

Acknowledgements

WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION, THE FAMILY OF FRANCES DORIS BROOKS WOULD LIKE TO THANK EACH OF YOU FOR MANY ACTIONS OF KINDNESS AND LOVE SHOWN DURING THE TIME OF HER EXTENDED ILLNESS AND DURING THE TIME OF BEREAVEMENT. WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR GRATITUDE TO A FEW SPECIAL PEOPLE THAT HAD A GREAT IMPACT IN HER LIFE. THANK YOU, CALVIN BROOKS JR, WHO SHE TRULY LOVED AS HER OWN SON AKA THE KING. THANK YOU TONYNITIA DARLING, YOLANDA ALI, DOVELLA TOLLIVER, VALERIE HOWELL, NATE JOYNER, SISTER EVELYN HANNAH, REEREE HANNAH, PASTOR DENISE JACKSON, PASTOR NANCY JACKSON-JOHNSON, PASTOR AND FIRST LADY. YOUR ACT OF KINDNESS, CARDS, PHONE CALLS, VISITS AND PRAYERS WILL FOREVER BE EMBEDDED IN OUR HEARTS. IT IS OUR PRAYER THAT GOD KEEPS YOU COVERED AND BLESSED IN HIS ARMS.

I have finished the race...



I have fought the good fight...

2 Timothy 4:7



THE FERGUSON-RAYAM FUNERAL HOME

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Arrival

MARCH 15, 1948

Heart to Heart

A LETTER TO YOU FROM US

MOM YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR US. YOU'VE ENCOURAGED, INSPIRED, AND BELIEVED IN US LIKE NOBODY ELSE DID. YOU'VE TAKEN CARE OF US, YOU'VE LOOKED OUT FOR US, YOU'VE PUT UP WITH OUR MESS. YOU'VE HELPED US OUT IN OUR TIME OF NEED. YOU'VE CHEERED US ON AND LET US FIND OUR WAYS. YOU'VE KNOWN JUST WHAT WE NEEDED MOM/GRANDMA. THAT'S WHY TODAY WE'RE THINKING OF YOU WITH LOVE, MANY THANKS, AND SMILES.

MOMMY YOU SAID THAT EACH ONE OF YOUR KIDS REMINDS YOU OF YOUR HUSBAND. RACHEL HAS HIS TEMPERAMENT, SHARONDA HAS HIS BIRTHDAY, RONNIE JR HAS HIS MANNERISM AND JEANETTA HAS HIS EYES. WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR GRANDKIDS, WE SEE YOU THROUGH THEM. MIKEY WOULD GIVE YOU THE SHIRT OF HIS BACK LIKE YOU. DEVON IS A HARD WORKER LIKE YOU WERE. ASIA IS INTELLIGENT LIKE YOU WHEN IT COMES TO DIFFERENT THINGS LIKE PRESENTATION. KAYLA TAKES AFTER YOU WITH WRITING, SHE HAS TALENT LIKE YOU. KAMARI IS VERY AFFECTIONATE YET DEMANDING LIKE YOU.

MOTHER YOUR FATHER ALWAYS SAID "YOU HAVE TO BE YOURSELF OR YOU WILL FOREVER BE BY YOURSELF" YOU ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT GOD HAD ESTABLISHED A PURPOSE OF COMPASSION IN YOU FOR PEOPLE IN AND AROUND YOUR LIFE. YOU GAVE YOURSELF IN THE MOST NATURAL NON CLINICAL WAY THAT YOU COULD. NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU GO, YOUR ALWAYS WITH US. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN US. AT LAST, ALWAYS AND FOREVER. WE LOVE YOU.



Departure

JANUARY 31, 2023



HER LIFE STORY (CONT...)

Not only was Frances called to the ministry and affirmed as a minister in June 2021 at The Hope Community Church, but she also lived a life pleasing to God. The kind, bubbly, smiling woman that walked into church on Sundays was the same in public and behind closed doors. She loved unconditionally. She helped the needy with all that she had (food, clothing, shelter and finances). Few know, but with her minivan ready, Frances has even made as many as three stops in three different towns for extended periods of time to pick up people for church who didn't have a means of transportation. She gave advice and assistance with job searches. She helped with resumes and presentation for job interviews. Several people have solid government jobs and other solid jobs as part of their work experience because Frances took the time to mentor, counsel and assist them in their job search process. Frances did all of these things without the need for recognition. No one, except her close knit family, even knew all of the things that Frances did because she was a confidant. If you told Frances anything, even your deepest secret, you were not going to ever hear it again. She could be trusted to listen and help, as needed. God also gave her wisdom and insight. Frances provided the tough advice and guidance when needed as well.

Proverbs 18:26 reminds us that our gifts will make room for us. Frances had many gifts and used them. She was a master seamstress. She designed and created robes for the church choir, robes for the Bishop of her church, wedding dresses, bridesmaids dresses and so many prom gowns that her family lost count many years ago. She made and donated the majority of the flags that are currently used by The Hope Community Church's liturgical dance and flag ministry. Frances wrote poetry. Many of her family and friends will recall the beautiful and inspirational individualized poems that she has made for them over the years for special birthdays and special events. Frances would take key details from a person's life and turn it into a mosaic of spoken word that touched like none other. Cooking was another talent. Frances hosted Christmas dinner for family and friends at her home each year. There was no set number of people. There was an open door policy. With family, friends, "friends of family" and even "friends of friends" arriving at her doorstep on Christmas Day, there was always enough with food to spare. It was truly "soul food" made with love that came from the soul. Her homemade rolls were often requested for special occasions. The recipe is a family secret, but those rolls could have been served in the finest restaurants around the world. Her oldest daughter, Rachel, described the love with which Frances prepared food best. Rachel once said, "My mother didn't have us heating up leftovers. We had a fresh hot meal every day." This was no easy feat as Frances would cook for her core family and whomever else was visiting at the time. She made cooking for as many as eight to eleven people for dinner nightly look easy. She continued to cook nightly for her children up until she went into the hospital on September 30, 2022.

Frances is preceded in death by her devoted loving husband, Ronald Eugene Brooks, her parents, Samuel and Leona Jones, parents-in-law, Calvin and Minnie Brooks, two aunts, Lillian Mayes and Odena Jones, one uncle, M. Eugene Mayes, three sisters-in-law, Deborah Brooks, Laverne Brooks and Carolyn Fields, three brothers-in-law, Arthur Brooks, Calvin Brooks (Sr.) and Mark Brooks, one niece, Aloma Brooks, and one nephew, Laquane Brooks.

Frances leaves to cherish precious memories her four children, Rachel Brooks, Sharonda Brooks, Ronald Brooks Jr. and Jeanetta Brooks, all of Newark, New Jersey, four grandchildren, Rondie Daniels, Jr. (affectionately known as "Mikey"), Devon Brooks, Asia Brooks-Smith and Kayla Brooks-Jenkins, one great grandson, Kamari Brooks (affectionately known as "Yum Yum"), one sister, Elaine Collier Singley, one sister-in law, Lenora Brooks-Shipman (Maurice), one brother-in-law, Gary Brooks, one niece, Cantesi Tiggs, one nephew, Vernon Collier, and a host of other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.



REMEMBERING
MINISTER

FRANCES D.
JONES

3.15.48

1.31.23

Brooks

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023
10:00 AM
THE HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
183 6TH ST, ELIZABETH, NJ 07206



Order OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

PRAYER OF COMFORT

OLD TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO GRANDMA
GRANDDAUGHTER ASIA BROOKS-SMITH

REMARKS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

OBITUARY

MUSICAL SELECTION

EULOGY

RECESSIONAL



THE STORY OF MINISTER FRANCES D. JONES Brooks

3.15.48 1.31.23

Minister Frances Doris Brooks, loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, peacefully departed this life to rest in the arms of God on Tuesday, January 31, 2023. Frances was born in Englewood, New Jersey on March 15, 1948. Frances was the older of two children born to the late Samuel and Leona Jones.

Frances grew up in Newark, New Jersey where she attended the Newark Public School System, and she graduated from West Side High School in 1968. Frances loved to acquire knowledge. Frances studied theology throughout the years at Eastern Bible Institute in Irvington, New Jersey under Dean Odessa McNeil and Dr. Brenda Stanford. In addition to her studies in theology, Frances enrolled in numerous courses, workshops, and seminars to hone her skills in the workplace and beyond. She was a critical thinker and enjoyed treatises, commentaries, study guides and documentaries. She was also quite savvy with technology, and she never let technological advances slow her down.

At fourteen years old, Frances met the love of her life, Ronald Eugene Brooks, affectionately known as “Ronnie.” They dated during high school, fell in love and were married. Out of that union, their four children, Rachel, Sharonda, Ronald Jr. and Jeanetta were born. Through their four children, they not only left their legacy of family first, but they also had a house that was always bustling with energy and where all were welcome. Their house was a safe refuge where family members and friends could visit or stay. A few stayed for extended periods. Frances even lovingly cared for her great uncle, Eugene Mayes, at their family home until he went home to be with the Lord in early 2000.

Frances and Ronnie also took time to travel the world together. They traveled cross country. They also did destination trips to several places, such as Nova Scotia, Bermuda and the Bahamas. During his lifetime and after Ronnie went home to be with the Lord, Frances shared the tradition of traveling by going to Virginia Beach annually with her children, grandchildren, great grandchild and sister.

In 1975, Frances began working for the IRS (Internal Revenue Service). Frances flourished at the IRS. During her thirty-five year tenure, Frances worked as a Budget Assistant, Coordinator of the Summer Youth Program, Assistant - Personnel and Education and Training Branch and Assistant - Director of Field Operations and Senior Staff Analyst. During her time at the IRS, Frances also volunteered for a thirty day commitment in Mobile, Alabama with FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) to help families in New Orleans/Gulf Shore region affected by the hurricane. She received several awards. She received the Special Merit Award (awarded by the Federal Executive Board of Northern NJ) and several Special Acts Awards (awarded by the Federal Executive Board of Northern NJ). Most notably, upon retirement, Frances received the Albert Gallatin Award (awarded by Internal Revenue Service for 35 years of service and maintaining a record of highly esteemed service).

Frances had an innate desire to serve. After a short while in retirement, Frances took her love for life and people to work in a community organization, Unified Vailsburg Service Organization, dedicated to providing quality early childhood education. She worked with the Infant and Toddler program for two years. She then transitioned to an administrative role. She agreed to take a position as an Administrative Assistant for the Head Director of Education Programming. She stayed for twelve more years, and she retired again from Unified Vailsburg Service Organization.

Frances lived an exemplary life. Under the leadership of Pastor Earnest Jackson, Frances was ordained as a licensed Minister at The Hope Community Church (formerly Greater St. John MER Church) in June 2021. Prior to licensing, Frances was a member of the church for 48 years. She joined under the leadership of our late Bishop B.F. Jackson. Frances was a Sunday School teacher for many years. In her work with the youth group, she was also the Founder of the church’s earliest Praise Dance Ministry. Frances also sang with the Senior Choir (which later became the Alumni Choir). Up until her passing, Frances was the President of the Stewardess Board, Assistant Church Secretary, Member of the Finance Ministry and a Trustee Board Member. In addition to her work at her church, Frances attended women’s conferences, and she was the Secretary of the Christian Women United for Christ ministry under the leadership of the late Bishop Ethel Bland.