



Ruth E. Hester

March 1, 1942 - January 23, 2023

Legacy of Love

Ruth Ernestine Hester was born in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, to John and Elsie Ellis on March 1, 1942.

She was the oldest of four children. In her youth, she was baptized and joined Finney Wood Baptist Church.

She received her education in the Mecklenburg County Public Schools system and graduated from West End High School in 1960. After graduating, Ruth was employed with Jon Bil and Hampco apparel company in her hometown of Chase City, Virginia, before relocating to Richmond, Virginia, to seek greater employment opportunities.

In November 1961, she married the love of her life Woodrow J. Hester of Clarksville, Virginia. Ruth and Woodrow shared the next 52 years of their life fostering a loving, fun, positive, hardworking, and spiritual environment for their two lovely children, Anthony D. Hester and Tonya M. Hester.

Ruth was so proud of her children and how they emulated all the life teachings she had instilled in them. Anthony served our country in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years and earned a degree that inspired his desire to continue his study

and become a Doctoral candidate. Tonya was her baby girl she could teach about fashion, sewing, cooking, and standing up for what's right. After college and obtaining multiple certifications Tonya has continued to bring justice for over 30 years by serving our community daily in her career with the government.

Upon moving to Richmond, Ruth joined the Good Shepherd Baptist Church family, where she found her church home and became an active member. She also landed a job with Western Electric before moving on to Reynolds Metals (currently Alcoa), where she worked for 14 years before retiring in 2003 as a Computer Operator. After she retired from Alcoa, She found a way to give back to the next generation by working as a substitute teacher for elementary school students for several years before deciding to retire from the workforce altogether. She was deeply committed to traditional schooling and the value of lifelong learning. Retirement didn't slow her down; she started educating others on some of her favorite types of art, crocheting, needlepoint, and sewing, an outlet to pursue her artistic goals and aspirations.

Ruth was passionate about many things, including her faith, crafts, gardening, canning, cooking, and last but certainly not least, her drive for education and continuous improvement. While in college, she graduated at the top of her college class, Summa Cum Laude. She always joked that even with a huge accomplishment under her belt, she always said it was more like "Thank you, Lordy!"

In 1990, Ruth became a grandmother to her favorite grandbaby Paris M. Hester. They enjoyed spending time in the kitchen together, whether eating or cooking. She shared some of her best and favorite recipes with Paris, like coconut pies, potato salad, and deviled eggs, to name a few. They also shared a love for arts and crafts and spent some time latch-hooking together. Ruth was always so proud of Paris, especially when she gave her life to Christ

and graduated from college. Who knew she would gain a granddaughter and a personal technology instructor to help her master new skills.

Those around her knew Ruth to be someone who genuinely looked out for their best interests. In addition, she was always willing to help numerous charities by giving. She always felt assisting others in their time of need would be a great blessing during her life's journey.

She leaves to cherish her extraordinary life to her two caring children, Anthony D. Hester and Tonya M. Hester; a loving granddaughter, Paris M. Hester; siblings, Erma Dodson and Michael Ellis; a sister-in-law, numerous nieces, nephews, a host of other relatives and a world of friends.

Cemetery Details

Washington Memorial Park

6217 Memorial Dr.
Sandston, VA 23150

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 3. 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Celebration of Life

FEB 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd Baptist Church
1127 N. 28th Street
Richmond, VA 23223

Live-streaming link: <https://youtube.com/@GoodShepherdBaptistChurchRVA>

Tribute Wall



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ruth E. Hester.*



February 03, 2023 at 09:56 AM



“ *My sister was a wonderful person, and will be greatly missed. Sending my love and condolences to my family during this difficult time. Lovingly, Erma Hatcher*



Erma Hatcher - February 02, 2023 at 05:13 PM



“ *Tonya,*

I'm so sorry for your loss. Your mom was always kind. My thoughts are prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

Robinette Carter - February 02, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Really going to miss you my best sewing buddy. Gloria Henley*

Gloria B Henley - February 01, 2023 at 07:03 PM

GA

“ I will always remember Ruth as a quiet, calm, kind and very comical lady. On so many Sundays, after church, I would stop to speak to her and was always left laughing.

I will look back on our times together fondly and I hope you'll remember the good times you had with her, too. You had a loving mother who left us all with loving memories.

With prayers for comfort and peace,

Gladys Archer and Family

G. Archer - January 31, 2023 at 11:49 PM

PB

“ Anthony, Tonya and Paris find comfort in the memories that make you smile and laugh. They will get you through the really tough days ahead. Our condolences
Peggy and Charles Battle

Peggy P Battle - January 31, 2023 at 11:01 AM

YH

“ Tonya I am so sorry for your loss. Ma Hester was a sweet woman. Now she is at peace.

Yolanda Harris - January 31, 2023 at 10:54 AM

JN

“ Tonya and Anthony you have my deepest sympathy. She will ALWAYS have a special place in my heart ❤️

Janice Nelms - January 28, 2023 at 07:45 PM

EW

“ To Tanya and Family, may God grant you the peace you need. Mrs. Ruth was a long time member of our Good Shepherd Baptist Church Women's Fellowship Ministry. She will be missed.



Evangeline Walton - January 28, 2023 at 05:06 PM

KB

I will always have fond memories of my kind next door neighbor. Mrs. Hester was a very talented person. I will always remember our special telephone conversations. May God continue to bless the family especially Tonya, Anthony, and Paris.
Always,
K.Kay & William

Karen Brown-Taylor - January 31, 2023 at 08:58 AM

GB

“ The Blakey family sends our deepest condolences to the Hester family. Prayers of comfort are sent your way.

Gerald Blakey - January 28, 2023 at 12:01 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 - January 25, 2023 at 02:21 PM

JN

Tonya and Anthony you have my deepest sympathy. She will ALWAYS have a special place in my heart ❤️ Janice Nelms

Janice Nelms - January 28, 2023 at 06:06 PM

KB

Deepest condolences to you and your family for your loss.

The Brown Family

Kim Brown - January 30, 2023 at 10:25 AM

BF

Tonya & family, you are in my prayers & thoughts. You have my deepest condolences.

Benita Parks & family - January 30, 2023 at 07:48 PM

GR

*Tonya, Paris & Family
I would like to extend my condolences. Pray GOD will give the Family comfort.*

Gracie - January 31, 2023 at 09:15 PM

DS

*Tonya,
so very sorry for the loss of your BEAUTIFUL mother !
my Prayers are with you , Danna Smith-Owens*

danna smith-owens - February 02, 2023 at 02:31 PM

CP

*Tonya,
My condolences to you and your family on the passing of your mother.
Take comfort in the many years of fond memories you have of her and
in knowing she is resting in peace.*

Carl Page

Carl Page - February 03, 2023 at 08:56 PM