

## *If Tears Could Build A Stairway*

### **Author Unknown**

If tears could build a stairway,  
and memories a lane.  
We would walk right up to Heaven  
and bring you back again.

No farewell words were spoken,  
No time to say "Goodbye".  
You were gone before we knew it,  
and only God knows why.

Our heart still aches with sadness,  
and secret tears still flow.  
What it meant to love you -  
No one can ever know.

But now I know you want me  
to mourn for you no more;  
To remember all the happy times  
life still has much in store.

Since you'll never be forgotten,  
We pledge to you today~  
A hollowed place within my heart  
is where you'll always stay.

*Love, Your Family*

## *Acknowledgements*

*The family of Retha Mae Haynes acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy during our time of sorrow. Please continue to keep our family in your prayers.*

## *Funeral Arrangements Entrusted To:*

*Granby's Funeral Service Inc.*

[www.granbysfuneralservice.com](http://www.granbysfuneralservice.com)

4021 White Plains Road  
Bronx, New York, 10466  
718-519-6047

## *In Loving Memory of*



*Retha Mae Haynes*

*Sunrise: January 5, 1941*

*Sunset: March 8, 2022*

*Service: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 ~ 1:00 PM*

*Granby's Funeral Service, Inc.*

4021 White Plains Road, Bronx, NY 10466



## Order of Service

*Organ Prelude*

*Processional*

*Invocation*

*Scriptures*

*Old Testament*

*New Testament*

*Prayer of Comfort*

*Selection*

*Obituary*

*Tributes/Remarks/Resolutions*

*Acknowledgements*

*Selection*

*Eulogy*

*Selection*

*Committal*

*Passing Glimpse.....Funeral Director & Staff*

*Benediction*

*Recessional*

*Interment*

*Mt. Olive Baptist Church Cemetery  
Whiteville, North Carolina*



## Obituary

Rev. Retha Mae ("Reather") Haynes passed from this life on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 after living eighty-one years blessing the lives of countless people who came to know her as family and friend.

Retha was born on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1941 to Rufus William Haynes and Lessie Lee Haynes in Tatum, North Carolina. She was the oldest child of Rufus and Lessie and grew up with younger siblings William, James, and Earline. The family moved from North Carolina to New York City when Retha was seven years old. There, Retha enrolled at and attended elementary school at P.S. 2. She went on to attend J.H.S. 145 and Roosevelt High School. Growing up, Retha was close to her siblings, especially Earline, and enjoyed the time she spent in family's company.

After completing high school, Retha entered the work force and found a passion in the field of nursing. Her informal education in the medical world began in the early 1960s, and her formal education completed in 1980 when she received her BA in Social Services from the College of New Rochelle. She spent many years at Manhattan State Hospital and also worked with cancer patients. Retha often knit caps for her patients while they underwent treatment, as she was never one to do the minimum—she served and loved all she came to know while she worked to help them during difficult times.

Retha's passion for nursing, however, was part of a larger passion for and devotion to God. She was an avid reader of the Bible, and her faith informed the good she did in the world, so much so that she became an ordained Reverend, Evangelist, and Chaplain. Retha was always ready with a prayer and prepared to witness to anyone, be they inmates, disabled veterans, friends, or family. She was a rock of faith and example of God's love every day she lived. All were a beloved friend to Retha Mae Haynes.

She demonstrated this divine love to her five children and impressed upon them the importance of living good lives spent in service. Her first son, Nathaniel, died one day after birth, but she went on to have four more children-- William, Denise, Christopher, and Michelle. She raised them in the Edenwald neighborhood of the Bronx and encouraged them to find joy in the rewards of hard work and unflinching faith. She also showed them not just how to live good lives, but how to enjoy them; after retirement, Retha found herself quite fond of cruises and relaxing vacations spent in the company of family.

Retha's family feels a profound loss at her death, but are strengthened by the testimony she left behind: that we are saved by the grace of Jesus and that because of His grace, she is now reunited with her dear parents, younger brother, baby sister, and son Nathaniel who preceded her in death. She has been called home and we look forward to the day we see her again.

Retha is survived by her brother, James, and her four children William, Denise, Christopher, and Michelle. She is also survived by ten grandchildren: Aaron, Stephon, Shanie, Clarissa, Javón, Jacen, Kiara, Malakhi, Khryshelle, Messiah, in addition to being abundantly blessed with many great-grandchildren who she loved very much. She leaves behind many nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 a viewing for Reatha will be held from 12:00-1:00, with funeral services to follow 1:00-2:00 at Granby's Funeral Home (4021 White Plains Rd, Bronx, NY 10466.) Following services, Reather will be sent home to be laid to rest next to her parents and sister in North Carolina, with a final viewing 10:00-2:00 at People's Funeral Home (707 Vinson Blvd Whiteville, NC 28472). She will then be interred at the Mount Olive Cemetery.