



Rita R. Church-Baker

February 2, 1936 - February 21, 2009

RITA REGINA CHURCH-BAKER was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on February 2, 1936 to the late James William Keene and the late Mary Elizabeth Coleman. Rita, affectionately known as "Duzzie," departed this life on February 21, 2009. Rita received her education in the Baltimore Catholic School System. She attended the historic St. Francis Academy. She has been a life-long member of historic St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, the oldest black Catholic church in the United States. At the age of 16, Rita married the late Andrew Martin Church, Sr., and from that union came seven children: Ann, Cecilia, Celestine, Andrew, Jr., Martin Rita Xavier. She later married the late Robert Carmenia Baker, Sr. From that union came two children: Stephen and Robin and three step-sons: Robert, Sr., Charles and Ronald. Rita worked as a claims clerk for the Social Security Administration for 23 years where she received numerous merit awards and certificates of service. She retired from the Social Security Administration in 1994. Rita was a long-standing community activist and leader. She loved her community and her community loved her. She was a member of the Coldstream-Homestead Montebello Community Organization where she served as a member of the board for many years and worked diligently to improve the quality of life for all in the community. She was sometimes called "Mayor of Coldstream-Homestead Montebello." Rita also was member and officer of the Quality of Life Community Outreach Program and treasurer of Adopt-A-House Corporation. Rita served as a member of the Maryland State Central

Committee. In 1996 Rita was appointed to the Baltimore City Council, representing the Third Councilmatic District until she retired in 1999. She also served as a member of the Baltimore City Planning Commission for four years. Rita received numerous community service awards and certificates. Rita is survived by: her children, Ann, Cecilia, Celestine, Martin, Rita, Xavier, Stephen, Robin, Robert, Charles and Ronald; her daughter-in-law, Tomeka; her sons-in-law, Jonathan, Michael and Tracy; thirty-four grandchildren, twenty-seven great-grandchildren; two sisters, Mary Ann Burley and Constance Roberts; her brother-in-law, Mr. Charles Church; her sisters-in-law, Lena Baker, Katherine Baker, Florence Baker and Melandis Baker; three aunts, Pearl Stell, Hilda Miller and Hattie Geater; a devoted friend, Jeanette Hodgers; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends; and her cat, Ms. Dirty-Dirty.

Tribute Wall



“ *Rita R. Church-Baker*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *It is hard to accept the passing of Aunt Duzzie, I will always miss seeing her sitting on the front porch. To my family of cousins it does not matter whether we are 1st, 2nd or 3rd cousins , We are FAMILY and We Are 1. All for One and One for All--God Bless the Church - Baker Family,##imported-begin##Katherine Coleman and family##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I am so very sorry that you lost your dear one. The pain we feel when we lose a loved one in death can be overwhelming, and so hard to come to terms with. Jehovah, the God of all comfort, is always there for us when we have sorrow, and he helps us bear up under any trial that we go through in life, because he loves and cares so much for us. 1st Peter 5:7. Jehovah never forgets his loyal servants who have died, and one day he will resurrect them back to life. Three faithful men; Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had been dead many years when these scriptures were recorded. Speaking about the coming resurrection, Jesus said: "But that the dead are raised up even Moses disclosed, in the account about the thornbush, when he calls Jehovah the God of Abraham and God of Isaac and God of Jacob. "He is a God, not of the dead, but of the living, for they are all living to him." Luke 20:37,38. Jehovah has given his son Jesus all authority to resurrect the dead. That is why John 5:28,29 promises, "Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his (Jesus's) voice and come out; those who did good things to a resurrection of life. May these comforting thoughts uplift your hearts, and help you to carry on.##imported-begin##R Johnson##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I would like to express my deepest sympathy for the loss of your loved one. It is only natural that we yearn to see our loved ones again since God put time indefinite into our hearts (Eccl. 3:11) The Bible teaches about a future time when those in the memorial tombs will come out by means of a resurrection to perfect life on a paradise earth. (John 5:28-29, Psalm 37:11,29) May you find solace in the God of all comfort and he will sustain you during this difficult time. (2Cor 1:3-4, Psalm 55:22) Warm regards, C. Murphy##imported-begin##C. Murphy##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Aunt Duzzie will truly be missed! My brother and I are keeping the family in our thoughts and prayers. We will remember all the memories we shared and hold them close to our heart, for that is what will keep us going! Much love.##imported-begin##Shequietta Levine and Marques Oliver##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To Ceceila, I would like to send my love and heartfelt sympathy to you and your family at the passing of your mother. May God's peace and comfort rest with you at this difficult time.##imported-begin##Carol Powers Warren (Wiggins)##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to the Church family , keeping you in our prayers##imported-begin##The Daniels Family-2836 Harford RD##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I pray for Doozie's children and grandchildren. She instilled in them to love others. God will give them the strenght to make it through. She is now at peace in the kingdom. Representing the Family of the Departed Mary Ellen Burley##imported-begin##Terry Kendall##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I am sorry about your lost. Martin, you were there for me when my mother passed. I am here if you need a shoulder, an ear or a hug. Stay strong. All of you remember, you are not alone. The Lord is walking with you and comforting you.##imported-begin##Sheila##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Please accept my condolences for the loss of your dear loved one. 1 Corinthians 15:26 reveals that our "enemy death" will be destroyed. Also, Acts 24:15 lovingly informs us that "there is going to be a resurrection". May you receive much comfort and strength from this hope found in the Bible.##imported-begin##Sharon Hill##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Doozie was a good grandmother to my children. I know that there will be a huge void in the community now that she has gone on.##imported-begin##Dana W. Baker##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ ##imported-begin##Le Titia##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ My prayers are with the Church/Baker family, Rita was a wonderful person to know. I am an old friend of Rita's, I was formerly a friend of Andrew, Henry and Daisy Church, and baby sitter of Lazetta Church, 1948-1951. We lived in Turners Station at that time. I lived on E. 28th. St. when I met Rita. May she rest in peace.##imported-begin##Venus Delores J. Harris##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To God be the Glory For the things that he has done. I thank God for the opportunity to not only meet Ms. Church but to become her friend and neighbor. If there is anything that my family can do please do not hesitate call.##imported-begin##smiley##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ hearts maybe sad but the heavens are singing god has one more beautiful rose in his bouquet .i will miss you so much rest on##imported-begin##ella kennedy##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ my deepest sympathy to the Chrunch-baker family. I meet Ms.Church when i was working at City Hall and from my neighborhood on Hardford rd. I will miss her sitting on the Porch. may God bless the family. Love always coretta##imported-begin##Coretta Walker##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Doozie was like a Mother to me & some other co-workers . I loved playing Pinoche,& talking trash with her. I will truly miss her. To the family if there's anything I can do,don't hesitate to ask. I remember getting snowed in for 3 days. We had plenty to eat.She would always feed you even though She had 8 or 9 kids of her own. God has truly Blessed me with Her & her family. Much Love..Yody Scody.##imported-begin##Kim (Yody Scody) Kent##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to the Church/Baker family. I was young when my mother returned home and this wonderful family excepted me as their own. Kept me off the streets and shared with me what voting meant. You have my love and support, she will be missed but never forgotten. Bless you all##imported-begin##David M. Cheatham Jr##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to the Church-Baker families. In many respects, Aunt Doozie was an icon in this family and the void left by her homegoing will be with many of us forever. However, I hope that much of that void will be filled by the joy and laughter she left us in memory. God bless her in her continung life with Christ and this family as we carry on HIS work in her honor.##imported-begin##Paul Levine, Jr. and Family##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM