



Queen Esther Randolph

December 16, 1931 - November 6, 2018

Queen Esther Randolph, age 86, peacefully transitioned to her heavenly home on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at 2:27 a.m. She was born, the eighth of ten children, to Aaron L. Robinson, Sr. and Anna Rebecca Venable Fitzgerald Robinson, both deceased.

Queen Esther was educated in the Catholic school system (Vandiver Catholic School) before transferring to Maggie Walker public high school, where she completed all grades through the 11th grade. Later in life she received her GED from the Adult Learning Center.

Queen Esther met and married the love of her life, the late Trustee Herman L. Randolph Sr., in September, 1949. From that union, they had four children—three daughters and one son.

Queen Esther received salvation at a tender young age. She loved the Lord and found peace in serving Him. It wasn't until later in life she poured her heart in the ministry. She was a trailblazer in the ministry and became one of the first women Deacons ordained at the Greater Brook Road Baptist Church. She was so honored by her title, she used to say, "I am not a Deaconess, I am a Deacon!" She also served as the President of the Pastor's Aide committee, Women's Fellowship Committee, lead the Meal on Wheels program delivering food to less fortunate families, serving the community, and was a member of the Usher Board. She was a Sunday School teacher, prayer warrior, and missionary. Queen Esther was also head of the kitchen committee (sponsoring carnivals, and fish or chicken fries in low income areas). She held

positions and served in many other auxiliaries.

As a loving wife and bread winner for the family, she was the sole provider before her husband, was employed at Philip Morris U.S.A. in 1963. Her excellence in work helped obtain a job for her late husband. She was employed at Philip Morris U.S.A. from 1951 to 1973, and worked as the top chef and cook in the cafeteria. She was later promoted to work in the factory as a Make-Pack Tech 3 Technician. She stated on numerous occasions that she gave up offers to work in management to serve and support her family. She was preceded in death by her husband of sixty-one years, Herman; seven of nine siblings, Charlotte, Mattie, Loistine, William, John Edward, Martha, and Indiana; two precious daughters, Diane Randolph and Joyce Randolph. She and all of these loved ones are now reunited in eternity. Queen had a heart for young girls and children. She happily transported the neighbor's children to outings at the local Coliseum. She loved family and enjoyed family gatherings. Every weekend she made a feast to serve the family. People would come to her home on Craigie Avenue or Bentbrook Road to get a home cooked meal, fellowship, sing, dance, and spend time with family.

In her own rights, Queen was an author, writing many books of prayers. This gift of writing was passed down to her children and grandchildren. Queen was also gifted in painting, drawing, and carpentry. Everything her hands touched prospered. Queen Esther's hobbies included sewing, cooking, decorating, remodeling and shopping. She had so many clothes she filled every closet in the house and eventually began to align her clothes around the walls in the garage on rods and hangers. She would reminisce about how she and her siblings wore clothing from a garbage can and that she would never be without new clothes again.

As a Queen, she found herself in the presence of many honorable people. She was former Governor Doug Wilder of Richmond, Virginia first client out of law school. He said he would never forget her and would give her free law services if she ever needed it. She also turned the eye of Admiral Gravelly

who was the first African American United States Navy officer to serve aboard in fighting ship as an officer, the first to command a Navy ship, the first fleet commander, and the first to become a flag officer, retiring as a vice admiral. They became friends and dated for a few years.

She was a tough disciplinarian and demanded excellence, order, cleanliness, and respect. She made sure you did your chores before going to school, playing outside, or going to work. The children loved her food and goodies so much that she decided to put a lock on the cabinets to keep them from eating up all the food.

It wasn't until her later years that she had five back operations and suffered from extreme back pain. This condition was physically debilitating causing her to require fulltime care by her daughter. Finally, when she wasn't able to visit her regular doctors she was cared for by the staff from Visiting Physicians, Encompass Home Health and Encompass Hospice Care. From this condition, Queen Esther and her daughter Martha became inseparable. Their love for one another deepened and they depended on one another as they lived together for the last ten years of her life. They shared the same room, prayed together, read the bible together, and often talked each other to sleep.

Her daughter, Martha, dressed her in beautiful clothing, bathed her, adorned her with perfumes, oils, and make-up daily. Her daughter would hire hair stylist, beauticians, manicurists, and pedicurists to beautify her Queen.

At Martha's daycare, Queen became the mother of the home. The young children were drawn to her and she loved them. They looked forward to spending quality time with her during lunch and circle time.

She leaves to cherish her memory and carry on her legacy: her first born daughter Martha Rebecca Banks, who was her beloved caregiver and lifelong friend; her only son, Herman L. (devoted friend Rita Galloway) Randolph, Jr., whom she loved dearly; two siblings, brother Aaron L. (Jessie) Robinson and sister, Sylvia Mitchell, and one brother-in-law, Robert (Indiana) Jordan, Sr. She leaves six loving grandchildren and their families: Charles Randolph and

wife Karen Stewart Randolph, Darnell Jacobs, Natalie Southwell and her husband Crispin Southwell, Luciana Kelty and her husband Shanot Kelty, Tiffany Randolph and life partner William Robb, Felisha Mickens and husband Charles Mickens, Jr. She adopted and cared for three of these grandchildren listed above and helped raise several great grandchildren.

Queen has twenty-five supportive great grandchildren and their families: Antoine Allen and wife Tara Allen, Jennifer Miller and husband Duane Miller, Jessica Stewart and life partner Dontae Taylor Sr., Thearon Archer, Trunell Jacobs, Darius Jacobs, Shaquille Slouthwell, Shamari Southwell, TyAsha Randolph, Shakori Randolph, Tonahs Kelty, Natori Darby, Daisia Lewis, TyShawn Brown, Aladdin Johnson, Anthony Green, Felicia Green, Pherrell Randolph, Charlisha Mickens, Charmaine Mickens, Naquita Mickens, Charles Mickens III, Chardae' Mickens, Chanee Mickens, and Chassity Mickens.

Sharing fond memories of Queen Esther are fourteen tenderhearted great-great grandchildren: Antione Allen Jr., Talayla Allen, Adyen Allen, Aniyah Allen, Jevin Stewart and life partner Tyeasha Stewart, Jaquan Stewart and wife Regina Stewart, Jaris Stewart, Jalin Stewart, Jamel Stewart, Jkayiah Stewart, Jkayla Stewart, Dontae Taylor, Jr., Nasier Jacobs, and Za'Riyah Tolliver. One lovely great-great-great granddaughter; Melanie Stewart, who will learn the lessons of Queen Esther.

Some of Queen's other devoted nieces and nephews are: Aretha Benjamin, Betsy Johnson, Brenda McCall, Connie Reed, Cynthia Rustin, Deborah Williams, Doris Chavis, Doretha Nelson, Francis Pearson, Jeannie Clarke, Joan Robertson, Hattie Horne, Holly Eley, Jackie Lomax, LaDonna Jasey, Lutricia Bently, Patricia Green, Patricia M. Greene, Priscilla Johnson, Rebecca Crawford, Veronica Crump and Yvonne Williams.

Her steadfast nephews were Robert Jordan J., Aaron L. Robinson, III, Butch McCall, Harold Benjamin, James W. Randolph, Johnny Mitchell Jr., Leon Lomax, Robert Jordon Jr., and Russell Lomax.

Other loyal family members include the Robinsons, Jordans, Lomaxes, Mitchells, Simms, Aunt Charlotte's family, the Clay Family, Randolphs,

McCalls, and the Benjamins. She had a host of other relatives, nieces, nephews, friends, pastors and associates who came to her aid and stood by her side during times of need.

She was graced to serve others and was prepared as a wife to raise her children all to the Glory of God. She valued servanthood, obedience, planning, tidiness, giving, and respect for all people. She gave to many, offering them shelter, food, camaraderie, and a safe loving environment. She embodied and modeled the life of her namesake Queen Esther from the Book of Esther (King James Version). And now like the biblical Queen Esther, Queen Esther Robinson Randolph left her mark on this family, her loved ones, and this earth "for such a time as this".

Previous Events

viewing

NOV 12. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Wake

NOV 12. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Celebration of Life

NOV 13. 10:30 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Queen Esther Randolph*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *To the Randolph Family, So sorry to hear about the passing of your Mother, Grandmother, Aunt and loved one. Sorry I cannot be at the funeral, as my health is not good. I celebrated my 95th birthday last week. I have known the Randolph family since Greater Brook Road Baptist Church was on Brook Road. Be assured my prayers are with the family. I remember some of the Randolph grandkids who I have known from Greater Brook Rd. I pray for and love all of you and though I will not be with you, my prayers will be with each of you. You were good to Ms. Queenie and you will receive God's blessing as He promised. Love,
Deaconess Ruby Fisher
Greater Brook Road Baptist Church
Richmond, VA*

Ruby Fisher - November 12, 2018 at 08:58 PM



*To Randolph Family
May the peace of God keep you through this time of saying “see you later “ and celebrating the life of your “Queen”!
Natalie may you and your family feel all the prayers, love and support that your Aggie Family sends. We will continue to intercede on your behalf so you may have that perfect peace to reside within you.
We love you !
Amanda Williams and your Aggie Family !*

Amanda Williams - November 12, 2018 at 11:46 PM

PW

“ *Rest in peace Aunt Queen, i have always loved you.*

Your Niece Priscilla..



Priscilla Williams - November 12, 2018 at 10:53 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Queen Esther Randolph.*



November 10, 2018 at 02:28 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 - November 07, 2018 at 11:47 AM