

HOMEGOING CELEBRATION

For

ELLA LOUISE RUFFIN

May 3, 1919

Sunrise

September 5, 2003

Sunset



Friday September 12, 2003

11:00 AM

Adams Funeral Home

501 E. Palmer Avenue

Compton, CA 90221

(323) 636-9864

Pastor, Steven West - Officiating

LIFE HISTORY

Ella Louise Ruffin was born on May 3, 1919 to the union of Avery Elizabeth Porter and John Wesley Washington in Slidell, Louisiana in Indian Village of St. Tammany Parrish.

At the very young age of 3 months, her parents relocated to Los Angeles where her father was hired as a shipbuilder/carpenter for Todd Shipyard. Shortly after her family moved to Los Angeles, her mother passed away and she and her siblings were raised by her father with the help and dedication of Van and Rosalie Carr. At the young age of 12, Louise's father passed and she and her siblings continued their childhood journey under the parenting of Van and Rosalie Carr, reared with love and discipline. Louise attended Banning High School and graduated in 1939. She continued her education at Compton College.

Louise met her husband Daniel H. Ruffin, of Woodville, North Carolina at New Hope Baptist Church. They were married shortly after. While Daniel was continuing his career in the military, Louise and her family traveled throughout the United States, living for some years in Portsmouth, VA. After the military they settled in Los Angeles where they raised their three beautiful daughters: Guanette, Janette and Bernadette.

While raising a family, being Mom and a dedicated wife, Louise managed to work for several employers. From sewing, tax consulting, food demonstrator, cleaners clerk and hospital volunteer, the Block Club "Vegas Trips Party Planner," and yes, "Notorious Shopper", Louise still managed to put her family first which was her main priority. No matter when you would stop by she always had something cooked. Her motto was..."Always have something prepared for the family whether they are hungry or not. No matter what, there would be always something ready to eat.

Louise was very active in her church and block club, and she coordinated many events. Louise loved cooking for her family and many Thanksgivings, Christmas, and family dinners were held at Louise's and Dan's home. She took her Christianity very seriously. Her obligation to her family was evident in all she did. Louise will be remembered for her bright, beautiful smile, her gentle touch, her kind gestures, words of advice, her love for a good home-cooked hamburger, fast driving skills, and being a sharp dresser. She was a very proud and strong-willed woman and despite the many health challenges she was faced with, she managed to outlive all of her siblings. Louise is truly the "Eveready Bunny" who took a licking and kept on ticking. Grammy will truly be missed.

This beautiful life song has been sung and the beat goes on in the hearts of all those who loved and cherished her.



Louise departed her life here on earth, Friday, September 5, 2003. Her journey continues in spirit and love. She leaves to cherish her memory, her daughters Guanette Ross-Massey, of Valinda, CA; Janette

Hawthorne, CA. Grandchildren: Myles Ross (Cynthia) of Tustin, CA; Blaine Ross (Regina) of Morongo Valley, CA; Lea Ross of Stanton, CA; Tracy Lott of Baytown, TX; Kelly Bridgeforth-Smith(Ricky) of Santee, CA; Brigitte Lott Jacobson (Michael) of Oklahoma City, OK; Zina Wilson (Lance) of Covington, WA; Sjawn Wade of Washington, D.C.; Tamar Wade (Patrick), of Grants Pass, OR. In addition, Louise leaves 17 great-grandchildren, 5 godchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Louise was preceded in death by her parents John Wesley Washington born in Pensacola, FL, her mother Avery Elizabeth Porter born in Slidell, LA, her husband Daniel Haywood Ruffin, her daughter Bernadette Wade, brothers Roger (Friday), Booker T., George David, Charles, Jewel; sisters Rosie, Alva and Elva, son-in-law Tommy Massey and grandson Shango Wade.

ORDER OF SERVICE

FAMILY PROCESSIONAL

Song Selection...Amazing Grace

Cynthia Ross

Scripture

Myles Ross

Poetry Tribute

Daisy Williams

Song Selection...Old Rugged Cross

Wanda Davis

Remembrances

*Myles Ross
Greg Washington, Sr.*

Acknowledgements

Lisa Johnson

Song Selection...My God is Real

Wanda Davis

Life History

Darlene Hunt

Song Selection...How Great Thou Art

Cynthia Ross

EULOGY

Pastor Steven West

Recessional...I'll Fly Away

Wanda Davis

PALLBEARERS

*Claude Lott
Michael Jacobson
Rickie Smith*

*Sjawn Wade
Booker Washington
Keith Washington*

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

*Blaine Ross
Myles Ross
Clifford Washington
Brandon Williams*

*Daniel Washington
Franchone Washington
Greg Washington, Sr.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Perhaps you prayed a prayer or came to pay a call, perhaps you sent beautiful flowers, if so, we saw them all. Perhaps you sent or spoke kind words as any friend would say, Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day. Perhaps you prepared a tasty dish or maybe furnished a card; perhaps you rendered a service unseen near at hand or from afar. Whatever you did to console our hearts, by word, deed or touch we thank you so very much. **The Family***

*[Reference Insert] **A TRIBUTE TO GRAMMY**
written by **Brigitte Jacobson***

***TO MY FAMILY...Remember!**
LOVE IS WHAT LOVE DOES.*

***Interment**
Wilmington Cemetery
605 East "O" Street
Wilmington, CA 90744*

***Repast**
The Home of Dorothy Booth
701 Pearl Avenue
Compton, CA*

Obituaries

For Obituary information, call 281-425-8013 or 281-422-8302



Ella Louise Ruffin

Ella Louise Ruffin, 84, departed on September 5, 2003 at a local hospital after recurring strokes.

She was born in Slidell, La., May 3, 1919 to John

Wesley and Avery Elizabeth Porter Washington. The last 3 1/2 years she has been living with her daughter and son-in-law in Baytown.

She leaves to cherish her memory her daughters, Guanette Ross-Massey of Valinda, CA.; Janette Lott (Claude) of Baytown; grandchildren, Tracy Lott of Baytown; Kelly Bridgeforth-Smith (Rickey) of Santee, CA.; and Brigitte Jacobson (Michael) of Oklahoma City, OK. In addition, Louise leaves 6 other grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, 5 godchildren and a host of relatives and friends from coast to coast.

Louise was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Daniel Haywood

Ruffin; her daughter, Bernadette Wade; 6 brothers; 3 sisters; son-in-law, Tommey Massey; and grandson Shango Wade.

Services were performed on Friday, September 12, 2003 in Compton, CA. by Adams Funeral Home. Pastor Steven West, (her great-nephew) officiated. Interment was at Wilmington (California) Cemetery.

A memorial service will be held today, September 18, 2003 at 7 p.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church. The Rev. Dottie Dumas will be officiating.

Special thanks for the care and friendship provided by Dr. Ricardo Pardo and his staff.

GRAMMY'S DAY

I feel compelled to share Louise Ruffin's last day as "Grammy." It was Sunday, August 31st, my father's birthday and the last day of the Lott Family Reunion. Grammy attended church with us, took a nap, and then she came to the bowling alley to join the family while we bowled a few games. As soon as she got there, never one to hold her tongue, she promptly stated, "if I had known I was going to a bowling alley, I would have stayed at the hotel and slept!"

Tracy, one half of the tireless and selfless *Grammy Caretaking Duo*, soon took her back to Baytown to rest and Mom, Mike, and I picked her up from Tracy's to take her home later on that evening.

In the previous weeks and months Grammy had forgotten how to do simple things like drink from a straw. Mom and Tracy spent a great deal of time trying to sort out what was going on in that eternally stubborn, now often confused head of hers. Just the night before, Grammy had turned to me in the car and said, "who are you?" Yet on this night she was as sharp as a tack. While Mom and I watched in humorous amazement from the back seat, she gave Mike flawless directions home at night as if it was the most natural thing for her to do.

At the house, the four of us sat around the table talking before going to bed and Grammy again dazzled us with a detailed account of the genealogy on her side of the family.

This same woman who had set off the house alarm the previous week at 3:00 in the morning because she, completely dressed, had decided she needed to go somewhere, was now sitting at the kitchen table giving us a complete account of her family history.

GRAMMY'S DAY cont'

Later, Grammy sat on the side of her bed as Mom undressed her, checked her bandages, and put her gown on. Mom then kneeled

before her and rubbed lotion on Grammy's legs. From the look on her face, you could tell that Grammy was "in pig heaven." Mom then left the room after asking me to give her her pill. After I struggled for quite awhile trying to get the back off of the pill package, Grammy (having more common sense than me) told me to just use her nail file to pry it open. I then took off her earrings, kissed her on the forehead, and walked towards the door. The last time I saw Grammy as herself was when I looked back to see her smiling with her cherished TV remote in her hand, ready to turn that darn TV on as loud as she could get it and then go to sleep leaving it on for the rest of us to "enjoy" (her nightly ritual). The next time I saw her was the next day when the paramedics wheeled her out of the house on a stretcher...

When I look back on that Sunday night, it reaffirms for me that God will provide for each of us. It may have been Grammy's time but before she went home she was given a full day, a good day. She went to church that morning; she shared memories with her family that evening; she peacefully and happily went to sleep knowing that she was loved.

I don't think that any of us can rightfully ask for more.

Brigitte Louise Jacobson

Daughter of Janette Lott

Granddaughter of Louise Ruffin