



Rena Ruth Barnes

March 21, 1936 - September 16, 2023

RENA RUTH BARNES gained her wings on September 16, 2023, at the age of 87 after a lengthy illness. Rena was born on March 21, 1936, in Lilesville, NC to the late Ross and Clara Rena Leak. She was the second eldest of four children, two preceded her in death, Martha Helen Nixon, and Clarice (Reece) Jackson. Rena received her education in the Baltimore City School System attending Dunbar High School. Rena married the late George Donald Barnes, Sr. in 1955. From this union four children were born, Johnnie, Lettie, George, Jr., (who preceded her in death) and Marsha.

During her earlier years, Rena was employed at Hutzler's Department Store, Reads Drug Store and finally retiring as Manager of the Hosiery Department at Stewart's Department Store in the Reisterstown Road Plaza. At Stewart's she perfectly matched her customers size, color, and style. They often asked for her expertise. After her retirement from Stewart's, she was employed briefly at her sister Reece's Maine Avenue Day Care Center as a cook. She left the Day Care Center and became a stay-at-home mom and continued to care for the children of family members and friends in her home.

Rena was an excellent cook. Her specialty was her potato salad which she often made 10-20+ pounds upon request of her family and friends. On New Year's Eve she would always make the best homemade souse out of a huge hog head.

Rena enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, playing the lottery, watching Steve Harvey on Family Feud, the Young and the Restless and the Bold and the Beautiful. She was lifelong member of Southern Baptist Church, serving for a while on the Courtesy Guild. Until her illness, she faithfully attended the early morning service, along with her sister Reece. She could always be found in the third or fourth row during services. During her illness, she continued to listen to church services on Facebook.

Rena leaves to cherish in loving memory: her son, Johnnie Barnes (Martha); daughter, Lettie Haynes (Willie), daughter, Marsha Haywood (Keith); sister, Sylvia Mae Leak (Wylie, Sr.); sister-in-law, Lettie Reaves; eleven grandchildren, Jamari (Nicholas), Maisha, Cortez, Brandon, George, III (Amanda), Travis, Tennara, Ashley (John), Jordan, Kayla, and Jaden; four great-granddaughters, Ahjee, Aunya (Robert), Brittany and Scarlett and two great-great-grandchildren, Blake and Robert, Jr.; five nieces, Demeria Moore, Dawn Jeanette (Jones) Leslie Parker (Patrick), Shantrice Montague (Brandon) and Tyasha Reaves; nephews, Reginald Nixon (Karen) and Wylie Brown, Jr.; a special friend, Maxine Gaines; long-time neighbors, Bernice Stewart and Ethel Shelton; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Baltimore Cemetery

Baltimore, MD

Previous Events

Public Viewing

SEP 26. 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home - West
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Wake

SEP 27. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

March Funeral Home - West
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Funeral Service

SEP 27. 11:30 AM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *March Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Rena Ruth Barnes*



March Funeral Homes - September 19, 2023 at 08:27 AM

RS

“ *Robin S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rena Ruth Barnes.*

Robin S. - October 04, 2023 at 04:02 PM

GP

“ *Gretchen P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rena Ruth Barnes.*

Gretchen P. - September 26, 2023 at 04:32 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rena Ruth Barnes.*



September 25, 2023 at 09:18 PM

BL

“ *To the entire Barnes Family,
My family and I are praying for you to find peace and healing
through God's infinite love. Wherever a beautiful soul has been,
there is a trail of beautiful memories. May all of you find the peace
that's above all understandings in the loss of your beloved Rena.*

*God bless
Bert Lee and Family*

Bert M. Lee - September 20, 2023 at 02:37 PM

DE

“ *Marsha and family, So sorry for your loss. Debra McDonald & family
(co-worker)*

Debra - September 19, 2023 at 05:03 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 18, 2023 at 01:26 PM