



Mrs. Ruth Barton Clarke

January 19, 1934 - December 7, 2023

Mrs. Ruth Barton Clarke, age 89, entered into eternal rest on Thursday, December 7, 2023, at Hock Family Pavilion. May her soul Rest In Peace.

Ruth Barton Clarke was born on January 19, 1934, in Kannapolis, NC to the late Will Massey and Edna Brown Barton. Mrs. Clarke began her heavenly journey on December 7, 2023 at Hock Family Pavilion, a Duke Hospice facility. She was preceded in death by her husband George Clarke and nine siblings, including her twin brother Robert Barton.

Ruth was educated at George Washington Carver High School, in Kannapolis, NC, graduating in the Class of 1952.

She was employed by NC Congressman Hugh Alexander for many years and remained connected to the family for decades.

Ruth was a lifetime member of her “home church”, Marable Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, which she faithfully blessed, supported and attended, whenever possible.

The union of George and Ruth Clarke, birthed one son, Tique Clarke. They lived in Morganton, NC before relocating to Durham, NC. Ruth was a homemaker and mother who loved to cook, clean, entertain and shop! When

her husband George was blessed with a professorship at the prestigious North Carolina Central University, it also allowed an opportunity for Ruth to display her professional culinary skills. She would become the original leader of the Eagle's Nest, an eating location on campus, which offered alternatives to the traditional cafeteria options, such as: home-cooked meals, sandwich options, and more at nominal prices; prepared by "The Connoisseur".

During her stay at NCCU, Ruth was well-known, well-respected, and well-loved by students and staff. She reached out to many students who were away from home as well as locals. She developed special, long-lasting relationships, nurtured and encouraged successful ventures.

Ruth has been a devoted member of St. Joseph A.M.E. Church for decades, lifting up God and His goodness, sharing and caring, being a blessing to others. She always looked forward to preparing menus and meals, along with her "Fabulous Kitchen Committee". She was also a member of the Sarah Allen Missionary Board, Stewardess Board #1, and Altar Guild. She also showed great concern for the sick and shut-in and less fortunate.

She leaves to cherish lifelong memories, one son - Tique Clarke of Durham, NC; two granddaughters, Melanie Collins of Cary, NC and Leia Clarke of Raleigh, NC; one bonus grandson, David Neal of Durham, NC; one great-grandson, RasElijah Clarke-Davis of Raleigh, NC; one God-Son, Jeff Daye of Durham, NC; one sister, Linda Kay Shoemake of Charlotte, NC; a host of special nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

May the work she's done, speak for her.

Services to celebrate the life of Mrs. Ruth Barton Clarke will take place on Friday, December 15, 2023, at St. Joseph AME Church, 2521 Fayetteville Street, Durham, North Carolina 27707, at 1:00 p.m., with viewing one hour

prior to the service.

Interment will take place in Beechwood Cemetery.

The Celebration of Life Service will be streamed live via:

-YouTube St Joseph AME Church

-Facebook St Joseph AME Church

Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

Cemetery Details

Beechwood Cemetery

3300 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 560-4154

Previous Events

Viewing

DEC 15. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

St Joseph AME Church
2521 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707-4125
(919) 683-1379

Celebration of Life

DEC 15. 1:00 PM (ET)

St Joseph AME Church
2521 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707-4125
(919) 683-1379

Tribute Wall

JK

“ *Mrs. Clarke, a jewel!!! When I first met Mrs. Clarke it was in Morganton where her husband had come to teach at the elementary school and work with High school football program. They were loved by our community and we have fond memories of the Clarke family. Our deepest sympathy to the family.*



Jacqueline C. Kanipe - December 14, 2023 at 05:53 PM

MS

“ *Marva Davis And Gary Stephens lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Barton Clarke*



Marva Davis and Gary Stephens - December 14, 2023 at 11:17 AM

TW

“ *Tyrone Green & Felicia WilderGreen sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Ruth Barton Clarke*



Tyrone Green & Felicia WilderGreen - December 13, 2023 at 10:56 PM

PM

“ As an undergraduate and graduate student from 1966-1971, I will always remember the kind words of encouragement from Mrs. Clarke. She possessed a warm personality and love for NCCU and its students. Years later when I returned as a faculty member she beamed with joy that I had returned to the University and wished me well in my career. Mrs. Clarke was the embodiment of our University's motto: "Truth and Service." Percy E. Murray, PHD. Professor Emeritus, Department of History, NCCU, Durham, NC

Percy E. Murray - December 12, 2023 at 09:45 AM

JK

“ Jacqueline C. Kanipe lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ruth Barton Clarke



Jacqueline C. Kanipe - December 11, 2023 at 11:38 PM

FW

“ To the family of Mrs. Ruth Barton Clarke “Cousin Ruth”, I send my sincere condolences. May God surround you all with His love, peace and comfort both now and in the days to come.

Floretta L Walls - December 09, 2023 at 03:12 PM

AF

My condolences to the family! Mrs. Clark will be missed!!

Alan Fitzgerald - December 10, 2023 at 11:23 AM

EM

MY SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY A WONDERFUL NEIGHBOR NO ONE LIKE HER SHE WILL SURELY BE MISSED. ELLA MCALLISTER

Ella Mcallister - December 10, 2023 at 01:54 PM

PC

Sending condolences and prayers to the Clarke family she will truly be missed

Patricia Clowney - December 10, 2023 at 11:22 PM

VG

Praying for comfort today and in days to come. NCCU Retiree, Vanessa Gregory

Vanessa Gregory - December 12, 2023 at 09:12 PM

BM

Sincere condolences to the Clark Family! We shared so many memories working at NCCU, catering, shopping, worshipping together back in the days. Rest in Power my Friend. Barbara J. McMorris, Marian, Pat & Denise.

Barbara J McMorris - December 15, 2023 at 12:05 PM