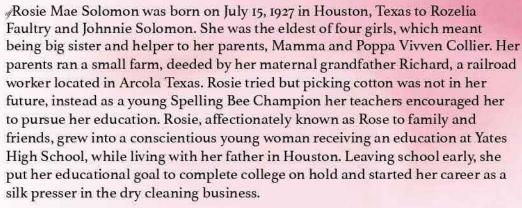


Saturday, January 14th, 2023 Twelve O'clock Noon

Berean Missionary Baptist Church IIII4 Cullen Boulevard • Houston, TX 77047 Reverend Jer'ald Whittaker, Officiating Pastor Bruce Washington, Eulogy

Her Loving Journey





In Houston, she met Lorenzo Fortson, a WWII veteran. They married and lovingly parented Mildred, Brenda, Jeanette (from prior marriage relationships), and Vanessa (born from their union). The latter three daughters became Texas Southern University alumnus as did Rosie, who began at a courageous age of 40, obtaining degrees in Early Childhood Education and Black History Studies. She worked in Crosby ISD, and at Eighth Avenue (HISD) schools, while traveling weekends to study and obtain a Masters in Education from Prairie View University.



Rosie and Lorenzo attended Mt. Vernon Methodist Church in 5th Ward. She enjoyed fishing and hunting in San Luis Pass, and Centerville, TX respectively with her sisters, cousins, and neighbors. In her early years, she was an avid crocheter, quilter, seamstress, and an excellent cook of fricasseed chicken, seafood gumbo, pies, and cakes. After Lo's death, she joined her neighbors at Mount Moriah Baptist Church to study and extend her Christian fellowship.

Rosie married Thurman at the age of 75 years, and began a new chapter at Berean Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Washington. Welcomed by a loving family congregation who guided her to a world of life's pleasure through cruises, church outings and participation in plays. She worked diligently as a mission teacher, deaconess, Sunday school teacher, senior mission choir, and was very active in BTU. She would be blessed with two God daughters, Sue English (Larry) and Dorothy Phoenix, affectionately calling her Momma Gathan.

Rosie leaves to cherish her memory, daughters Vanessa Fortson Otway (Gene), Brenda Fortson Houston (Bobby), grandsons Gibran and Khalil Fortson Otway, granddaughters Veronica Wren (Ernest), Allison Williams (Cedric), Raina Bajuk, bonus son Michael Gathan, and a host of great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. She is preceded in death by her parents, Husbands: Lorenzo Fortson, Thurman Gathan; Sisters: Katherine Rattler, Vivian Latson, and Vennie Fields.



Musical Prelude	(Soft Music)
Processional	Ministers, Pallbearers, Family
Song of Praise	Berean Church Choir
Reading of the Holy Scripture:	
	Reverend Bryson Smith Reverend Daniel Ve'an
Prayer of Comfort	Reverend Jer'ald Whitaker
Choir Selection	
Resolutions/AcknowledgementsBerean M.B.C	
Th	ne Obituary Read Silently
Reflections	Pastor Kenneth Wells (Nephew)
Pastoral Remarks	Pastor Robert Ve'an
Solo	Joann Graves
Eulogy	Pastor Bruce Washington
Fu	neral Directors In Charge
Recessional	

"May The Works I've Done Speak For Me"

ROSIE MAE FORTSON-GATHAN

EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE

A LOVING MOTHER

Dear Mama

When God made you Mama, He had a purpose and plan for your good. Whatever came your way, into your life, He branded with His love and so you are Love. You showed us all encouragement even when we made mistakes, you told us "that is why pencils have erasers". I am sure God is delighted in who you became, and how you shared Unconditional Love. So today and always I celebrate His beautiful gift to me and our family. Thank you for being you.

Love, Vanessa

Nothing in the world will ever separate us from the love of God Romans 8:38

OUR GRANDMOTHER

Grandma Rosie,

I thank our Heavenly Father for you and the amount of love and compassion you have given throughout your life. I am reminded of Phil. 2:4, that speaks of "not thinking of yourself but taking interest in others." This is the life you lived. You spoke truth, you sacrificed, you gave of yourself, and you were there. What a good example you set and a legacy for us to live by. Thank you Grandma, Rosie.

> You are not as far as some might think... hearts are eternally joined. Love always. Your granddaughter, Veronica

> > Dear Granny,

We just want you to know that in moments of distress, we often think of the peaceful times we share getting together for summers, and holidays, a home filled with love and tradition. And, in later years playing puzzle games and watching Family Feud and Wheel of Fortune. We are so fortunate to have a loving and caring grandmother, as an example of love to us and all of our friends. Love you always Granny. Your grandsons Gibran and Khalil

OUR AUNT

Aunt Rosie,

Thank you for being the best big sister to all your sisters and supporting the family. Thank you for treating me like an Angel and making me feel so special.

Love you dearly, Dr. Katrell "Your Baby"

Aunt Rosie, I will definitely miss your encouraging words, your laughter, hugs, and kisses, and most of all your beautiful smile. Love you, Angie





























































"DON'T THINK OF ME AS GONE AWAY"

By Ellen Brenneman

Family, My journey has just begun; life holds so many facets, this earth is only one.

Just think of me as resting from the sorrows and the tears
in a place of warmth and comfort where there are no days and years.

Think how I must be wishing that you could know today.

How nothing but your sadness can really pass away.

And think of me as living in the hearts of those I touched.

For nothing loved is ever lost....and I know I was loved so much.

"Don't think of me as gone away"

"Blessed is the 95 year old woman who dies with her business in order"



Active Pallbearers

Deacon Charlie Tennon Deacon Emanuel Gillis Deacon Ondra Rountree Deacon Eric Hardy Deacon Larry English Deacon Otis Adams Deacon Tristan Washington Deacon Curtis Whittaker

Deacon Frank English

Honorary Pallbearers

Berean Mid Day Service Members — Pastor Ve'an Teacher Berean Deaconess & Ministers' Wives

Our Sincerest Appreciation...

The family of Rosie Fortson-Gathan gracefully acknowledges the many acts of love, words of comfort, telephone calls, text messages, cards, flowers, plants, food and other sentiments offered during the illness and death of Mama. We thank you for covering us with daily prayers and words of love, comfort, and encouragement.

Special thanks to the medical and nursing staff of Memorial Hermann Home Care, Hospice, and
Senior Helpers- Pearland through life's journey.
- The Family -

And The Shall Rest at

Houston Memorial Cemetery 2426 Cullen Blvd. • Pearland, Texas 77581

Services Lovingly Entrusted by

McCoy & Harrison FUNERAL HOME, INC.

"A Family Serving Families Since 1926"
4918 Martin Luther King Blvd. • Houston, Texas 77021
Phone: (713) 659-7618 Fax: (713) 748-7122
Web: www.mccoyandharrison.com

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