



Esther Lipscomb Brooks

April 13, 1952 - September 20, 2020

Esther Lipscomb Brooks, 68, of Richmond, Virginia quietly completed her earthly journey on September 20, 2020 when God called her home to join her predeceased loves ones. She was born on April 13, 1952 to the late Raymond, Sr. and Omiss Lipscomb.

Esther was educated in Richmond Public Schools, graduating from John Marshall High School in 1971. Two years after graduating, she was employed by the Richmond Times Dispatch where she remained an extraordinarily competent and loyal employee, retiring in December 2019 after forty-seven years of service.

Because of Esther's dedication to her job, she had to learn how to manage that career with being a mother, daughter, sister, auntie, wife, friend to many, and any other roles that Washington Park assigned to her. She coped with those roles because she had an incomparable gift for talking and personalizing just about every relationship that she entered. She could talk for hours while putting her listeners at ease. After completing conversations, Esther tucked away her listeners' lives into her consciousness for safe keeping and fodder for other conversations down the road. She was just a great and sincere communicator.

Despite all of the roles that Esther relished, there were other things that

helped her cope. She loved watching television especially old westerns like Big Valley and Ponderosa, dramas like Greenleaf and The Haves and Have Nots, and all the CSI versions. Decorating her own home and the family home on Lincoln Avenue for season changing and holidays was the real intense part of her life. Birthday celebrations, anniversary celebrations, weddings, and even funerals excited Es, so she had to pull out her imagination, experience, and resources to complete those projects. The beginning of fall was her favorite because that was the time to strip her house, clean it from top to bottom, and decorate for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Somewhere between high school and joining the work force, Esther started a family of her own. Esther gave birth to her one and only child in 1969. Es would admit all the time that she spoiled Fransanda from the time she entered the world to adulthood. Their relationship was a very intense one; they constantly argued about the most trivial things to solving the world's problems. The end of the arguments usually ended with "I love you," and hugs and kisses. Their love was unbreakable even when Fransanda joined the United States Army. Esther was as proud of Thumb as she progressed through the ranks while serving and protecting our country. Even while being hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles away from one another, Esther and Thumb continued their contentious but loving ways through constant letters, emails, telephone calls, and Skypes. During her years of service, Fransanda married and presented her mother with two grandsons (Ronald Parker, Jr. and Ronald Tré Parker). Now there is a great granddaughter Mi'anna "MiMi" Rivers. These children made Esther's heart open even wider, and she loved them until the end.

In 2001 Esther and Michael Brooks married. From that bond, Esther gained two more children (Denise Russell and Michael Brooks, Jr.) along with two grandsons, two granddaughters, and 4 great grandchildren.

Esther leaves cherished memories to her loving and devoted husband Michael Brooks Sr.; daughter MSG (Ret.) Fransanda Smithers (Keith); Denise Russell (Charles); and Michael Brooks, Jr. (Tamara). The grandchildren are Ronald "Ron Jr." Parker, Ronald Tre' Parker, Jordan Brooks (Keisha), Deja Russell, Mikayla Evans, Michal Machai Brooks, and Journey Brooks; the great-grandchildren, are Míanna "MiMi", Armand Hancock, Ayden Hancock, Mariah Brooks, and Aminah Brooks; loving siblings, Raymond (Shirley), William, Maynard Sr. (Gail), Carol (Kenneth Sr.), Ollie (Charles), David and Gaynelle Lipscomb; mother-in-law Thelma Brooks; best friend Jeanette Whitaker, sisters-in-law, Vanessa Brooks and Cynthia Brooks; brother-in-law, Tyrone Brooks (Bernice).and so many nephews, nieces; loving friends;

Esther will be remembered for her beautiful smile, gregariousness, love, and loyalty to all that she knew and favored. Thank you, Es! A job well done!

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn Cemetery

4000 Pilots Lane
Richmond, VA 23222

Previous Events

Walk through Visitation

SEP **28**. 11:00 AM - 4:30 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Celebration of Life

SEP **29**. 9:30 AM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Tribute Wall



“ To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Esther Lipscomb Brooks, Please Click the Link below.



March Funeral Homes - September 24, 2020 at 12:04 PM

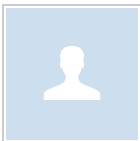
ST

It saddens me to hear of Esther's passing. She will truly be missed. Washington Park has always been family oriented and it is so sad when someone we grew up with leaves home. I pray for strength for the family during this most difficult time. Always remember "Love never dies" Sincerely, S. Troublefield

Sandra Troublefield - September 29, 2020 at 10:04 AM

ST

Sandra Troublefield - September 29, 2020 at 10:05 AM



“ Esther Lipscomb Brooks

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM

AR

“ Dear Fran and family, I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your mother, Esther. She was always such a pleasure to work with, and she always was a bright positive light at the newspaper. I regret not being able to attend the service, but I hope that you will accept my condolences. May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely,
Alice Rodriguez

Alice Rodriguez - September 30, 2020 at 04:10 PM

JJ

“ Cuz you will truly be missed but have joined the line of the love ones who will greet us when we walk that hall known as heaven.
James Lipscomb&Family

James I LIPSCOMB Jr - September 30, 2020 at 11:53 AM

VH

“ I grew up with the Lipscomb family from elementary school on up. Esther was a true friend and cared very deeply about others. She came to my dad's funeral and hugged and kissed us all. I was so grateful to her. I felt so much better seeing her there. She had a very giving and positive attitude. I loved talking to her. I remember when she had her daughter. Esther was a proud mother. She showed off Thumb to everyone. I am sending our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Lipscomb and Brooks family for the loss of your beloved Esther. She will be sorely missed.

The Hunt Family

Victoria Hunt - September 29, 2020 at 09:58 PM

DK

“ Our love and condolences to the family of Esther Brooks. She was a very special person and friend with a great big heart. She was the Richmond Times-Dispatch cheerleader and always cheered us on at an employee rally! A fun, giving and devoted person who loved her family so very much. May God bring you peace during this very difficult time.

Our love, Doris Ann and Joe Kane

Doris Ann Kane - September 29, 2020 at 02:47 PM

RQ

“ I am sadden to hear of the passing of Esther. She was sweet and gentle spirit. The Washington Park Community was family. We all mourn when we lose a family member. The Lipscomb's were one of the many large families in our close knit community. May the Peace of the Risen Lord be with the family. May Esther's soul Rest In Peace.

Rosa Quarles - September 29, 2020 at 07:28 AM

CC

“ Dear Family,
Esther's passing is continuously heartfelt! She was my/our lifetime friend and checked on us and cared so much. To all that knew her, she certainly left an impact. We will always remember her spirit here in the Park as a neighbor and friend.

Love and Peace

Claudia and L.Monty Davis and Larry Jr.

CCDavis - September 29, 2020 at 07:06 AM

BJ

“ *Esther and the Lipscomb family will always be a huge part of my memories growing up in Washington Park. No matter when I saw Esther she always had a warm and friendly greeting and seemed genuinely happy to see an old childhood friend. Esther was a beautiful person, inside and out, and I was surprised and sadden to learn of her passing; she will be missed. My sincere sympathies to the Lipscomb and Brooks families and I pray that you take comfort in the knowledge that though Esther is absent from the body, she is present with the Lord. Love and prayers, Brenda Speight Johnson and Speight Family*

Brenda Johnson - September 29, 2020 at 02:33 AM

JW

“ *We are extending our deepest sympathy to the family of one of the True Matriarchs of Washington Park. You will truly be missed.*

The Wimbish Family

Jerome Wimbish - September 28, 2020 at 07:29 PM

FC

“ *We were sad to hear this but we love some Mrs Brooks she was a bright Ray of Sunshine we miss you and we love you. The best neighbor ever*



felita Coles - September 28, 2020 at 05:21 PM

CJ

“ *Esther, will be sorely missed. I worked with her over 40+ years. Gone but never forgotten. All my love to her daughter and the family.*

Connie Jackson

Constance Jackson - September 28, 2020 at 04:05 PM

MG

“ *I can't begin to tell you how much this hurts.*

Mama Esther was my Work Mama and in fact, shared a birthday with my mom. She retired a short while ago and the Times-Dispatch was not the same without her. Always in the know about business and everybody's business. (Please smile the way she would)

Words cannot express the shock I felt when I got the news. I tried to get thru to her a month ago and could not. I needed one last "Hey Puddin" "Hey Baby" . She was a comfort to me when I was going thru my battle with cancer. Kept telling me I was beautiful when I was bald..... even though she had 6 feet of hair going down her back.. (Please laugh the way she would). Kept checking on me when I was sick at work and kept my secret when I didn't want anybody to know. Made me hang in the cafeteria longer than I should have to breathe and gossip..

Even though I don't drink them anymore, I will raise a bottle of an ice cold one in her memory....."There better be PEPSI in heaven. She don't want no milk! "
(Grin hard the way she would please)

Michelle Gillison-Robinson - September 28, 2020 at 12:24 PM

DJ

“ *My condolences to the Lipscomb family, my prayers are with you all!!! Love Donald "DJ" Hill Jr.*



Donald "DJ" Hill Jr - September 28, 2020 at 11:41 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Esther Lipscomb Brooks.*



September 28, 2020 at 09:49 AM

TS

“ *I was saddened to learn of Esther's passing. She recently retired from the Richmond Times-Dispatch, after a long and achievement-filled career. No one could top Esther's positive attitude, her support of colleagues, her tireless ability to go the extra mile and her love of family. In a troublesome world of division, Esther was a reassuring uniter in challenging times and the wearer of the widest smile during celebrations. You could always count on Esther. A great, great person. To her family, please accept heartfelt condolences. With sympathy, Tom Silvestri, retired publisher, Richmond Times-Dispatch*

Thomas A. Silvestri - September 28, 2020 at 09:42 AM

VM

“ My deepest sympathy is extended to the Family. I met Esther while I was a employee of Media General. Then when she retired we met at the 2nd Street Festival and she shared about her retirement. Esther always had a great personality, friendly and a great Smile. She will be missed by many. RIP and Love with the Lord!



Vicky Maddox - September 26, 2020 at 06:32 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Esther Lipscomb Brooks.



September 25, 2020 at 02:28 PM

VJ

“ I was deeply sorrowful to learn of Esther's passing. Since meeting her in middle school, Esther remained the sweet, unselfish team player and loyal friend through the years. She always had a word of encouragement, or just a kind greeting upon seeing an old friend from long ago. Her laughter was infectious and she had a way of putting you at ease, even welcoming. Esther left a lasting impression on all who knew and loved her and will be forever missed.
To the family, I pray to God He holds you steadfast and gives you strength to endure this turmoil going forward. God takes the best to His heavenly kingdom and Esther's is surely at peace.
God be with you, all.



Valerie R. Johnson - September 25, 2020 at 02:24 PM

HF

“ *Hill Family lit a candle in memory of Esther Lipscomb Brooks*



Hill Family - September 25, 2020 at 03:25 AM

SF

“ *Stewart Family lit a candle in memory of Esther Lipscomb Brooks*



Stewart Family - September 25, 2020 at 03:24 AM

TF

“ *The Stewart Family lit a candle in memory of Esther Lipscomb Brooks*



The Stewart Family - September 25, 2020 at 03:22 AM

TS

“ *Teresa Stewart-Hill lit a candle in memory of Esther Lipscomb Brooks*



Teresa Stewart-Hill - September 25, 2020 at 01:22 AM

TS

*Sending our deepest sympathy in this difficult time. May you find peace and strength with each passing day.
The Stewart and Hill Family*

Teresa Stewart-Hill - September 25, 2020 at 01:29 AM

LA

“ It is with sorrow I learn the passing of Esther, We go way back to the typing in class (she had the fastest speed) and the shorthand, Sometimes we would play tricks or get in trouble, she would smile but would advise us of the wrongness we were doing. She will truly be missed. To family and friends, MAY Gods spirit be with you during this difficult time, Rest in heavenly peace,



Loretta (Goodwin) Adkins - September 24, 2020 at 10:37 PM

VE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



vernon - September 24, 2020 at 08:13 PM

VH

“ To the Brooks and Lipscomb Family: on behalf of the West and Howard Family we send our heartfelt prayers to you in the loss of your precious and beloved one. Esther made herself right at home, wherever she went and always had a smile on her face. We will also miss her very much. RIP Esther.

Vera West Howard - September 24, 2020 at 07:17 PM

AC

“ To the Brooks and Lipscomb family:
"I was deeply saddened to hear the passing
of your love one, Esther." I worked at the
Richmond Times Dispatch and we always
shared stories of family. You have my deepest
sympathy and condolences during this time of sorrow. Keeping you
in prayer.



Arnetha Carter

Arnetha A. Carter - September 23, 2020 at 04:29 PM

ED

“ To The Brooks & Lipscomb Family: Praying for your family at the
time. May God be your comforter. Rest on my sister.
Love Always, The Dark Family

Elinor Dark - September 23, 2020 at 02:23 PM

SA

“ My condolences to the family of Esther Brooks. I will forever miss
her kind heart but mostly her sharp wit. Im forever grateful to have
known such a beautiful soul

Steven Arthur - September 23, 2020 at 12:11 PM

KB

“ Our prayers go out to the Brooks family. I met Esther a few month before she retired and although I only new her for a short while, I felt like I had known her forever. The world has lost a shining light and she will be missed. God Bless.



Sincerely,

Kim Bradley-BHM

Kimberly Bradley - September 23, 2020 at 12:04 PM

WQ

“ My prayers are with the entire family,I pray that God heals and comfort you all hearts.She is in heaven with our God with no worries of this world.We shall see her again one day, may God bless and keep you all in peace

William D Quarles - September 22, 2020 at 06:30 PM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - September 22, 2020 at 12:45 PM