

Home Going Celebration in Loving Memory of

Mrs. Lougertha Douglas

Sunrise
July 2, 1929

Sunset
December 16, 2021

Service
Thursday, December 30, 2021 • 10:00 a.m.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
46 Bethel Ame Way (Maple Ave.) • Westbury, NY 11590
Rev. Tamoya Buckley-David

Obituary

In Scotland County, North Carolina, on the 2nd day of July 1929, Frank and Emmaline McLaurin welcomed their second child, **Lougertha McLaurin**, into their family. Lougertha was named after her maternal grandmother (Mystery solved). The family relocated to New York when she was very young. At the age of 7, Lougertha along with her siblings moved to North Carolina and grew up in the care of their paternal grandparents, James and Sally McLaurin. Lougertha (aka Lou or Gert) received her education through the Scotland County North Carolina School System.

One day while riding the bus to high school, the beautiful Lougertha captured the heart of Rudolph J. Douglas (aka Rudy). He told everyone she was his girl and she said, "No I am not!". Eventually she said, "Yes, I will be your girlfriend". He became the love of her life. Rudolph completed his military service and was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army in 1947. The lovebirds resumed their courtship and were married in January 1950. The couple relocated to Queens, New York and joined Carter Community A.M.E. Church under the pastorate of Reverend Julius C. Carter, its founder. Lougertha was a very active member serving on the Usher Board, and the North Carolina Club. In addition, Lougertha was a faithful member of the Back to God Hour Evening Choir, which was organized by Rev. Edith Randolph. The Choir often traveled with Rev. Randolph when she preached at local Churches in the Jamaica, New York area.

Lougertha was a wonderful wife and mother. She maintained a beautiful home and took excellent care of her husband and children. As parents Rudolph and Lougertha agreed on the importance of education for their children. Their mantra: "You either go to college or get a real good job (Civil Service)." You had to do something with your life. - That was their charge to everyone whose lives they touched. (Lougertha was very proud of her children. They all graduated from High School and continued their education through the world of work and/or academia.)

Lougertha was very family oriented. She really enjoyed her home being the gathering place for extended family and friends. On Thanksgiving, one of her favorite holidays, relatives would come from North Carolina, Texas, Georgia, and various areas of New York to Aunt Gert and Uncle Rudy's for the annual dinner. Mrs. Douglas was an excellent cook! She was most famous for her potato salad and sweet potato pies. She welcomed everyone with open arms and a great smile. "Gert" had a no-nonsense approach to life and her favorite sayings were: "Steady in the boat.", "You know what I mean!", "Don't do me like that!" and "Every pot has its lid."

Mrs. Douglas, a God-fearing woman, walked faithfully by her husband's side with love, support and encouragement as he accepted his call to the Ministry. In 1969 Rev. and Mrs. Douglas received their first pastoral appointment to St. Peter's A.M.E. Church in Douglaston. Their traveling choir, which was comprised of their children, extended family and friends, accompanied them. In 1973, Mrs. Douglas served as First Lady at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Babylon; a year later at Mount Olive A.M.E. Church in Port Washington. Everywhere they went they always had an entourage of youth and supporters. Rev. & Mrs. Rudolph & Lougertha Douglas and Family were home when he was appointed to Bethel A.M.E. Church in Westbury, New York, by the Right Reverend Richard Allen Hildebrand. By the grace of God Rev. & Mrs. Douglas served the Bethel Church Family for 27 years. Mrs. Lougertha Douglas was an excellent First Lady. She was humble, hands-on, loving, warm and caring. She loved her "Bethel People" and was always willing to help when and where she could. Sis. Douglas was not a stranger in the Bethel kitchen, especially when it came to cleaning the coffee pot. The coffee would taste so good after she cleaned it.

As First Lady Sis. Douglas served as Advisor of the Anna Payne Thompson Women's Missionary Society and the Young People's Division. Sis. Douglas also served as Treasurer of the Ministers' Wives and Spouses Organization of the New York Conference. She was a member of the New York Conference Women's Missionary Society Credentials Committee. Sis. Douglas loved the youth and young adults and families. She would always share her wisdom as she advised, encouraged, and supported them concerning education, life lessons and their relationship with Jesus and Bethel A.M.E. Church.

Lougertha lived life to the fullest enjoying dancing, traveling, shopping, spending time with her family, extended family, and friends. She always smiled and laughed when she saw her grandchildren and great-grandchildren running around and having fun. She loved all types of music especially gospel music and good preaching. One would often hear her very identifiable exclamations of "AMEN!", "HALLELUJAH!" and "THANK YOU JESUS!". She enjoyed the youth programs of liturgical dance, theatre and stepping. To honor her and her love for gospel music one of the Bethel A.M.E. Church choirs was renamed The Lougertha Ensemble.

Mrs. Lougertha Douglas was an elegantly dressed First Lady. She loved hats and all her outfits were expertly styled by her. The dress or suit, hat, shoes, purse, gloves, and accessories were perfectly matched and appropriate for the season. She was beautiful inside and out. Mrs. Lougertha Douglas exemplified a LADY of wisdom, knowledge, grace, and strength!

On December 16, 2021, at the age of 92, God called Mrs. Lougertha Douglas home to glory. She was predeceased by her parents; her husband, Rev. Rudolph J. Douglas, her son, Rudolph Jr.; her siblings: Katherine, Geraldine, Marjorie and Prentice. She leaves loving memories with her daughters Okarita, Renee, Althea and Dorothea; sons: Timothy (Carmilita) and Christopher (Keisha); grandchildren: Timothy Jr., Nicole, Brandon, Alyssa, Aisha, Jessica, Jennifer, Jacqueline, Nyota, Erika, Leslie, June, Krishonna and Joseph. Great-grandchildren: Ella, Olivia, Katharine, William, Justine, Alejandra, Sophia, Alan, Alexis, Dylan, Kennedy, Kenneth Jr., Kaydence, Kingston, Kingsley, Kame'la, Yazmyn, Ian, Rachel, Hannah and Paul. Three Great-great-grandchildren. Special Nephew, Gary; Sister and brother-in-law Virginia and Freddie Gaston. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family, and friends.

Order of Service

Officiating

Rev. LaBaron White, Sr.

Rev. Rickey Rogers, Sr.

Prelude

Processional

Song of Praise “Every Praise”

Prayer of Comfort Rev. Tamoya Buckley-David

The Holy Scripture

Old Testament (Psalm 100: 1-5) Mrs. Alyssa Stevens Miller

New Testament (2 Timothy 4: 6-8) Mrs. Nyota Peek

SoloMrs. Nicole Smith

Expressions of Love and Remembrances

For the Bethel Church Family..... Mrs. Doreen Jackman

For The Extended FamilyMrs. Cherral Jones (Niece)

Mr. John C. Williamson, Jr. (Cousin)

For The Family Mr. Christopher Douglas (Son)

SoloMrs. Nicole Smith

Acknowledgements/Obituary Mrs. Harriet Frasier

SoloMrs. Tunicia Thompson Hall

Eulogy Rev. LaBaron White, Sr.

The Internment Service

Opening Hymn..... “I Must Tell Jesus”

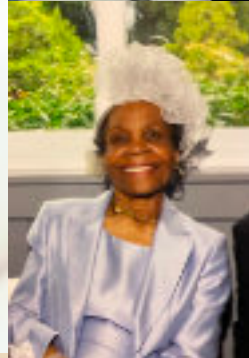
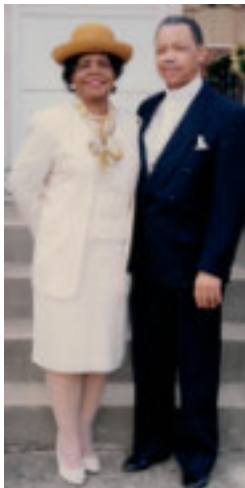
Act of CommittalRev. LaBaron White & Rev. Rickey Rogers

Closing Song..... “Soon And Very Soon”

Benediction Rev. LaBaron White

Recessional

Instrumental Solo (Bagpipes)Mr. Pete Ganley



*Fill not your hearts with pain and sorrow
But remember me in every morrow.
Remember the joy, and the smile
I've only gone to rest a little while.
Although my leaving, causes pain and grief
My going has eased my hurt and given me relief.
So dry your eyes and remember me.
Not as I am now, but as I used to be.
Because I will remember you all and
Look on with a smile. Understand in your hearts,
I've only gone to rest a little while.
As long as I have the love of each of you
I can live my life in the hearts of all of you.*

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord
with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. For the
Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endures to
all generations.*

~ A Psalm of Praise. Psalm 100:1-2,5 (NKJV)~

Special Acknowledgements

The Family wishes to thank our Bethel A.M.E. Church family, friends, neighbors and loved ones for all of their love, prayers, kindness, support and expressions of sympathy during our bereavement. May God richly bless you. The Family wishes to express heartfelt thanks to staff of Eluara Agency, Comfort Keepers, INOVA Hospital and Capital Hospice Care.

Professional Services Provided By:

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