

Obituary

Doris Isabelle Riley born May 31, 1927 in Newton, New Jersey was the only child of Emma Johnson. She began her early schooling in Newton. Although an only child, she was not lonely, she was raised with her cousins, Herman and Dorothy Hallums who nicknamed her "Baby".

Doris moved to Jersey City and lived with her maternal grandmother as she began high school. It was at Lincoln High School in her freshman year that she met her lifelong friend, Jeanne (Ransom) Greene. They ate lunch together, discussed all the important things like homework, and of course boyfriends. Jeanne shared letters with her received from her special guy at the time - a soldier.

There were many but, one particular incident that was important to our families. It was at their senior prom during the war, Doris decided to bring her handsome cousin, Herman dressed in his naval uniform. Of course Doris introduced Herman to her friend and classmate, Jeanne. So Jeanne decided to introduce Herman to her sister, June. Well of course love blossomed Herman and June married and within that union Denise was born.

Doris began her career with New Jersey Bell on January 1, 1952 as an operator in the Directory Assistance Office located at 281 Washington Street, Newark, NJ. During her time with the company many changes occurred. New Jersey Bell became Bell Atlantic after a bitter dispute presided by Judge Green which ended the communications monopoly (AT&T and the baby Bells). Doris tested for and was accepted into the Engineering Dept. She remained in this position until she was promoted to a management position supervising a team of facilities engineers. She retired on March 1, 1989 as the company under took their third name change to Verizon.

During her tenure at the company, after twenty-one years of service, she became involved with the Telephone Pioneers, Downtown Chapter. Her involvement included attending several conventions and ultimately became Pioneer President. Doris was also a member of the National Council of Negro Women Life Member Guild.

Doris is survived by: her cousin and goddaughter, Denise Rowe of Bristol, Tennessee and her son, Benjamin; goddaughters, Lenise Harris Owens of Somerset, NJ, Ernette Willis-Pinkston of Newark, NJ; godson, Jeffery Rolley also of Newark, NJ; and a host of beloved friends and loved ones.

Whether she was known to you as Aunt Doris, Sweet Pea, Doris, Ms. Doris or Dusty she told you what she thought. Sometimes it was words of support and compassion, and sometimes a tirade because she disagreed with your decision but then she would tell you she wasn't telling you what to do, she was just giving you something to think about. She traveled the world and lived a life full of excitement and fun. She was an independent woman who liked to control her world. She will be missed.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Processional

Opening Hymn

Scripture Reading
Old Testament
New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Acknowledgement / Resolutions

Remarks (2 minutes please)

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Pinkston, Th.D. *Pastor, Freedom Missionary Baptist Church*

Recessional

Cremation

Rosedale Crematory Orange, New Jersey

I'm Free



Don't grieve for me, for now I'm 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 up 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!

-author unknown

<u> Acknowledgement</u>

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.

Perhaps you sent a floral piece If so, we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.

Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.

Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You, Whatever the part.

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