Center Inc. in Paterson. She was always attending various events, charities, and giving herself to make life easier and better for others. Rose enjoyed traveling so much that she had to update her passport numerous times. On her family reunion cruise in August 2023 she smiled, danced and visited various locations. On the tour of Ocho Rios, Jamaica the tour guide constantly told her how beautiful she was, and he wanted her to sit in the front seat so he could look at her from time to time. During dinner one night on the cruise, Rose and her sister Elizabeth (Kitty) started singing one of Rose's favorite Tina Turner songs. She had the entire restaurant staff and patrons singing along with them and doing the dance moves to the song.

Rose loved to sing and dance and was often called the queen of line dancing. She enjoyed eating at Olive Garden with her close friend and confidant Doreen Carter. She would talk and visit her long-time good friend/sister Barbara Bazemore who would often take care of many household duties to ease Rose's load. Rose also had a special bond with her friend Edythe Gibson. They would talk often about their children and how important it was to show up for the people you love.

When Rose became sick, she didn't want to let her illness slow her down. She continued to visit her parents daily, watch various game shows such as Law & Order, and sports, even though she wasn't a sports fan, and started working part time for the City of Paterson as a Crossing Guard to keep busy.

On Wednesday, October 2, 2024, Rose Mary departed this life. She was met at heaven's gate by those who preceded her in death, the love of her life; Jerry Wheeler, her father; James Lighty Sr., brothers; James Lighty, Jr. and Woodrow Lighty, maternal grandparents; Calperta Davis and Charlie Byrd, paternal grandparents; Clyde Lighty, Sr., and Leila Lighty, nephew; Daron Lighty, and niece; Kimberly Lighty-Ogelsby.

Rose is survived by her mother; Leeila Mae Lighty, stepfather; Hazel McClain, sons; Christopher Lighty (Katrina) of Paterson, NJ, Kareem Lighty of Vermont, twins; Hilton Lighty (Anna), and Leondrey Lighty of Paterson, NJ, and Antonio Wheeler, of Alabama, four sisters; Shirley Lighty (Ronald) of Hopkins, SC, Elizabeth Lighty-Dock (Richard) of Paterson, NJ, Sandra Ijioma of Spartanburg, SC and Cynthia Lighty-Chain (Ameen) of Paterson, four brothers; Louis Ellerbee Lighty (Frances) of Paterson, NJ, Anthony Lighty (Cynthia) of Spartanburg, SC, Perry Lighty (Shimeka) of Clifton, NJ and Derrick Lighty of Spartanburg, SC, sisters in law; Georganna McCray of SC and Gail Coley of Paterson, NJ, Her legacy will continue with her granddaughters; Banisha Williams, Janay Pipkin, Keandrea Lighty, Christahje Lighty, Qimoni Lighty, Adiva Benbow Lighty, Deserae Reardon, Bahjane Reels, Joy Rose Lighty, and Kayla Wheeler, grandsons; Caziek Lighty, Raazon Lighty, Norese Newsome, and Avery Wheeler, Goddaughters; LaShonda Davis, Jennifer Damon and Shania Smith, 11 great grandchildren, and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends who will miss her dearly.

# Order of Service

Call to Worship ..... Pastor Teresa Gordon

Selection..... Kayla Bullock

## Scripture Readings

Old Testament .....Elder Jerry Wilder Jr.

New Testament .....Anthony Lighty (Brother)

Reading..... Yolanda Dock-Mack (Niece)

Prayer of Comfort..... Elder Jerry Wilder Jr.

Selection ..... Kayla Bullock

A Letter to Mom .....Cynthia Lighty-Chain (sister)

Remarks..... Family and Friends

Clergy Remarks..... Elder Virginia Chatman

Reading..... Amirah Powell- Great Niece

Special Remarks..... Christajah Lighty-Grand Daughter

Obituary..... Nancy Stewart

Poem .....Nancy Stewart

Words of Comfort .....Pastor Jerry Wilder Sr.

Grace and Restoration Fellowship Church

Recessional

## *Interment*

Saturday, October 12, 2024 - 10:00AM

East Ridgelawn Cemetery

225 Main Ave

Clifton, NJ 07011



## Acknowledgment

The family wishes to thank all of you for your prayers, messages of comfort and the many other acts of kindness shown during our hour of bereavement.

May God continue to bless you in a very special way.

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