

*In Celebration Of
The Life Of*



Beulah S. Reese

Sunrise

November 27, 1916

Sunset

December 8, 2002

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2002

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH — 10:00 A.M.
279 Lafayette Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11238

Officiating Minister
REVEREND ANTHONY L. TRUFANT, *Senior Pastor*

COME TO ME

*God saw you were getting tired
And a cure was not to be,
So He put His arms around you
And whispered, "Beulah, come to Me."*

*With tearful eyes we watched you,
And saw you pass away.
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.*

*A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard-working hands at rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best!*

Order of Service

FINAL VIEWING

THE PROCESSIONAL

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN.....*"Blessed Assurance"*

SCRIPTURE READINGSOld Testament, Psalm 86:1-8
New Testament, II Timothy 4:1-8

PRAYER OF COMFORT

MUSICAL SELECTION.....*"The Battle Is Not Yours"*
Ms. Ev Grimes

ACKNOWLEDGMENT of CONDOLENCES

TRIBUTES AND REFLECTIONSMs. Yvonne "Tay" Milton

MUSICAL SELECTION.....*"Total Praise"*

THE EULOGYReverend Anthony L. Trufant

THE RECESSIONALDrumming Tribute
KoJo Christopher Johnson

INTERMENT

Pinelawn Memorial Park
(Exit 35 off Southern State Parkway)
Farmingdale, Long Island





Obituary

Beulah Staton Reese was born on November 27, 1916 in Edgecomb County, North Carolina. She departed this life on December 8, 2002 after an illness of several months. She was preceded in death by her sister Annice who died four days earlier on December 4, 2002. Her parents Elizabeth Whitehurst (nee Brown) and Logan Staton, and her other sister Minnie also predeceased her.

Beulah, affectionately called "Mama" or "Grandma Reese," was born into a Christian family and confessed Christ at an early age. She was a long-time member of St. Paul Community Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, but often attended Emmanuel Baptist Church where her daughters are members.

In 1944, her mother Elizabeth persuaded her to relocate to Brooklyn, New York with her two young daughters and a nephew, James. She arrived on April 1, 1944, but shortly thereafter, became homesick and wanted to return to Tarboro, North Carolina. Her mother and sister Annice, both of whom had lived in New York for many years, convinced her to stay.

Beulah was a very bright child and a particularly gifted speaker. She often told stories of being selected to represent her school at oratorical contests held at various schools. Her formal education stopped at the eighth grade but her innate intelligence was consistently demonstrated in her work, her wisdom and her wit.

Beulah was a hard worker all her life. Her birth family was made up of farmers, and she often reminded us that she began working in the fields when she was just five years old. Immediately after coming to New York, she began working in factories. She subsequently went to work with the New York City Department of General Services from which she retired after twenty-five years of service. At the time that she retired in 1982, she was a custodial supervisor at the Kings County Family Court where her daughter, Betty currently sits as a Family Court Judge.

Beulah loved her family which includes a very large extended family. She married (*the late*) Love Reese in 1947. At the time of his death in January 1985, they had been married for almost thirty-eight years. She demonstrated her love in many ways. As a young, single parent she somehow managed to provide the extras beyond what were the necessities for her children. When a young person needed advice from a wise woman, she gave it; when a neighbor or friend needed a helping hand, she extended it. For many years, Beulah worked nights at the Supreme Court in Queens. For many of those years, she cared for as many as four grandchildren each day, and then went to her other job to work from 4:00 P.M. to midnight each night.

Beulah opened her home to many, both relatives and friends. When her sister Minnie died at a young age leaving ten children, she cared for two of her nieces until the family could be reunited. Each of her grandchildren lived with her at different times; when a grandniece came to New York to work and save money, Beulah took her in. In the early 1960s, Naomi Johnson lived with her and the family became so attached to Naomi that Beulah became her surrogate mother. She subsequently embraced Joseph, Naomi's husband, and became a grandmother to Nikki and KoJo, and a great-grandmother to Asili, KoJ+o's daughter.

Beulah did not love to cook as much as her sister, Annice, but she was a very good cook, and her pineapple coconut cake and chopped barbeque are family legends.

Beulah's life is a testimony to what God can accomplish in the life of an ordinary woman. She leaves to mourn her passing but celebrate this astounding woman: two daughters, Betty Staton Payne and Dorothy V. Staton of Brooklyn, New York; three grandsons: Michael Payne and Mark Staton of Brooklyn, New York and David Payne of Hampton, Virginia; six great-grandchildren: Janelle, Christopher, Felice, Este'Ban and Divad; two step-grandchildren: Vanessa and Laila of Newport News, Virginia; a godchild James Grimes, Jr.; one brother-in-law Hayward Brandon of West Hempstead, New York; and a host of nieces, nephews, grandnieces and nephews, great-grandnieces nephews, other relatives and friends.



PALLBEARERS

John M. Payne, Jr.
David C. Payne
Mark E. Staton
KoJo Christopher Johnson
James H. Milton, Jr.
Tony Canady

FAMILY RECEPTION

21 St. James Place
Community Room

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION

The family of the *late Beulah S. Reese* wishes to express deep and heartfelt appreciation for your loving thoughtfulness and concern, including cards, flowers, phone calls, visits, your presence here today, and especially your prayers. May God bless each of you, and may His peace be with you always.



Final Arrangements Entrusted To:



*Frank R. Bell
Funeral Home, Inc.*

536 Sterling Place (corner of Classon Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11238
(718) 399-2500

Founder: Frank R. Bell
Licensed Funeral Directors
Doris D. Bell • Frances Bell Henry