

*Celebrating the Life of*



*Roberta "Bert" Champion*

Sunrise  
September 17, 1942

Sunset  
January 15, 2012

*Service*

Monday, January 23, 2012 - 8:00 p.m.

**THE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF ENGLEWOOD**

224 First Street

Englewood, New Jersey

*Rev. Dr. Lester W. Taylor, Jr., Senior Pastor*

## *Reflections of Life*

**Roberta Champion** affectionately known as “Bert” was born to the late Mr. Vanderbilt “Vandy” and Marie Stover-Champion on September 17, 1942 in Camden, South Carolina. Roberta “Bert” Champion entered into eternal rest on Sunday Morning, January 15, 2012.

She was educated in the local school system in Camden, South Carolina. Roberta was a very active person and played basketball while in school. At the age of 16, Roberta moved to Paterson, New Jersey. Roberta and Arthur Lee Jones welcomed their son, Adrian Lyonel Champion on February 16, 1965.

In Paterson, she did domestic work until she found her passion, early childhood education. While attending a church service at the Thankful Baptist Church, Roberta heard an announcement for summer workers for the Paterson Board of Education. She applied for a position and began her career in early childhood education working for The Concerned Parents for Head Start in the summer of 1965. She was devoted, passionate and a dedicated worker and believed that all parents should play an active role in the development of their children’s early childhood education.

She worked at Concerned Parents for Head Start for forty-six years and during that time she believed in the mission and purpose of Head Start. She held many position such as: teacher’s aide, teacher, bus driver, cook, social worker, parent involvement co-coordinator and retired as a senior parent advocate. Her motto was, “the parent is the child’s first teacher”. In addition, she also worked at Passaic County Women’s Shelter as a women’s counselor to help battered women of domestic violence.

Roberta furthered her education at Essex County Community College and also did course work at New York University, William Patterson College and Rutgers in Early Childhood Education and Social Work. Ms. Champion was also a Certified Social Worker (CSW) with the State of New Jersey. She also attended many seminars and workshops on Domestic Violence. She enjoyed charity work and was a very active in the community.

She accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior and was a faithful member at True Vine Fellowship Ministries in Newark, NJ until she became ill. Roberta was always a lover of great fashion and jewelry. She was hardworking, dependable, loyal, loving, and a caring disciplinarian with a great sense of humor.

Roberta was predeceased by her three brothers, Vann Champion, Freeman Champion and Ralph Jackson.

She leaves to cherish her precious memories: her son, Adrian Lyonel Champion, who was her everything; four sisters, Valerie Williamson (Frederick) Lugo, South Carolina, Lynette Stover, Beverly Holmes and Vanessa Champion from Lancaster, South Carolina; two brothers, James Champion and Cecil Champion from Lancaster, South Carolina; one sister-in-law, Wilhelmina Jackson, Charlotte, North Carolina; one aunt, Magnolia Mingo from Washington D.C.; special nieces, Ranae Brown, Sharon Bates, Joan Moody, Rose Shiver; special nephew, Danny Shiver; dedicated cousin, Champ; special friends, Mildred Brown, Cecile Dickey, Mattie Blackwell, Mary Fischer and Mary Colvin; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

# *Order of Service*

## **Processional**

Clergy and Family

## **Invocation**

Opening Hymn

## **The Scriptures**

Old Testament

New Testament

## **Song of Praise**

## **Reflections**

Linda Blackman ~ Headstart

Adrain Champion ~ Son

## **Resolutions and Acknowledgments**

## **The Obituary**

Mrs. Debra Belle

## **Solo**

Joshua Williams

## **The Message of Hope**

Rev. Dr. Lester W. Taylor, Jr.

## **Hymn of Victory**

## **The Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Lester W. Taylor, Jr.

Recessional

## **Interment**

East Ridgelawn Cemetery

Clifton, New Jersey

## Roberta Champion

There is a Champion in all of us  
But you, my **Dear**, carry the name  
Without your presence Head Start  
The atmosphere isn't the same

**R**..... is for **Roberta**

A special friend is she

**O**.....is for your **openness**

As you worked so faithfully

**B**.... is for your **boldness**

And how you would stand up tall

**E**.... is for your **eagerness**

Even when your back was against the Wall

**R**.... is for **Roberta**

Who was here from day one

**T**.... Is for the **times** we shared

Loving families and having fun

**A**.... is **All** the years

That you work worked at Head Start

One thing to remember

Is that you did it with a pure Heart

You are so very important

Your dedication was a plus

You shared your love for the program

And sometimes you really did fuss

But through it all you made it to retirement and

We are so very proud of you and wish you the Very Best

Written and Submitted by Glenda Smith on behalf of the Head Start Staff

### Acknowledgement

The family members of **Roberta Champion** wish to express deep words of sincere thanks and our heartfelt appreciation for all acts of kindness shown during our darkest hours. Please keep each of us in your prayers.

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