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 his call,
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah 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 savoured 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.

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.

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Professional Services Provided By

Nesbitt Funeral Home
165 Madison Ave, Elizabeth, NJ 07201
Mrs. Kim Nesbitt Good, Manager NJ | LIC: 3658
Ph: (908) 352-7078



Rest in Power
Myrtle Counts

December 19, 1931- October 23, 2026

Service:
Monday, November 16th, 2026 - 10:30am

Heard AME Church
310 E. 8th Avenue, Roselle, NJ
Rev. Dr. Lesly R. Devereaux, Esq., Pastor



A Queen Has Gone Home
She walked with grace, she stood with pride,
With love and strength she never tried to hide.
A woman of faith, a heart of gold,
A beautiful story that will forever be told.
Her hands were loving, her spirit was strong,
She taught us what's right and helped us along.
Though heaven has called her to rest above,
Her legacy lives in the hearts she touched with love.
Rest now, dear Queen, your work is done.
Your crown is waiting in the arms of the Son.











PRECIOUS MEMORIES



Order of Service

Processional
Clergy and Family

Hymnal
Hymn # 51 (When We All Get to Heaven)

Prayer of Comfort
Clergy

Old Testament Scripture
Clergy

New Testament
Clergy

Musical Selection

Reflections
Family and Friends
(Two Minutes)

Acknowledgements and Resolutions

Obituary

Musical Selection

Eulogy
Rev. Dr. Lesly R. Devereaux, Esq.

Committal
Rev. Dr. Lesly R. Devereaux, Esq.

Recessional
Clergy and Family

ORDER OF CELEBRATION



Mrs. Myrtle Smith Counts was the only child of the late Joseph Smith and Neila M. Butts Smith, was born on December 19, 1931, in Elizabeth, NJ. She resided entirely until age 91 in Roselle, NJ. She loved Roselle. She graduated from Abraham Clark High School. She married the late Clinton Counts, and they had 2 children. Beverly M. Counts-Smith and Melinda C. Counts Jenkins. All preceded her in death. She maintained a loving 40+ year companionship with Adell Parks until his eventual demise in 2012.

At age 14, she joined a community group called The Roselle Progressive Republicans which was a precursor to the beginning of The Roselle Area Branch NAACP. As a founding member and President (emeritus) for over 40 years, her love for the organization, community involvement, and most anything that helped someone else was a huge part of who she was. She was a Girl Scout Troop Leader. She was on the board for the YWCA. She fought for the establishment of essential resources for her community such as the Roselle Community school. Her activism extended to many civic organizations including but not limited to BIC, 100 Black Women, NCNW, and serving a term as Commissioner for NJ Commission on Women. Her intense involvement with environmental justice and other political initiatives has been commendable to say the very least. She worked as a graphic artist for over 25 years for National Color Laboratories in Roselle before her retirement. Photography held a special place in her heart. She also served as a truant officer for ACHS. Her honors and accolades include awards, commendations, resolutions and plaques that extend to well over 100.

She was a faithful member of Heard A.M.E. church in Roselle. She always kept a Bible or scripture on hand. She participated in Bible study weekly when possible. It was one of her most cherished practices later in life. She also gained some ability to use social media and found Facebook reels to be a pleasant part of her days. She would laugh until she could hardly breathe, and then listen to her favorite music, or watch movies or shows on YouTube. Her laugh was infectious. Myrtle was an avid reader too, often finishing a book a day. She loved mystery novels, word search puzzles, coloring and playing Solitaire. She was a nature lover from childhood, especially for trees and she LOVED shopping, (ooohhhh the shopping lol). In addition, her travels included nearly every state in the US, and 4 continents.

Myrtle will be remembered in many ways by so many. She would call all of her friends, family and even those she wasn't particularly fond of just to love on, preach to, and/or pray for or with.

Myrtle leaves to cherish her memory 5 grandchildren: Glenn Jr., Neila Larayne, Najeebah, Ash-Shakoor and Kenyatta. 18 great-grandchildren: Khadijah, Raasia, Alexis, Nadir, Amir, Kamaul, Justice, Umar, Da'Shaun, Sajeed, Destiney, Dezmon, Najee, Aniyah, Al-Tjuan, Nailah, Tahiyah and Tiannah. 12 great-great-grandchildren: Zy'iara, Kayden, Zahnaya, Gia, A'nari, Leilani, Ayla, Journee, Eden, Nola, Nevaeh and Sophia. And a host of other family and friends.

She said daily, "I know who I am and whose I am!" and ,"God loves you and so do I!" Take your rest dear Grammy girl. Great Job! A life well lived and well loved guided by God's hands!

REFLECTIONS OF LIFE