

A Celebration of the Life

of

Elta M. Rhines Livingstone-Sturup

February 27, 1918 – March 12, 2016



Saturday, March 19, 2016

Viewing: 9:00 am

Service: 11:00 am

Cotton Funeral Home

1025 Bergen Street

Newark, NJ 07112

THE DASH

I read of a man who stood to speak
at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on the tombstone
from the beginning...to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth
and spoke the following date with tears,
but he said what mattered most of all
was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time
that they spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved them
know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own,
the cars...the house...the cash.
What matters is how we live and love
and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard.
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left
that can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough
to consider what's true and real
and always try to understand
the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger
and show appreciation more
and love the people in our lives
like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect
and more often wear a smile,
remembering that this special dash
might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read,
with your life's actions to rehash...
would you be proud of the things they say
about how you spent YOUR dash?

Obituary

ELLA M. RHINES LIVINGSTONE-STURRUP **February 27, 1918 – March 12, 2016**

Ella M. Rhines Livingstone-Sturrup was born in Turner County, Georgia to William Rhines and Ethel L. Kendrick on February 27, 1918. An only child, **Ella's** mother died when she was very young. **Ella** was then raised by her Grandmother Etta Rhines, where she continued her education and learned essential textile skills.

As a young woman, **Ella** moved to Miami, Florida where she gained employment as a seamstress. Deeply religious, **Ella** became a member of the Greater Israel Bethel Baptist Church.

Ella moved to Newark, New Jersey in the 1950's and worked in the Garment Industry until her retirement. **Ella** became a member of the New Salem Baptist Church and served as active member of the Pastor Aid Committee.

When **Ella's** beloved niece Lillian moved to Newark, she assisted her in becoming acclimated with the city. Lillian's mother Lula D. and Ella were the best of friends and it was a joy to **Ella** to be reunited with her family. Ella lived for periods of time with Lula D. and Lillian and even assisted Lillian in running the family owned restaurant "Celeb".

Concerned about the development of opportunities for young people in Newark, **Ella** co-founded the International Youth Organization (IYO) with Carolyn and James Wallace in 1970. For 45 years IYO has provided vital services to thousands of youth and their family members. Such notable initiatives are the IYO Crime Prevention Through Job Creation Component, and the Youth Leadership Development & Family Preservation Component.

A member of the Eastern Stars, **Ella** held the following positions: Matron of Martha Chapter #6 Order of the Eastern Star; Grand Conductress Martha O.E.S.; Grand Royal Matron of the Queen Ester Grand Court of Amaranth of the Royal Court and Exalted for the State of New Jersey; and Queen for the City of Newark, New Jersey.

Community and Civic Minded, **Ella** was involved with many election campaigns. She worked on the campaign of Kenneth Gibson, the 1st African American Mayor of Newark, NJ. **Ella** also

worked on the mayoral campaigns for Sharpe James, Corey Booker and Ras Baraka. **Ella** was known by Newark's City Council Members, and was very proud of her working relationship with City Council Member Mildred C. Crump.

Ella made numerous lasting friendships while living in Florida. One such friendship was with Edwin Sturup; a friendship which spanned the decades and distance of time and space, and led to their marriage on Valentine's Day 1999. **Ella** was 80 years old at the time of their marriage. Everyone loved Uncle Ed, but he became stricken a few years after their marriage and passed. **Ella** cherished their love and time together and that love was a source of inspiration in the years that followed.

Ella was an active member at her Grace Manor Senior home, and for years distributed newspapers to her fellow residents. **Ella** loved to travel and enjoyed yearly bus trips to Canada, visiting Niagara Falls, Ontario and Montreal. She would periodically visit Connecticut and returned home to Florida to visit old friends and family.

Ella also loved to cook and everyone admired her cooking. She was famous for her potato salad, cabbage, sweet potato pies and cakes. In addition, **Ella** loved visiting her family in Washington, DC. Her beloved niece Lillian, nephews Marion and Rollie would often travel to Newark to bring her to Washington DC for Memorial Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday celebrations. Often **Ella's** sister-friend Elsie would come as well.

A memorable occasion for **Ella** was her 95th Birthday Celebration. It was a well kept surprise and Ella had no idea that so many family and friends from out of town had come to celebrate this most historic day with her along with her community family and friends.

On February 27, 2016, **Ella** celebrated her 98th birthday with her beloved nephew Rollie who took her to one of her favorite restaurants' Red Lobster where they had a sumptuous meal. **Ella** lived a full life, and was loved and respected by so many. **Ella** passed peacefully at home on March 12th.

Ella leaves to mourn her passing, son Lorenzo Cobb (Ellen) and Godson Charles Andrews, Sister-in-law Gloria Toliver, Brother-in-law Harold Sturup (Roberta), Goddaughters Edie Watson, Gwen Marshall, Carolyn Wallace, Mildred Crump, Ruby White, beloved niece Lillian Hill (Marion), special sister-friend Elsie Jackson, and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren and other family and friends.

Order of Service

SELECTION.....CHOIR

SCRIPTURES

Old Testament.....Psalm 23
New Testament.....John 14: 1-12

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....BISHOP BUSTER SIMMONS
Greater Life Baptist Church

SELECTION.....CHOIR

POEM

REFLECTIONS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

OBITUARY

SELECTION

EULOGY.....REVEREND JOHN K. WHITE
New Salem Baptist Church

REPAST

Immediately following the Home Going Celebration
for **SISTER LIVINGSTONE-STURRUP**
the family will receive
family and friends during a repast at the
International Youth Organization (IYO)
In the Ella Livingstone-Sturup Youth Center

703 South 12th Street
James Wallace Plaza
Newark, New Jersey 07103
(973) 621-1100

ELLA M. RHINES LIVINGSTONE-STURRUP

“You have completed your journey and we
know you are resting by the side of the Lord...
Your spirit will always be with us”

Lovingly Submitted,
The Family

THANK YOU

We thank you for sharing in this Home Going Celebration
for our loved one.

The family of Sister Livingstone-Sturup
acknowledge with deep appreciation all acts of kindness
extended to us during our time of bereavement.

Whatever You Did To Console Our Hearts...
We Thank You.

THE FAMILY

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000

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