

Celebrating The Life Of

Josie Ward

April 17, 1927 - March 31, 2015

Service

Wednesday, April 8, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.

JONES FUNERAL HOME

247 Elm Avenue
Rahway, New Jersey 07065

Rev. Dr. James W. Ealey, Officiating
Robert Arrington, Organist

Obituary

Josie Ward, age eighty-seven of Woodbridge, NJ passed into God's hands from natural causes March 31, 2015. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was the epitome of class and is lovingly remembered by those who knew her for her wit and caring personality.

Josie Benford was born on April 17, 1927 in Opelika, Alabama. She was the youngest girl of Arthur and Mary Benford's nine children, which included seven sons and two daughters. Josie was educated in the Opelika City Public Schools.

At a young age, Josie moved to New York City to strike out on her own. After being in the city for a short while, she met Edward Ward. For Josie, it was love at the first sight. After an eventful courtship, she and Edward married. In 1950, they relocated from New York City and made their home in Edison, NJ.

Josie assisted Edward in managing the Cooperative Auditorium, a multi-functional event space in Manhattan, NY until 1988. In 1990, Josie and Edward migrated south to their retirement estate in Northport, Florida. Shortly after Edward's death, in 1999, Josie moved back to New Jersey to be in the company of her family.

Josie had a passion for pets and loved flowers and gardening. She always had an eye for fashion, as evidenced by the stylish wardrobe she maintained. She loved laughing, sharing stories of her childhood and participating in activities with her family. She enjoyed communing with friends, caring for her grand and great-grandchildren and cheering for the New York Mets.

She is survived and will be fondly remembered by: her grandchildren, Robin Baakel, Edward P. Ward III (Lori) and Marie Anderson (James); her great-grandchildren, Robert Baakel (Kadrin), Charles Baakel (Jessica), Edward Ward IV, Evan Ward, Timothy Baakel, Austin Simms, Darin Tabon and Donovan Tabon; a host of nieces and nephews and longtime friends, Larry and Joan Nelson.

She was preceded in death by her wonderful husband, Edward Ward, her stepson, Edward Jr., daughter-in-law, Matilda Ward and her siblings, Arthur, Anthony, Robert, Willie, Inez, Charles, John and Bishop.

Order of Service

Processional

Open Hymn
“Blessed Assurance”

Scriptures
Old Testament: Psalm 90
New Testament: John 14

Prayer of Comfort

Musical Selection

Acknowledgements of Condolences

Obituary

Musical Selection

Eulogy
Rev. Dr. James W. Ealey

Recessional

Interment

Forest Green Park Cemetery
Morganville, New Jersey

Proverbs 31: 10-31

A wife of noble character who can find?

She is worth far more than rubies.

Her husband has full confidence in her
and lacks nothing of value.

She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.

She selects wool and flax
and works with eager hands.

She is like the merchant ships,
bringing her food from afar.

She gets up while it is still night;
she provides food for her family
and portions for her female servants.

She considers a field and buys it;
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

She sets about her work vigorously;
her arms are strong for her tasks.

She sees that her trading is profitable,
and her lamp does not go out at night.

In her hand she holds the distaff
and grasps the spindle with her fingers.

She opens her arms to the poor
and extends her hands to the needy.

When it snows, she has no fear
for her household;

for all of them are clothed in scarlet.

She makes coverings for her bed;
she is clothed in fine linen and purple.

Her husband is respected at the city gate,
where he takes his seat among
the elders of the land.

She makes linen garments and sells them,
and supplies the merchants with sashes.

She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.

She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:

“Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all.”

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Honor her for all that her hands have done,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Acknowledgement

The family would like to extend gratitude to all
expressions of sympathy at this time.

Professional Services Provided By

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