



Mrs. Edna Ruth Jones

February 19, 1940 - November 10, 2019

Mrs. Edna Ruth Jones, affectionately known as “Baby Ruth”, passed away peacefully on Sunday November 10, 2019, surrounded by friends and family at Unity Point Methodist, Peoria, Illinois. Edna was born 02-19-1940 to her adoring parents Alfred and Ora Penn in Jackson, Ms.

Edna was educated in Jackson Public Schools, graduating from Jim Hill High School. She went on to Jackson State University graduating with a BS Degree in Language Arts. Later Edna, obtained a MS Degree from Illinois State University graduating with honors. Edna combined her intellect and hard work for a career in education that spanned close to 50 years. She taught in PPS District 150 for 28 years retiring in 1994. She went on to teach GED classes at the Tri-County Urban League, Peoria Branch for an additional 22 years, retiring in 2018.

Edna married Charles Jones and to this Union 3 kids were born. Edna was a warm, intelligent, generous and fun-loving person. She had a great sense of humor. She was according to her daughter: “classy and sassy”. She loved reading, shopping, socializing with friends and family, eating out, and most of all traveling! One of her favorite phrases was “Let’s Go!”. Her travels were extensive. She took “road trips” throughout each year. She traveled from coast to coast, north and south. Of course her favorite trips were when she went home to Jackson, MS, visiting family, friends and her home church. She was a devoted traveler to family reunions, rarely missing. She loved her family immensely, and looked forward to seeing them near or far. She took

tremendous pride in being from a large family. As she was one of the youngest of her siblings, she was loved and cherished by her family. Edna returned that love by staying in contact with family as much as she could. She also had a large circle of friends. Edna was outgoing and loved attending social and civic events with her friends. She was down to earth and “kept it real”. She was well respected in the community and supported many worthy causes. She was a member of NATIONAL Association of University Women (NAUW), Phi Delta Kappa -Bradley Chapter, Illinois Education Association (IEA), National Education Association (NEA), and Illinois Retired Teachers Association.

Edna accepted Christ at an early age and became a member of Mt. Galilee Baptist Church, in Jackson, Ms. Upon moving to Peoria, IL in the late 60s, she united with Grace Baptist Church. She was a devoted member serving on many auxiliaries at various times in Grace Baptist Church. Edna was the primary musician early on, dedicating long hours to choir rehearsal, playing, and singing on Sundays. She loved working with the church choir purchasing hundreds of cassettes from music stores to teach her beloved choir members new gospel songs to sing on Sundays. Even after giving up her position as the pianist for the church, she continued serving in the choir in several capacities: choir President, treasurer, and secretary. Edna also found time to serve on the Usher Board, president and vice-president of the Sisterhood, Sunday School Teacher and Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday School, Youth Director, Mission, and Music Director for Central District of Christian Education, Peoria, Illinois. Edna love her beloved “Grace” and church members ever so much. Her religious duty was unmatched. She loved Christ with her whole heart and soul. Edna had a personal relationship with God and she was always willing to let her “Little Light Shine”!

Edna leaves to cherish her most precious memories her daughter, Iris “Tenoa” Jones, who lovingly took care of her after her health failed. Her 5 grandkids, Amber Alexander, Darius Alexander, and Adrian Alexander, Brittany and LaTisha Jackson. She also leaves behind 10 great-grandchildren, one brother:

David Penn of Terry, Ms., three sisters: Ora Younger of Jackson, Ms. Alta Mae Owens of Indianapolis, IN., and Alma Barnes of Stockton, CA., one Aunt: Ida B Kelly of Jackson, Ms., and a host of relatives, friends, and in- Laws. Edna Ruth will be dearly missed by all her family and friends, but especially by Larry and Wanda Higgins with whom she shared so wonderful adventurous trips, in addition to sharing trips with her cousins Amelia and the late Albert Nickels. She was preceded in death by her husband Charles Jones, a son lost in infancy, her son Reginald Jones, her parents, 3 sisters, and two brothers. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at Grace Baptist Church with a visitation beginning at 9 a.m. Pastor Claude White, Jr. will officiate. Edna will be laid to rest at Swan Lake Memory Gardens.

Simons Mortuary is entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at SimonsMortuary.com.

Cemetery Details

Swan Lake Memory Gardens

4601 W War Memorial Dr.
Peoria, IL 61615

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **16**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Grace Baptist Church
405 N. Richard Pryor Place
Peoria, IL 61605

Funeral Service

NOV **16**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Grace Baptist Church
405 N. Richard Pryor Place
Peoria, IL 61605

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Edna Ruth Jones*



Simons Mortuary - November 15, 2019 at 05:32 PM

CK

One the most inspiring teachers That I have ever had in my life, after all these years she still has left a major impact on my life...RIH MRS JONES 🙏🙏❤️

charla king-jackson - November 20, 2019 at 08:37 AM

DS

I love u mommy miss u . 📖📖🙏

Diana Sims - December 19, 2019 at 04:12 AM



“ *Mrs. Edna Ruth Jones*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mrs. Edna Ruth Jones*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ God wanted an angel and that is why he chose you
Your smile is a priceless gift
You will always leave a legacy
Your kindness and love will last in our hearts
Rest on my sweet Aunt, our memories will never part
Take your angel wings and soar
We love you forever more
Your niece T. Dyanne
I am so happy we were just together in August.

T - November 21, 2019 at 12:47 AM



“ Baby Ruth, I will always remember you, the love and concern that you have always shown. You, my Dad's 1st Cousin, we grew up on the same street (Galilee), attended the same church and had many happy times together. You were a role model to me in music, singing and graduating college. You were like your dad, Uncle Sonny Boy Alfred) who always showed love and encouragement to all! I thank God for you cousin! I will miss you! Love, Robert Earl Funchess, Sr.

Dr. Robert Earl Funchess, Sr - November 16, 2019 at 08:38 PM



“ Curtis Shumate lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Edna Ruth Jones



Curtis shumate - November 15, 2019 at 06:39 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Edna Ruth Jones.



November 15, 2019 at 06:39 PM





“ To the Family of Sis. Edna Jones - I was very sorry to hear of her passing. I remember all the times we sang together. It was always fun & enjoyable. We were forever having a good laugh during our rehearsals. She will be missed & fondly remembered by all who knew her. I pray God will bless, comfort & keep you throughout your time of sorrow.



Vickie King - November 14, 2019 at 02:34 PM



“ I will always cherish our singing together, and her purple fingers  love and prayers to the family 

claudette clark - November 13, 2019 at 02:27 PM



“ My Condolences to the Jones family, May the peace of GOD comfort you through this most difficult time. May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived. Edna Ruth Jones has departed from this world into the eternal joy of GOD'S presence. Edna you will be miss we all love you. RIH. Patricia Tyler and Family. Mary Mack granddaughter. Riverdale GA.

PATRICIA A TYLER - November 13, 2019 at 09:24 AM

AM

“ Sorry for your loss Tenoa and family my prayer's are with you

angie moore - November 13, 2019 at 07:33 AM

TW

“ Twila Williams lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Edna Ruth Jones



Twila Williams - November 13, 2019 at 05:38 AM

JB

“ Joanie Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Edna Ruth Jones



Joanie Brown - November 13, 2019 at 12:10 AM

EP

“ I loved working with Ms. Edna at Tri-County Urban League. Always had a smile on her face.



Ellissa Painter-Jones - November 12, 2019 at 01:57 PM

KC

“ *Kathy Collins sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Edna Ruth Jones*



Kathy collins - November 12, 2019 at 01:34 PM

DM

“ *She was such a sweet teacher at Columbia G.S. My condolences to her family.*

Danielle Mendenhall-Martin - November 12, 2019 at 01:00 PM

DB

“ *My condolences to TJ and your family. Know that I am thinking of you and miss you. She had to be a wonderful mother and teacher for the great family she raised.*

Debbie Baer - November 12, 2019 at 11:44 AM

TW

“ *Theresa Walker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Edna Ruth Jones*



Theresa Walker - November 12, 2019 at 10:14 AM

EC

“ *No words can describe how sorry I am for your loss*



evelyn tate clayton - November 11, 2019 at 10:20 PM

CB

“ *Curtis Bond lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Edna Ruth Jones*



Curtis Bond - November 11, 2019 at 08:00 PM

LC

“ *LaVerne Clayborn lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Edna Ruth Jones*



LaVerne Clayborn - November 11, 2019 at 06:10 PM

YA

“ *My prayers and condolences to the Jones family. It was such a pleasure being a student of Mrs. Jones.*

Yolanda Archibald-Cockfield - November 11, 2019 at 04:36 PM

KL

Mrs Jones was a great teacher and leader,inspiring her students to want more, try harder, and be excellent. Her impact on so many students over the years made a difference in many lives. My condolences to the family and friends of this wonderful woman.

karen stubbs linsley - November 12, 2019 at 10:58 AM

CC

My condolences to you and your family! My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family during this time of your loss. Cathy Miller Carter

Cathy Carter - November 13, 2019 at 02:37 AM