

Homegoing Service
for
Chief Joseph L. Ruffin
August 13, 1939 – June 15, 2008



Thursday, June 19, 2008

11:00 A.M.

First Baptist Church - Berkley

**706 East Berkley Avenue
Norfolk, Virginia 23523**

Dr. P. L. Dickens, Officiating

BECAUSE THE ANGELS CAME



No more grief or sorrow,
No more suffering or pain,
Now there is everlasting peace
Because the angels came.

Only God knows what is best
And He gently holds my hand
Guiding me to a better place
Because the angels came.

When the sun rises tomorrow
And I answer not my name,
Please don't cry ... rejoice with me
Because the angels came.

I now can rest in peace
As I never could before.
I answered the gentle knock
Of the angels at my door.

So please don't mourn for me
As new wings I now claim.
I can take my flight to heaven
Because the angels came.

By Hannah McCarty

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Processional Clergy and Family

Invocation Dr. P. L. Dickens

Congregational Hymn

Old Testament Scripture *23rd Psalm* Rev. Constance Lew

New Testament Scripture *John 14:1-6* Rev. George H. Johnson

Prayer of Comfort Dr. P. L. Dickens

Solo *What A Friend We Have In Jesus* Keyontay Evans

Expressions (2 minutes) Family and Friends

Acknowledgements

Silent Reading of Obituary (soft music)

Solo *I Won't Complain* Keyontay Evans

Eulogy Dr. P. L. Dickens

Recessional

INTERMENT

Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery
Suffolk, Virginia

**The Family will receive friends at the First Baptist Church – Berkley (Dining Hall)
immediately following interment.**

THE OBITUARY

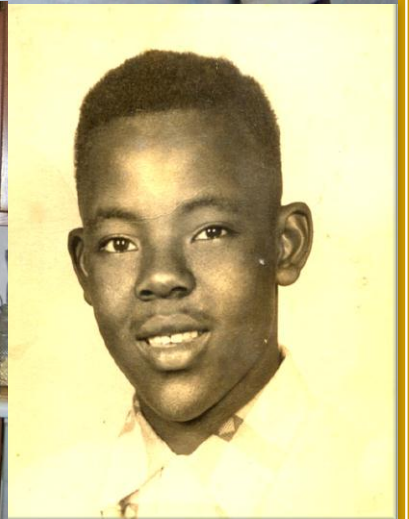
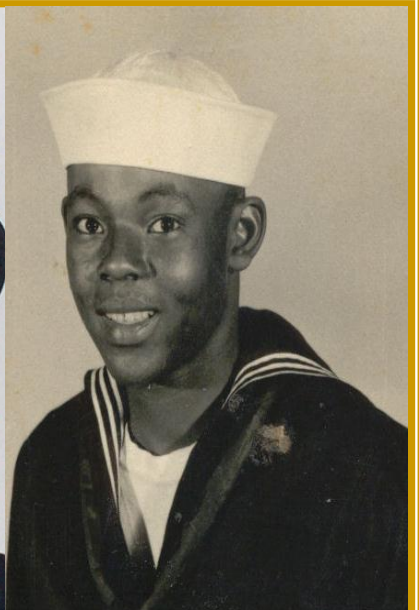
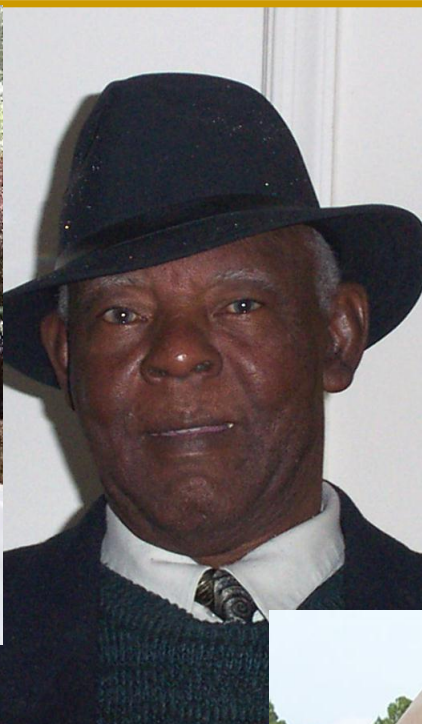
Joseph Lee Ruffin of Chesapeake, VA departed this life on June 15, 2008. Born in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, he was the oldest, beloved son of the late George and Minnie Lee Pender Ruffin. He was predeceased by three brothers, George Ruffin, Daniel Ruffin and John Ruffin. Joseph was born on August 13, 1939. He was 68.

Joseph attended Edgecombe County Public Schools and graduated from Conetoe High School. Upon graduation from high school, he joined the United States Navy at the age of 17. He attained the rank of Chief within his first 10 years of active duty. He retired in 1985 after 27½ years of dedicated service to his country. Following his retirement from service, he worked in California for 14 years in various capacities. He relocated to the Hampton Roads area in 1999 to be closer to his family. Joseph briefly worked at the Algonquin House in Norfolk, Virginia as a security guard until failing health prevented him from doing so.

Joseph was a member of the Frederick K. C. Price Crenshaw Christian Center, Los Angeles, California.

Joseph is survived by his son, Carlton Ruffin (Susan) of Hesperia, California; his daughter, Lynne Ruffin of Norfolk, Virginia; the mother of his children, Maxine Cowan Ruffin of Norfolk, Virginia; two stepsons, Keith Ruffin of Chesapeake, Virginia and Ray Ruffin of Norfolk, Virginia; two brothers, William A. Ruffin (LaTonya) of Chesapeake; Milton E. Ruffin of Norfolk, Virginia; six sisters, Mary Ruffin Wyatt Richards (Leon) of Portsmouth; Minnie Ruth Ruffin of Atlanta, Georgia; Elizabeth Ruffin Miller (Marty) of Norfolk, Virginia; Elnora Ruffin Griffin of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Carolyn Ruffin Wood (Curtis) of Virginia Beach, Virginia and Dorothy Ruffin Moss (Leon) of Conyers, Georgia; eleven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The family wants to give particular recognition and thanks to his sister, Mary R. Richards, his sister Carolyn F. Wood, his brother William A. Ruffin, his special niece Madeline Y. Evans and his three devoted friends, Arthur Kelly, Charles Martin and Willie Mae Bethea. Thanks for the special attention and care you gave to Joseph during his time of need.



PALLBEARERS

Family and Friends

FLORAL BEARERS

Friends of the Family

FROM THE FAMILY

Perhaps you sang a touching song,
Or came and just sat quietly in a chair;
Perhaps you sent lovely flowers,
If so, we saw them there.
Perhaps you sent or spoke a comforting word,
Or helped us to pray.
Perhaps you were not there at all,
Just thought of us that day.
Perhaps you prepared some tasty food,
Or maybe furnished a card;
Perhaps you rendered a service unseen,
Right here or from afar.
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you sincerely -- whatever the part.

THE FAMILY



Professional Service by:

Pretlow & Sons Funeral Home
500 Liberty Street
Chesapeake, Virginia 23324
Telephone: (757) 543-9343

CHESAPEAKE - Joseph Lee Ruffin departed this life June 15, 2008. Born in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, he was the oldest, beloved son of the late George and Minnie Lee Pender Ruffin. He was predeceased by three brothers, George Ruffin, Daniel Ruffin and John Ruffin.

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A funeral will be held 11 a.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church, Berkley, 706 E. Berkley Ave., Norfolk. Interment will follow at Albert G. Horton Jr., Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk. The family will receive friends Wednesday from 6 to 7 p.m. at Pretlow and Sons Funeral Home, Chesapeake. We invite you to send a condolence message in the family's guestbook at www.pretlowandsons.com.



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Joseph Lee Ruffin Tributes

Name: Benita McClain and Family
Address: 12713 Softbreeze Lane
City: Wake Forest
State/Province: North Carolina
Zip/Postal Code: 27587
Home Phone: 919-866-1653
Email Address: benita_mcclain@yahoo.com

Relation: cousin

From: cousin

Tribute: Ruffin Family, You're in our thoughts and prayers during your time of bereavement. You're a wonderful family and I know God is comforting you today and always. Your family is always there when my family 'The Mornings' are mourning a loved one. So, I just wanted to let you know that you all are not forgotten. The first line descendants of George / Minnie Ruffin have created a strong legacy. I know the memory of Joe will live on through that legend. Love,
Benita McClain and Family

Name: Felicitas Ruffin Carter (Citas)
City: Atlanta
State/Province: Georgia
Email Address: cici@cicicarter.net

Relation: Niece

From: Niece

Tribute: I'll never forget the funny way that Uncle Joe's ears would wiggle back and forth when he laughed -- he would cover them with his hands while he was laughing so no one could see his ears wiggling, but everyone knew that under his hands those ears were just a-wiggling away. (Makes me smile just thinking about it!) We'll miss you, Uncle Joe -- tell Uncle Buddy that Citas said hello. :-)

Name: Dorothy Ruffin Moss
Address: 3007 Sexton Court
City: Conyers
State/Province: Georgia
Zip/Postal Code: 30013
Home Phone: (770)602-3060
Email Address: accfwr@bellsouth.net

Relation: Sister

From: Dot & Leon

Tribute: To Carlton & Lynne, Keith & Ray, Maxine & Grandchildren of Joe, We are sorry for your loss. Joe was one of a kind. He had a sense of humor that would make anybody laugh. We'll remember his contagious, boisterous laugh as he covered his ears. We loved him and had some great times with him when we were in Virginia. Joe lives on in our memories. He will surely be missed. You all are in our thoughts and prayers. Call us any time. Love, Aunt Dot and Uncle Leon

Name: Latonia W. Ruffin
Address: 2241 Holly Berry Lane
City: Chesapeake
State/Province: Virginia
Zip/Postal Code: 23325
Home Phone: 757-233-8275
Email Address: latruf@cox.net

Relation: Sister in law

From: Latonia Williams

Tribute: Joseph and I used to be lotto Buddy's until we both decided to stop. Our favorite numbers were 831 which was his Birthday and 138 which was my fathers License number.

Relation: Niece

From: Niece

Name: Madeline Y. Evans
Address: 4104 Jill Crescent
City: Chesapeake
State/Province: Virginia
Zip/Postal Code: 23321
Home Phone: 757-465-7457
Email Address: myeantmatt@netzero.net

Relation: Niece

From: Niece

Tribute: I am so grateful for the time we had together. I love you, and will truly miss you. I looked forward to going to be with you every night, but I know that today, you are in a better place, pain free, and at peace. I will always cherish every day with you, and pray that we will be together again. I know that God never makes mistakes, so, I will see you again one day. Love Matt

Name: Jeanette
Address: 1105 Gaston Court
City: Chesapeake
State/Province: Virginia
Zip/Postal Code: 23323
Home Phone: 757-739-1270
Email Address: mary_robert@bshsi.org

Relation: niece

From: niece

Tribute: To my uncle Joe, I will truly miss you. You have always been an inspiration to me. I will always love you, and look forward to seeing you again on the other side. I've been told that everybody has an angel. Maybe you can watch over me. I will stay strong knowing that you are watching over me. Love,
Jeanette

Name: Tamara Andrea Bankhead
Address: 5539-L Prairieview Ct
City: Richmon
State/Province: Virginia
Zip/Postal Code: 23228

Relation: niece

From: Tamara Bankhead and Family

Tribute: I met Uncle Joe for the first time when I was 11 years old (he lived in CA, but had come to Norfolk to visit)and it was nice when he moved closer to everyone! I'm glad I got to know him and have him in

attendance at my wedding a year ago. I will miss seeing him at the reunion this year, but I know he's having an AWESOME reunion with the Lord, Grandpa George, Grandma Minnie, Uncle Buddy, Uncle George, and Uncle Daniel! Rest in peace and see you in Heaven Uncle Joe!!!!

Name: DeAngela Green
Address: 9427 Darwick Street
City: Charlotte
State/Province: North Carolina
Zip/Postal Code: 28216
Home Phone: (704) 599-8412
Email Address: deangela_green@yahoo.com

Relation: Great-Niece

From: Dee-Dee & Family

Tribute: When I graduated from college in 2001, Uncle Joe was there. I will never forget his big smile and the "Do you remember me" game we played. Whenever I visited home (VA) and saw Uncle Joe, I'd ask him, Do you remember me? He would smile, look at me and much to my delight he always knew who I was. I will always remember him just that way, SMILING.... Rest Now Uncle Joe and Keep on Smiling. We will miss you always and will forever keep your memory alive.

Name: Tawana Burr
Address: 1928 Harpers Ferry Drive
City: Virginia Beach
State/Province: Virginia
Zip/Postal Code: 23464
Home Phone: 757.508.6040

Email Address: TBurt13@aol.com

Relation: To: Carolyn and Family

From: Tawana Bates Burt and Family

Tribute: Carolyn, It is never easy to lose a loved one. Know that your brother is in a better place, a place in which we all should be striving for. Oh, what a glorious day that will be! To your brothers and sisters (the one I met in Ross's, my condolences are extended. Just looking at you and your sister I know that if I were ever to meet your other relatives the saying will be "all yall look just alike, I can tell you're a Ruffin (smile). May God continue to bless you and keep you in His loving care. As long as you have your precious memories of Joseph, he will be with you always.

Name: Norman Brodnax
Address: 3316 Pine Hill Cres
City: Chesapeake
State/Province: Virginia
Zip/Postal Code: 23321
Home Phone: 757-483-2293
Email Address: normanfox66@msn.com

Relation: former shipmate & friend

From: Norman & Barbara Brodnax

Tribute: Joe was a good friend,always full of fun and upbeat.I will miss him. I wish to express my condolences to Bill and the rest of the Ruffin family.
