

Celebrating the life of

Rita Turner Lingham

Sunrise

February 24, 1920

Sunset

March 11, 2013



*I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...
How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God
Psalm 139:14, 17*

Collage of Life



~Love Notes From Your Family~

My Dear Mother,

There will be many days when I will go to the phone and pick it up to call you. We talked everyday, What will I do without you? What will I do when you are not there? I shall miss you more than anything, and I try to imagine how I will go on. But you taught me how to trust in God. He knows best and he knows how much you loved him and all of us.

We will miss you.

Love, Camille

My Dear Sister and Best Friend,

I have lost my Buddy, My best Friend, My sister. I trusted you like no other...I loved you more than you could ever know.. I spent 89 years of this life with you as my sister...there was nothing better in my life.

Love, Mick

AnRee,

Words cannot express how I am feeling right now... you were my confidant, my friend and my biggest cheerleader. You were the person I called when I needed to laugh, vent, get advice, or just needed someone to listen to me. You've always been there for me and I already miss you but I am blessed to have had you in my life.

Love, Dawn

To My Dearest AnRee,

Words will never describe the way that I feel for you. You have been my rock for so many years. You've taught me how to love unconditionally and truly understand the meaning of faith. The day I decided to move in and be your Thelma and you my Louise was a challenging yet rewarding experience. The last 3 months while I was taking care of you, YOU were really taking care of me. Realizing that the only thing that matters in life is the relationship you have with God. So, while I will be sad, I have so many memories to cherish. I will say this to you today, as I said every night... I love you more than fashion. Good Night my AnRee

Love, Danita

Hey Girl, :)

You transcended any title, any family designation, any external determinant...You were timeless and boundless and I loved you like no one else, and I was so fully aware of your unconditional love for me. You made me feel like I was a 'special gift to the universe'...I knew however, it was really you... People everywhere and every age loved you,... Immediately! My heart is broken,.. but you left here as regally as you lived...making sure that we (the family) were all connected and OK. You even passed this life ensuring that your last breath was timed to diminish the impact to us all. I will always Love You...and be thankful that the Lord put you in my life, to bless me always..

Love, Pat

My Beloved AnRee,

You've single-handedly made us all. You've been everyone's best friend and confidant. I learned so much from you. You prayed with me, and advised me through the most difficult and challenging times of my life. You've lifted my spirits with just the sound of your loving, raspy, voice, adoring me with your calming 'Hi Baby' ...No one will ever take your place. I will miss you terribly. But I rejoice in knowing you're with our Father –assuming the position as His most elegant and fashion forward Angel...I Love you, forever.

Love, Vanessa

Reflections of My Life



I was born on February 24th in 1920, in a place called Atlantic City, New Jersey a beach town, where people came to vacation and have fun, it was also the beginning of the 'Roaring 20's, haha; I could not escape the influence, the natural joyfulness inherit in the time and the place. My parents were Fred and Martina Curtis, and I had five younger brothers and sisters; Moreland, Emory (Mickey), Hope and Dad's boys Richard and Leslie.

In 1920, Women received the right to vote, and I knew then this would be the moment that would begin my first step in what my family called my "Renaissance Women" path. Over the next few years, I was married Robert G. Lingham now deceased, I had a beautiful baby girl name, Camille. In 1952, I became the proud owner of the Rita Lynn Beauty Nest, in Paterson, NJ. My daughter gave me two granddaughters, Dawn and Danita, who I cherished. My favorite brother, Mickey Turner had two daughters as well, Patricia and Vanessa, these women completed the circle of women I would influence throughout their lives by who I chose to be.

I had a heart for 'serving', which my walk with the Lord compelled me to be. My church home, Community Baptist Church of Love, Paterson gave me the opportunity to feed and clothe the homeless and hungry of Paterson. Our Pantry produced ten thousand bags of food. It was my Ministry where I was permitted to serve.

The educator in me had me join the Wilford Academy Staff. It was here I served as the first Black instructor. I then taught high school at the Passaic County Technical Institute, Wayne, NJ, and joined the Concerned Parents for Head Start Staff, I never needed awards but received so many, and I was so thankful, ...you know I loved children!. You know, I had strong faith and my salvation was secure, knowing that I would rest in the arms of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ when I was called home. But I had an 'activists' spirit. I became a lifetime member of the NAACP, because my heritage was an integral part of who I am (was) :) And you know as I got a little older and became the President and then Vice President of the AARP. I was also was the President of the Modern Beautician Association, the Eastern Star, American Temple #258 I.B.P.O.E. Of W. and Tutor for Adults in the Paterson Literacy Program.

Education was so key to me that I pursued my first degree at 66 years young, and graduated at 71. My niece encouraged me to go on for my Masters' which I started...but...life overtook me! Hehehe.

I loved life to the fullest, I lived out loud, I loved 'til it hurt and I lived my faith in God through ministry. Oh yes, I loved the Lord. I wore sparkles and bright colors, so that everyone could see the joy of the Lord in me. I hoped I could inspire that same joy in others. Oh, I forgot to tell you that I began to express myself in water color, had some exhibits and awards from the Paterson Museum...can you believe it?!

Well, I just wanted you to know how much I loved each and everyone of you, my family, my friends who made my life happy and complete....and I want to say a special good-bye to my daily companion and best friend Henrietta, I will miss you....I will miss you all. I love You and you were my life joy.

Love Always,

Rita, Anree, Ms Lingham, and Mother Lingham

Order of Service

Service

Saturday, March 16, 2013 - 2:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOVE

535 Martin Luther King Way (Broadway)

Paterson, New Jersey

Rev. Frederick H. LaGarde, Jr., Pastor

Organ Prelude

Opening Hymn of Comfort

Invocation..... Elder Donald Curtis

Musical Selection

Scripture Reading Pat Turner-Colon

Prayer of Comfort

Musical Selection I'm Free

Acknowledgments, Cards & Resolutions Maria Oneil

Selection

Celebration Testimonies..... Willa Mae Taylor– President AARP
Henrietta Young - Beloved Best Friend

Words from the Family..... Dawn-Danita-Vanessa

Musical Selection

Message of Comfort Rev. Frederick H. LaGarde, Jr.

Recessional

Final Disposition

Cedar Lawn Crematory

Paterson, New Jersey

Every shut eye, ain't sleep

&

Every good bye, ain't gone



Words to leave you with . . .

*A Bell Is Not A Bell Till You Ring It,
A Song Is Not A Song Till You Sing It,
Love In Your Heart Wasn't Put There To Stay,
Love Isn't Love Till You Give It Away . . .*

Love Always,

Rita



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