



*A
Celebration
of Love
for*

Mrs. Rana Stephens-Roberson

July 22, 1965 - September 27, 2019

Service

Thursday, October 3, 2019

Wake: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Service: 11:00 a.m.

Whigham Funeral Home

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. • Newark, New Jersey

Minister Shelly Bell, Officiating

Kevin Johnson, Organist

Obituary

Mrs. Rana Stephens-Roberson made her transition on Friday, September 27, 2019 at University Hospital located in Newark, New Jersey. Rana was born on Thursday, July 22, 1965 to Mr. and Mrs. Cicero Stephens, she was their fourth child, third daughter and the baby of the family.

Rana's formative years were spent between Newark, New Jersey, Flint (MI) and Pontiac, Michigan. As a youngster living in Michigan winter and Christmas were the best!! Dad would take Rana and her siblings sledding and snowmobile riding! Dad would barbeque for us during the winter months. During those summers as he was very protective of his children Dad and Granny bought us a swimming pool, since Rana was so young the water in the pool was low to protect his baby girl Rana. Rana attended Clark Street School for pre-K in Flint, Michigan. Rana was also educated at Blessed Sacrament School, received her first communion and baptized in the Catholic faith at Blessed Sacrament Church Newark, NJ. Rana and her sisters were choir members at Blessed Sacrament Church. During Rana time at Blessed Sacrament School she was an active performing arts member, acting and singing for the school talent contests!!

Rana along with her sisters Sondra & Theresa were very active in their youth due to the guidance of their grandmother Mrs. Alberta Simmons "Granny", and their Father. Rana and her sisters took Ice Skating Lessons in Branch Brook Park, Rana was a natural at ice skating and took to it with ease as if she had been skating for her entire life, not to mention how cute she looked in her Ice-Skating Leotards. Rana was a member of the Girl Scouts of America, she was a Brownie. Our Grandmother would take the cookie order sheets to work and Rana and her sisters always own first prize in the cookie competition for the most cookies sold!!! We had so much fun on road trips to Pennsylvania Dutch Country, Great Adventures, BBQ'S, playing baseball, badminton and our trips to the beaches in NJ, and the lakes of Michigan. Rana attending dance lessons, ballet, jazz and tap, she even performed on stage at Newark Sympathy Hall, now that was a big deal in those days. Summers were always fun as Granny would either enroll Rana and her sisters for the summer youth programs at the Newark YMWCA if they were not going to Michigan for the summer to spend time with their Dad.

As Rana was coming into her teenage years, she began running track at West Side Park in Newark, NJ and you guessed it, with her two sisters in tow. Rana wasn't any average sprinter, she ran fast and smooth always looking forward while leaving others in the wind, she received multiple ribbons, trophies and certificates.

Rana, her grandmother and sisters were often seen every Saturday having a girl's day at the mall.

Rana attended West Side High School in Newark, NJ and graduated from Pontiac Northern High School, Pontiac, Michigan. Shortly after graduation, Rana attended medical assistant school and was employed at numerous Drs. Offices which eventually lead her to the Office Manager's position for Dr. Sundaram pediatric practice located in Irvington, NJ.

Rana gave birth to her beloved son Mr. Abdula Best on April 9th, 1998. Rana thought that raising her son in Pennsylvania by her Dad, and his wife Eileen would give her son more opportunities to thrive and excel, and it sure did!! It was an unselfish mothers love to let her son Abdula be raised by her father and her stepmother Eileen. As time passed Abdula returned to New Jersey and their bond as mother and son became stronger. Abdula and his mother both loved to cook, they often cooked together, Rana frying fish and Abdula cutting up fresh potatoes for french fries. Abdula, your mother loved you as your last name states BEST!!

Rana entered into Holy Matrimony on February 11, 2010 to Mr. James Roberson. James just relished in his married life with Rana his "SOUL-MATE". Rana had excellent culinary skills. She loved cooking and feeding others, some of her top dishes were Chili, King Crab Legs, Tacos, Chitterlings, Duck and her absolute favorite Macaroni and Cheese. Later in life Rana had an interest in baking, Cheesecake and Chocolate Chip Cookies were her speciality. Rana had a keen fashion sense, and she loved her dreadlocks, her locks were her crown and glory. Rana and James loved attending carnivals, festivals, movies, parades and were both active members in "Brick City" events. James was both provider and protector for his wife Rana. James loves being a father figure to Abdula and calls him son.

Rana loved her family with all her heart and soul, she was especially proud of her Husband James, Son Abdula, Nieces Lakiesha and Jasmin. Nephews Harold and Andre. As the next generation was coming about Rana loved all the updates, and pictures of her great-nieces and nephews.

Rana received devastating news in August of 2018, she was diagnosed with throat cancer and like so many times before she reached out to her big sister Theresa for guidance and to share this journey with her, together they fought one courageous battle until cancer ran its course, the windows and doors opened up and Rana’s soul went home to be with her Heavenly Father and all of the loved ones that transitioned before her. We thank God for his mercy that Rana didn’t suffer too long. Rana is seated at the table of the Master right now and is singing in God’s Choir reminiscing with family and friends, yet she is watching over us all from her place in the Heavens. We thank God for you Rana, we love you and you are sorely missed, thank you for your CRAZY-SEXY-COOL-SELF and all the memories we have of you, Rana had many titles Wife, Mother, Daughter, Sister, Aunt, Cousin and Friend.

Mrs. Rana Stephens-Roberson is survived by her Husband and Son Mr. James Roberson and Mr. Abdula Best of NJ. Rana Sister Ms. Theresa Stephens of NJ, and her brother Mr. Bernard Stevens of Florida. Rana’s Nieces and Nephews Ms. Lakiesha Stephens “Ducky”, Mr. Harold Stephens “Tippy” (Yohanna), Mr. Andre Vann “Rana’s AA” (Dawn), and Jasmin Williams “Sona” (Davon) all of New Jersey. Rana is survived by 6 great-nieces and nephews, cousins, play cousins and friends. Special mention to Rana four stepsisters Lavon, Renee, Glenda and Angela. One stepbrother Jerome all of NC.

Special mention to Mrs. Eileen Stephens without you nothing could have been possible, Rana loved and trusted you very much, the family loves you.

Special mention to Ms. Vivian Eason, Ranas bestie. Vivian the family of Rana loves you, thank you for everything.

Mrs. Rana Stephens-Roberson is preceded in death by her parents Mr. & Mrs. Stephens, her grandmother Mrs. Alberta Simmons, and her beloved eldest sister Ms. Sondra Stephens.

Order of Service

Processional	
Selection.....	Kevin Johnson
Scripture Reading.....	Minister Shelly Bell
Prayer of Consolation.....	Minister Shelly Bell
Selection.....	Kevin Johnson
Acknowledgements.....	Leah Ellis
Obituary.....	Lakiesha Stephens
Selection.....	Kevin Johnson
Eulogy.....	Minister Shelly Bell
Benediction.....	Minister Shelly Bell
Recessional	

Final Disposition
Evergreen Crematory
Hillside, New Jersey

Her Journey's Just Begun

Don't think of her as gone away
Her journey's just begun.
Life holds so many facets
This earth is only one.
Just think of her resting
From the sorrows and the tears
In a place of warmth and comfort
Where there are no days and years.
Think how she must be wishing
That we could know today
How nothing but our sadness
Can really pass away
And think of her as living
In the hearts of those she touched
For nothing loved is ever lost
And she was loved so much.

Pallbearers

Mr. James Roberson • Mr. Abdula Best • Mr. Harold Stephens
Mr. Andre Vann • Mr. Davon Williams • Mr. Kevin Burton

Acknowledgement

The family of **Mrs. Rana Stephens-Roberson** wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation for all acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy that was shown to them during this time of bereavement. A special thanks to the University Hospital's Medical and ENT Oncology Department and Whigham Funeral Home.

Professional Services by:
Whigham Funeral Home

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973-622-6872

Carolyn Whigham, Director