

A Celebration of Life for



Shirley A. Ruth

March 2, 1945 - April 4, 2019

Obituary

On April 4, 2019 God in his infinite wisdom sent a messenger of peace down to the Stonebridge Adult Community in Monroe Township, NJ. He relieved the struggling soul of our beloved Shirley Ann Ruth from all her suffering and gave her eternal life.

Shirley was born on March 2, 1945 in Newark, NJ to the late Margaret Lee Johnson and the late Charlie Branch West. She was the second eldest of five children born to Margaret and Charlie West. Her siblings were the late Carl Thompkins, the late Charlie West Jr., the late David B. West and Philip West who currently resides in Atlanta, GA.

At an early age Shirley accepted the Lord and Savior. She was baptized at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Newark, NJ where she attended Sunday school and sang in the youth choir. She attended school throughout the Newark school system and developed a long lasting friendship beginning in elementary school with 4 other loyal and caring friends, Eloise Darby, Ruth Leach, Betty Adams and Catherine Watson. Together they were blessed enough to have celebrated their 50th birthday together and later more than 50 years of friendship. Upon graduating from South Side High School in Newark, NJ in 1963 her first employment was with Western Electric Company in Newark, NJ. Five years later on September 7, 1968 she married the love of her life, Ronald Norman Ruth, at Elmwood Presbyterian Church in East Orange, NJ. There she was appointed to be an elder and was part of the hospitality ministry. The youth choir, Glorify God also known as G-fy-G, was a special treat for Shirley. She was one of their lead chaperones whenever they needed to sing and travel to different states or if the group needed to sleep at her house.

Shirley continued her working career for AT&T and Lucent Technology retiring with about 30 years of employment. She then went to pursue her teaching passion and further her education enrolling at Kean University in Union, NJ and graduated with a degree in special education. Shirley taught at Whitney E. Houston Academy beginning in 1997 where she had a great affinity and love for her students. Every Thanksgiving season she would prepare a traditional dinner for the students that was always memorable for them and the staff. Shirley found time to volunteer for the South Orange EMS rescue squad and help others in need.

After the tragic loss of her beloved husband and father in 2000 and then retiring from Whitney Houston Academy in 2008, Shirley moved to the Stonebridge Adult Community development in Monroe, NJ. She eventually joined Princeton Alliance Church in Plainsboro, NJ and had the privilege of participating in the summer camp youth program and was a member of the bible study group. Shirley was a very likeable person who was dearly loved in her church and community. She never met a person who she didn't enjoy engaging in various types of conversations. While living at Stonebridge, Shirley was an active member of the People of Color group, Stonebridge Women's Club and loved to play Mahjong and Canasta with many of her friends.

Shirley was always ready and able to travel to different parts of the world with her committed and loyal friends, Barbra Jones and Lorraine Jackson and would sometimes try her luck in Atlantic City. We will surely miss her infectious smile, humor, generosity and her caring heart for the youth. These were only a few of her gifts that we will cherish forever. Despite her unfortunate illness, Shirley always had a positive attitude.

Shirley leaves behind to cherish her memory a loving and devoted daughter, Dr. Tiffany Ruth, a beloved son, Rahnon Ruth and a cherished brother, Phillip West; grandchildren, Nile, Jasmine and Murad Uzzell, Joshua Ruth, Emmanuel Lyles; nieces, Philica West, Philicity West, Jordanne West; nephew, Myles Kemp; brother in laws, Bernard and Samuel Ruth; sister in laws, Patricia Corker, Anna Brown. A special thanks to Stein Hospice, personal caregivers and a host of other relatives, friends and co-workers.

Order of Service

Musical PreludeJoshua Nelson

Welcome and PrayerPastor Nathan Karcesky
and Minister Kasha Jones

Scriptures:Chiquita Jones

Psalm 23

Matthew 11: 28-30

Musical SelectionJoshua Nelson

ReflectionsEloise Darby
(childhood friend)

Gordon Hill

(longtime friend)

Henry Hamilton

(school principal, Whitney E. Houston Academy)

Anita Mack, Roxanne Burrus, Cynthia Wellington

(Elmwood United Presbyterian Church)

Musical SelectionJoshua Nelson

Acknowledgements and ObituaryPatricia Corker

EulogyPastor Kahlil Carmichael
Live Well Church, 2 John F Kennedy Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08823

Musical SelectionJoshua Nelson

Prayer of RemembrancePastor Nathan Karcesky

Benediction

Recessional

INTERMENT

Saturday, April 13, 2019 - 11:00 a.m.

Rosedale Cemetery

408 Orange Rd., Orange, New Jersey

