

A Celebration of Life



Georgiana Ross

Sunrise: January 19, 1927 ----- Sunset: August 27, 2015

Tuesday, September 8, 2015
9:00 a.m.

Inglewood Cemetery Mortuary
3801 W. Manchester Blvd.,
Inglewood, CA 90305

Obituary

Georgiana Ross was born on January 19, 1927 in New Kent County, a rural area in the state of Virginia. She was the fifth child born to Edwin and Lucy Hill Bassett. At age 5, she was selected to live with her mother's childless brother, David Hill, and his wife, Sister. She remained under their care until, at age 16, she married a childhood friend, Meredith "Dick" Ross, on June 6, 1943. (Meredith boldly proclaimed throughout his life that Georgiana was the prettiest woman in three counties.) The minister who presided over her wedding, Dr. George W. Watkins, also happened to be the principal of the segregated school she attended. At the close of the wedding ceremony, Dr. Watkins said, "Well, Georgiana, I guess you won't be returning to school."

A year after she was married, she had her first child (Richard, born July 9, 1944). Years later she birthed two more children, Jerry (March 23, 1950) and Randy (March 26, 1951). To pursue a better life for her family, she followed her brother, Junious Bassett, to the city of Los Angeles. There she gave birth to her final child, Mervin (December 20, 1957 -- the only Ross born in Los Angeles).

In Los Angeles, Georgiana indeed found better opportunities to support her family. To help meet the needs of her growing family, she spent many years working in hotels in the area of food preparation.

Georgiana was very active in her community. She served in various capacities at her church, New Hope Baptist. She served on the Bethune Park Parents and Sports Committee. She also helped to develop a block club – to help improve safety on her block, Georgiana and fellow block club members successfully petitioned the County of Los Angeles to convert 59th Place between Hooper and Central into a one-way street.

Georgiana and her siblings maintained a strong familial bond throughout their lives. In their prime, they organized family get-togethers during holidays that featured great food, great fun, and lots of love. In the autumn of their long lives, the day came when they were no longer able to organize these fabled gatherings. Still, they spoke with each other by phone every day.

Georgiana's serene intelligence and bountiful life experiences bestowed her with a deep wisdom. She continually offered sage guidance to help her sons and grandchildren navigate life's journey.

In the summer of 1993, Georgiana and Meredith gleefully celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their sons, grandchildren, relatives, and friends. On August 25, 1995, her husband, Meredith Russell Ross, passed away at home in his sleep. Almost exactly 20 years later, on Thursday, August 27, 2015, at age 88, Georgiana passed away peacefully at home in her sleep. Coincidence?

Georgiana lived a long, fruitful life. She was the last living of Ed and Lucy Bassett's seven children (Edwin, Robert, Junious, Mary, Georgiana, Goldie, and Emma). She leaves to treasure her memory three sons (Richard, Randy, and Mervin), over 25 grandchildren, over 35 great (and great-great) grandchildren, and many cousins, nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Georgiana Ross





*Forever
In
Our
Hearts*

MEMORIES of the Grandchildren

Alicia Ross

When I think of Grandma Ross I think of pure love. One of my best childhood memories is how she always made me bathe in that Ivory soap on my chocolate skin. You will forever be in my heart. (A little humor: Grandma Ross was always the boss when she walked down the street with her bat.) Your granddaughter Alicia Ross

Amber Ross

Grandma, what a lady you were. Thank you for showing me how to be a woman, always clean, groomed and strong. I knew this day would come, but I could not prepare myself for it. I wanted you to be here forever but I know that you were tired and fought as long as you could. I can't say goodbye because you're still with me. So until we meet again, I love you.

Carolyn Ross, M.D.

Ode to Grandma. My heart is heavy, filled with the pain and sorrow of knowing that I will never get to see, hug, or speak with my grandmother again. However, I am comforted, knowing that I have a new angel who watches over me. I am consoled by my many memories of my grandmother. She was truly the center of our family. Some of my fondest childhood memories are of the many gatherings at her house. Whether it was playing with my cousins in her backyard, cracking fireworks in her front yard, or rushing through thanksgiving dinner so that I could finally eat a slice of her famous sweet potato pie (it was never just one slice), she was always at the center, keeping the family...family.

Deidre Ross

I'm crying on the outside but smiling on the inside. Grandma, you held on as long as you could and you fought a great fight!! Now beautiful one, it is time to relax and stroll the streets of gold with Grandpa and watch over us while we continue to find our way in this life. I can't wait to see you again and try to beat you in dominos up there!! Until we meet again... Love you always.

Demetrius Ross

To my Grandmother, Thank you for always being by my side all my life. I love you and will miss you.

Dennis Cummins

Kind. Loving. Thoughtful. These words easily come to mind when I think of Grandma Georgia. However, Georgia symbolized so much more. I am filled with memories of close family gatherings, playful laughter, lessons learned, holiday cheer and endless dining. Most of all I am comforted by the love Georgia shared and in awe of the love that all those she touched reciprocated ten-fold. She is truly one of God's Angels called back to heaven.

Ebony Ross

Grandma, I appreciate you for always being sweet, cooking, and playing games with us when you kept us as children. I have insight on what it means to successfully raise black men because of you and you will truly be missed. We love you! Love, Ebony and family.

Leandrita Ortega, M.D.

My Grandma Georgia was one of the most hospitable and generous people I have ever known. If you went to her house, you never left hungry or sad because she made sure your belly and heart were full to overflowing! I especially loved her delicious home grown tomatoes! Most of all, she provided a legacy of great faith and prayer, allowing me the privilege of praying with her a number of times as she struggled through so much physical pain in her later years. She taught much, mostly without words, and her legacy will live on forever through the lives she has touched.

Lee-Madeline Dowls

When I think of my grandmother, I become a child again in my head. I think about family and bringing everyone together. Grandma's house was home base where cousins, uncles, aunts, great-uncles, and great-aunts would get together for good food and good times. While grown-ups played bid whist or dominoes in the house, all the cousins and neighborhood kids would be running around outside (and don't dare step on grandma's plants). Grandma was strict, but she instilled discipline and a strong sense of family in me. Your presence in my life has been more to me than I can put into words. I thank you and I will miss you dearly. I love you Grandma!

“...The great events of this world are not battles and elections and earthquakes and thunderbolts. The great events are babies, for each child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged with humanity, but is still expecting goodwill to become incarnate in each life.”

(Edmond McDonald)

ORDER OF SERVICE

Officiating: Rev. Larry D. Hooks, II, Pastor, New Hope Baptist Church, Los Angeles

Processional..... Soft music/BMQ

Prayer/Scripture

Song: "Amazing Grace"..... Linda Miles/BMQ

Acknowledgments..... Amber Ross

Remarks (please limit to 2 minutes or less)

Obituary..... Carolyn Ross, M.D.

Song: "Precious Lord"..... Linda Miles/BMQ

Eulogy..... Rev. Larry D. Hooks, II

Song: "When the Saints Go Marching In"..... Linda Miles/BMQ

Recessional

Interment

INGLEWOOD PARK CEMETERY

Repast

La Louisanne
5812 Overhill Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90043
(Noon)

PALLBEARERS

Dennis Cummins

Kenneth Robinson

Wayne Ross

Anthony Walker

Gregory Williams, Sr.

Gregory Williams, Jr.

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Charles Dowd

Joseph Tanner

Roy Woods

Acknowledgments

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the many family members and friends who helped to soothe our spirits and lighten our burden during this time of transition.

The family acknowledges the services of the many wonderful caregivers, nurses, and doctors who made it possible for our mother to live out her days at home.

The family acknowledges the musical contributions of the incomparable Linda Broadous Miles (soloist) and the illustrious members of the Blue Morning Quintet--Greg Broadous (piano), Ricardo Mowatt (drums), and Marion New (bass).

The family acknowledges Amber Ross for providing cosmetic services for our mother.

The family expresses gratitude to Rev. Larry D. Hooks, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, for officiating our mother's celebration of life.