



Celebrating The Life of
Josephine Shoates

Sunrise
April 8, 1941

Sunset
November 3, 2019

Service

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Viewing: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Service: 11:00 a.m.

Metropolitan Baptist Church

149 Springfield Avenue • Newark, New Jersey 07103

Rev. Dr. David Jefferson, Sr., Officiating

**HOLY
BIBLE**

Obituary



Josephine Shoates (née Gilmore) graced the earth with her presence on April 8, 1941 in Waynesboro, Georgia. Born to the late Arvenia and Charlie Gilmore, she was the fifth of seven children. Josephine had a loving relationship with her siblings Mary Mc Kendall, Maria Harden, Lindsey Gilmore, Inez Simpson, Irene Henderson and Arlene Jenkins who all predeceased her in life. Josephine peacefully transitioned on Sunday, November 3, 2019 at her home in Monroe Township, New Jersey with her devoted husband Arthur and family by her side.

She accepted Christ at an early age and was a faithful member of Rock Creek Baptist Church in Waynesboro. Josephine attended elementary school in Georgia and later traveled north along with her family in 1955, settling in Harlem, New York where she completed her education in the New York City Public Schools system. In 1962, accompanied by family, Josephine moved to Newark, New Jersey.

Josephine dedicated her life to the love, caring, and nurturing of her family. She came from a very humble upbringing during a time that presented enormous challenges and disadvantages. In the face of those challenges, she successfully devoted her life to her family, assuring that her eight children were presented with better choices and more abundant opportunities. Josephine always valued family, education, and hard work. She was an active member of the Parent Teacher Association and was actively involved with her children's educators. She always demanded your best and accepted nothing less. Despite working up to three jobs at any given time, Josephine continued to show endurance even during times of hardship and illness, including surviving breast cancer.

Josephine was a shining example of selflessness, always putting the needs of her children and family ahead of her own. On her own and always striving to do better for her family, she relocated many times within the Newark area, always keeping her family close and her children safe, secure, and in good spirits. She blessed many neighborhoods with her kind words and caring spirit, making neighbors and strangers a part of her extended family. "If you like 'em, I love 'em," was one of her many simple, yet profound phrases. Josephine's contagious sense of humor was always on display even during strained moments; a trait that has been thankfully inherited by her offspring. Josephine always showed a love for three things dearly: Christ, her family, and the culinary arts. She was known for her stellar cooking abilities which included huge dinners that were well received by friends and family alike.

After raising her family alone for many years, Josephine met Arthur, the love of her life in November 1978. He immediately showed himself to be a devoted partner, sharing the ups and downs of life as it presented itself. Together, they continued to nurture the family and support each other. Josephine and Arthur officially declared their love to one another before God and wed on July 9, 1999. Their relationship was the epitome of true love as Arthur became Josephine's caregiver in their later years when her health suffered. He worked tirelessly to ensure her comfort no matter what he experienced.

To share her memories, Josephine leaves behind her beloved husband Arthur Lee Shoates, Sr., children Katherine Gilmore-Holmes (Michael), Anthony Gilmore (deceased wife, Joyce) Cynthia Richardson-Brown (James) Leroy Richardson, Jr. (Leann), Joseph Richardson (Pamela), Kenneth Richardson (deceased), Nathaniel Richardson (Jennifer), Joyce Richardson-Brown (Mark), Kishami Jackson (Byron), stepsons Marcus and Arthur Lee Shoates, Jr., 24 grandchildren; April, Eric, De'Ante, Ta'Ana, Haneef, Maszarine, Candace, Jasmine, Troy, Imani, Trey, Adia, Nina, Khalil, Kala, Alecia, Kabaila, Gabriella, Morgan, Madison, Meagan, Joseph, Leilani, and Yliana; 7 great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and treasured friends.



Order of Service

Processional

Musical Selection

“You May Be Gone” - Paul Hardcastle

Scripture Reading

Old Testament.....Psalm 23

New Testament.....John 14:1-7

Prayer of Consolation

Hymn

“Blessed Assurance”

Acknowledgments

Remarks (2 minutes please)

Anthony Gilmore
Leroy Richardson
Joseph Richardson
Nathaniel Richardson

Obituary

Mazarine Richardson

Tribute

“Valentine’s Day 2016” - Imani Richardson

Hymn

“Eye On The Sparrow” - Adia Gilmore

Eulogy

Rev. Dr. David Jefferson, Sr.

Benediction

Recessional

Interment

Rosedale Cemetery
Montclair, New Jersey

*Following the Internment, the family invites
their guests for repast and fellowship at
Metropolitan Baptist Church*

On Valentine's Day in 2016

I posted a picture of my grandparents. My grandmother was seated in her chair. A throne as far as I was concerned. She was gazing straight ahead as my grandfather stared at her, reaching for her glass of water to hand to her. She had been laughing at something someone said and had fallen into a coughing spell. The look in his eyes spoke of the kind of love and devotion that is as rare as a shooting star.

The type of love few people see up close and most people pray for. The type of love so strong that it scares some people because they aren't sure they can return it. I saw all that in an in interaction that lasted less than a minute. I knew I had to snap that picture. In my caption I wrote, "All I want is someone to treat me like my grandpa treats my grandma."

To this day that still rings true. I don't strive for The Notebook or Love and Basketball. When I think of the purest form of love, I think of sweat pouring down my grandfather's face as he asks my grandmother if she's hot. And him not turning on a fan or the air when she says no. I think of her saying, "Use your head for more than a hat rack Art! And him smiling and taking it in stride." In those moments, I would think to myself, I'll definitely find that someone someday.

Josephine Shoates gave feisty a new meaning. To say she was a rock would be an insult. She spun gold out of thread. From a woman who didn't have a high school diploma sprouted a lineage brimming with degrees, big yards and full bellies.

Every year she was sure to say to me, "Did you make the grade?" Even when her memory become hazy, it was something she didn't forget to mention.

My grandmother was revered. So much so that in the winter of her life, after years of being referred to by her loved ones as Mookie, she decided that name didn't suit her. And I can't recall a soul questioning her on it. Everyone just rolled with it because after all, who were you to question Josephine?



Acknowledgement

The family of Josephine Shoates 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.

Professional Services by:
Whigham Funeral Home

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Carolyn Whigham, Director