

# In Loving Memory of RUBY ARDELL “MEMA” FIELDS

*Sunrise*  
*August 20, 1941*

*Sunset*  
*August 18, 2021*



*Service*

*Tuesday, August 31, 2021 • 12:00 noon*

**Whigham Funeral Home**

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

*Rev. Sheri Smith Clayborn, Officiating*

*Rev. Patrick D. Clayborn, PhD, Eulogist*

## *Obituary*

**Ruby Ardell Evans Fields** was born to the late Ralph Evans and Emma Hatcher Evans on August 20, 1941, in South Hill (Mecklenburg County), Virginia. On Wednesday, August 18, 2021, two days shy of her 80th birthday, she was granted entrance into our Father's kingdom where she now rests peacefully. In 2002, Ruby retired from the Marriott at the Newark International Airport where she served joyfully as the hostess to many celebrity guests during their travels. Additionally, Ruby was a member of Saint James African Methodist Episcopal Church located in Newark, New Jersey for fifty years. There, she served faithfully in the Nurse's Unit for decades and in the Missionary Society. One of her greatest joys was supporting the vision of building of the Saint James Preparatory School under the dynamic leadership of Rev. William D. Watley, PhD., where two of her grandchildren — Jhivonia and Kenneth would later graduate. In her later years, limited mobility became a barrier to her attending worship service at St. James A.M.E.. Still, Ruby worshiped God in spirit and in truth...no matter where she was!

On May 29, 1961, Ruby and her childhood sweetheart Lawrence Fields were joined in holy matrimony in Virginia. Shortly after, the loving couple migrated from Virginia to New Jersey with their two infant children in pursuit of greater opportunities. The Fields anchored their family in Newark, New Jersey, and then added two more children to the fold. Serving as an example of love and commitment to us all, Lawrence and Ruby celebrated 58 years of marriage, which was rooted in the couple's 60-year courtship that flourished because of their 70-year friendship.

The Fields' family home in Newark was filled with love and laughter. In addition to raising their own children, Ruby and Lawrence poured into their community by opening their home and their hearts to numerous neighborhood children. The Fields' residence was a safe haven for anyone who needed some good food, some words of encouragement, or a warm, heart-felt hug.

Ruby Ardell Fields was the family matriarch who ruled her queendom with a combination of faith, love, and wisdom. She would hold court when needed. When Queen Ruby delivered her ruling, she told the impartial truth. If a reprimand was in order, she graciously delivered it, but she would not stop there; she would rebuild you with the love and support needed to assist with your growth and development. Affectionately known as "Rubes" to some, close family and friends adoringly called her "MeMa," the name that was bestowed upon her by her beautiful grandchildren. MeMa, in turn, often referenced each of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren as her "Pride and Joy." Moreover, she would remind her children that their biggest mistake was making her a grandmother because she was a fool about them. In short, it meant that their consequences for misbehavior had to meet her approval.

MeMa had many great attributes. The most notable one was her wisdom that seemingly had no end. She exercised impeccable stewardship over her family and finances. She had a warm smile even though she did not like to be photographed. Her beautiful hands yielded a magnificent penmanship and were assets to her amazing cooking skills. MeMa was known for making pots and pans sing as she was a master soul food chef who did not believe in dining out because she understood that her food was better than restaurant quality.

MeMa loved the Lord and believed in the principle of tithing. Everyday she would sit in her recliner for hours listening to Southern Gospel Music and reading her Bible. During the pandemic, MeMa even became technologically savvy and learned to watch worship services online. MeMa's last act of faith minutes before her scheduled surgery was reciting the Decalogue and the words of the AME call to worship: "I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the house of the Lord..." which, in hindsight was a prophetic praise for her arrival at her final destination.

Ruby Ardell Fields was preceded in death by devoted husband and best friend, Lawrence Edward Fields, whom she affectionately called Homeboy; her parents, Ralph Evans and Emma Hatcher Evans; her sister, Evelyn Jackson; and her brothers, Ralph Garland Evans, Russell Sally Jr., and Earnest Sally. Her living legacy includes her four adoring children, Michael W. Fields (Irene) of Cape Coral, Florida, Valerie S. Britt (Harvey) of Newark, NJ, Delvonna Monique Fields of Willingboro, NJ, and Rev. Rosalind Miko Fields Redd (Jerome Jr.) of Willingboro, NJ; two god-daughters, Palmer "Tiny" Wheeler Weaver and Vanessa E. Davis; her nine grandchildren, Jhivonia (Derrick Sr.), Kenneth, Tai Asia, Tamir, Amber, Alexis, Jaylin Edward, and Faith; her three great grandchildren, Kendra, Derrick Jr. (DJ), and Legend; her sisters Virginia C Evans of Willingboro, NJ, Rosalind Douglas of Hinesville, GA; her sister-in-laws, Beatrice Chambers, of Monmouth Junction, Yvonne Sallie of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family, and friends.

# Order of Service

Organ Prelude .....	Rev.TJ Martin
Processional .....	Clergy and Family
Prayer of Comfort .....	Rev. Sheri Smith Clayborn
Hymn of Comfort - “His Eye Is On the Sparrow” .....	Minister Steve Hill
Scripture Readings:	
Old Testament - Psalm 23 .....	Jerome Redd Jr.
New Testament - 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 .....	Rev. Rosalind Miko Fields Redd
Musical Selection - “Old Songs” Medley .....	Minister Steve Hill
Acknowledgements/Resolutions/Condolences .....	Nichole Fields
Reading of the Obituary .....	Wanda Davis
Family Tributes and Reflections .....	Jaylin Edward Redd Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren Sheila Jackson
Sermonic Selection - “Walk Around Heaven” .....	Minister Steve Hill
Eulogy .....	Rev. Patrick D. Clayborn, PhD <i>Bethel A.M.E. Church • Baltimore, MD</i>
Benediction .....	Rev. Patrick D. Clayborn, PhD
Recessional .....	Clergy and Family

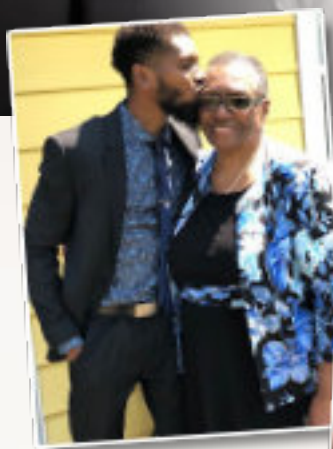
*Interment*  
*Wednesday, September 1, 2021 • 11:30 a.m.*  
**Lakeview Memorial Park**  
*1300 Route 130 N.*  
*Cinnaminson, NJ 08077*



*Ruby: a precious stone made of corundum, second in strength only to the diamond. Rubies are formed from intense pressure and heat. They are stones of nobility and symbolize purity and passion. In some cultures, rubies were believed to protect from negativity and promote spiritual vitality and wellness. When used in Scripture, rubies are associated with wisdom and beauty.*

*Very few people live up to their name the way Ms. Ruby did. Ms. Ruby was made of the some of the strongest stuff on earth-LOVE. The pressures and heat of life that makes some brittle, dull, and rough only beautified Ms. Ruby and this beauty radiated from her like warmth and light into the world. A fierce protector of those she loved, a dispenser of wisdom, and perennially positive, Ms. Ruby had a good name. However, the stone pales in comparison to the jewel that was Ruby Fields.*

*~ Raquel S. Lettsome ~*



### *Pallbearers*

Michael Fields • Kenneth Hubbard Fields • Damon Fields  
Andrew Daniels • Lyric Jackson • Shondell Davis

### *Acknowledgements*

*The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this hour of bereavement.  
May God Bless and Keep You!*

## Professional Services by: **Whigham Funeral Home**

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Newark, New Jersey 07102  
973-622-6872

**Carolyn Whigham, Director**

