



Mrs. Rosie Lee Shepherd

June 29, 1929 - March 6, 2023

Rosie Lee Blake Shepherd was born June 29, 1929, to Annie Lee Hamilton-Blake-Parish and Naman Blake in Shreveport, LA. She was their only child, but due to the Great Depression and the need for her parents to work, she was left in the daily care of elder relatives, Duck and Mary Ellen Rambo, in the community of Taylortown, LA. They nurtured and loved her, and as she often said, “they spoiled me rotten.” Eventually she lived with this extended family and began her formal education.

In 1947, the Rambo family moved to Magnolia, Arkansas. Rosie started working at the Chatterbox Café. Working next to her was a handsome soldier, Lewis Shepherd. Their eyes met and they knew that they had met their soulmate. They married one month later...a marriage that lasted 54 years, until his death in 2001. To this union four children were born, Ruby Jewel, Delores Ann, Beverly Dean and Lewis Albert, Jr.

Rosie and Lewis settled in his home community, Friendship, AR. Rosie found her niche in the community and joined the Friendship Baptist Church. She carried her children to church every Sunday and taught them about Christ and his redeeming love. During her years of service at Friendship, Rosie was a Sunday School teacher and for many years, she demonstrated the Sunday School lesson using the flannel board process. She also sang in the choir, worked with the Mission society, Pastor’s Aide, children’s activities, and

kitchen committee. She was also an “acting Deaconess.”

The service that she truly enjoyed and saw as her life’s mission was helping the elderly. In the seventies, and eighties, many people in the community were elderly and in poor health. Rosie spent countless hours taking people to the doctor, cooking them nutritious meals, making them gift baskets for Christmas, knitting them scarves, or just offering them words of encouragement and comfort.

Rosie was a seamstress and worked for numerous years at Shanhouse in Magnolia. In addition to working outside the home, she still cooked nutritious means for her family and took care of the home. She made a mean butter roll that still makes your mouth water, and no one can duplicate.

Rosie encouraged her children to pursue a college education and careers that they enjoyed. She was also instrumental in encouraging and supporting other children to pursue their dreams. Through the years, she has received many thank-you from adults who told her that they appreciated the meals, words of kindness and encouragement that she gave so lovingly in their youth.

Rosie greeted everyone with her beautiful smile. She was an optimistic person and tried to see the best in people and situations. She didn’t allow setbacks or disappointments in life to deter her. Even when Shanhouse closed its doors and moved to China and she lost all her retirement and benefits, she did not become bitter or angry.

Rosie’s passion was fishing. Nothing deterred her from fishing---hot sun—put on a straw hat and long sleeve shirt; mosquitoes, ticks, and red bugs--spray bug repellent; snakes—get a big stick and put on boots. So, with her fishing pole, a few hooks, and her bait bucket, you could find Rosie fishing at Mill Creek, Mr. Fon’s Pond, Dorcheat, Columbia Lake or any puddle of water...it

didn't matter. "As long as I can wet my hook" she would say. And while most people would catch one or two fish, Rosie would have a bucket full of fish. She called fishing her therapy and could go every day!

In 2007, Rosie began experiencing declining health. As the years passed, it took a toll on her personality and memory. But the one memory that stuck with her was Jesus. She may have forgotten the names of her children, but she always remembered the name of the Lord. And she never forgot how to pray and give testimonies about the Lord. She would say, "God will take care of me." Her faith was unwavering and the one expression that she always remembered to say was "thank you".

All of Rosie's children took care of her during these years, and on March 6, 2023, with her family holding her hands, kissing her forehead, and rubbing her arms, her spirit slipped from this world into the arms of her Savior. And as her grandson, Kevin said, "I hate to see her go, but she is happy now. She is with Sandaddy—her husband."

Rosie's parents and husband preceded her in death. She leaves to cherish her memories:

Four children: Rubye Johnson and husband, George of Clifton Park, NY, Delores Tucker of Pittsburg, CA, Beverly Boyd and husband, Lawrence of Daly City, CA, Lewis Shepherd, Jr. and wife, Joyce of Arkadelphia, AR.

Four grandchildren: Billy Tucker and wife, Melanie of Pittsburg, CA, Kevin Tucker and fiancé, Sherrie of Pittsburg, CA, Staci Medlock, and husband, Reggie of Clifton Park, NY, Kelli Rouse and husband, Stephen of Clifton Park, NY.

Great grandchildren: Malaysia Davis-Tucker of Pittsburg, CA, Janiah Tucker of Oakland, CA, Alexis Tucker (Brandon) of Ashville, NC, Nicolette Tucker of Pittsburg, CA, Billy Tucker III of Pittsburg, CA, Peighton Medlock of Clifton Park, NY, Kevin Tucker, Jr. of Pittsburg, CA.

Additionally, she is survived by sisters-in-law, Naomi Shepherd of Magnolia AR, and Alice Faye Shepherd of Los Angeles, CA.

Great and great-grand: Catherine and Zakia Watson, Darrion Hill, Alyse and Braylon Watson, Georgina Battle, and LeAsia Wright.

And a special niece/daughter, Margie Farris and husband, Ellis of Stamps, AR; and the Marshall Family of Haughton, Louisiana, and a host of nieces and nephews and numerous friends.

Celebration of her Life and Legacy will be held Saturday, March 18th, 2023, at Friendship Baptist Church in Stamps, Arkansas at 11:00 a.m., with burial to follow at 23rd Psalms Cemetery in Magnolia, under the direction of R.L. Reed Funeral Home, LLC. Dr. John Wesson, Pastor/Officiant. Dr. Lewis A. Shepherd, Jr., Eulogist.

Visitation will be Friday, {Mar. 17th} from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., and a wake will be held from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., at R.L. Reed Funeral Home in Magnolia, Arkansas.

A final viewing will be held before the scheduled service time, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Please govern yourselves accordingly.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, “Masks are Encouraged but Not Required While Attending the Services or During Visitation Hours.” However, wearing masks ensures safety for you and others. Thank you.

Cemetery Details

23rd Psalms Cemetery

Columbia Rd # 30 East
Magnolia, AR

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

Friendship Baptist Church
2120 Columbia Rd. 1
Stamps, AR 71860

Tribute Wall

MS

“ 🙏❤️🙏 *for strength in trial times*



Mary Strickland - March 22, 2023 at 05:15 AM



“ *My Sincere Condolences to the Shepherd Family!*

A Mother's Love is Everlasting, In the lessons she taught, the patience she gave, and in the Children she raised. You all are in my prayers and Heart!

May Our Lord comfort you all during this time!

Christene J. Hunter and Family



Twyla Smith - March 19, 2023 at 12:15 PM

GB

“ *Praying for my family, the Shepherds, on this most difficult day. May God grant comfort on today and the days ahead as we forever cherish memories of Matriach Rosie Shepherd.*

*All our love,
Georgina, LiAsia, and the Mitchell and Craig family*

Georgina Battle - March 18, 2023 at 10:24 AM

BH

“ Our prayers are with you during this season of grief. Mrs. Shepherd will never be forgotten. We pray that God grace, mercy and peace be with you. Love
Rev. & Mrs. Billy Hunter

Billy Hunter - March 17, 2023 at 04:14 PM

RG

“ You have our deepest sympathy and unwavering support. Wishing you peace, comfort, courage, and lots of love at this time of sorrow. Our hearts go out to you at this difficult time. Wishing you the best and know you have our full support in every moment.

The members and officers of Greater Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church - Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Roland Gosey - March 17, 2023 at 02:50 PM

EM

“ Esther McRae lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rosie Lee Shepherd



Esther McRae - March 17, 2023 at 12:07 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mrs. Rosie Lee Shepherd.



March 17, 2023 at 12:06 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Rosie Lee Shepherd.*



March 17, 2023 at 03:53 AM



“ *Our prayers are with the Shepherd family during this time. May God grant you comfort.*

Rhonda and LaCarol Newborn - March 17, 2023 at 12:13 AM



I was so saddened to hear of Mrs. Rosie's passing. You have my sincere condolences. Praying you peace, comfort, courage and love in your time of sorrow. 🌹❤️

Esther McRae - March 17, 2023 at 12:10 PM



I was sad to hear the passing of Mrs. Shephard. My condolences and prayers go out for the family during this time of sorrow. Love, Barbara Moore

Barbara Moore - March 17, 2023 at 04:35 PM



“ *Mrs. Rosie Lee Shepherd was beautiful inside and out. Her life in the Lord spoke for her. Family, Be strong and and keep the faith. Mrs. Rosie Lee would not have it any other way. Our prayers and love are with you all!*



Robert and Debbie Newborn Harper - March 16, 2023 at 08:54 PM

IK

“ I will always remember Gram Gram. Her smile and precious personality greeted me every time I was in her presence. She and her family took me on as a daughter and sister when I lived in New York. Sundays were always a festivity with food, fun and enjoying each other's company. I will continue to carry and cherish her sweet memories in my head and heart . Rest in Peace now Gram Gram 🌹🌹 ! Irene Rosen

Irene Rosen (Francis) - March 16, 2023 at 02:42 PM

AN

We acknowledge Dr. Lewis Shepherd and Dr. Joyce Shepherd along with all of the family due to the transition of Mrs. Rosie Lee Shepherd. You are in our thoughts, hearts, and in our prayers. May you find the courage to face tomorrow in the love that surrounds you today. Death leaves a heartache no one can heal. Love leaves a memory no one can steal.

Albert and Gracie Neal

Albert & Gracie Neal - March 17, 2023 at 07:13 PM

DB

“ My sympathies to the entire family. I only met her a few times, but she will always be a bright and shining memory for me. Our hearts are with you-Dori & Craig Babcock

Dori Babcock - March 16, 2023 at 08:57 AM

LM

“ My condolences and prayers are with The Family Always 🙏

Leon Manning - March 16, 2023 at 02:17 AM

CT

“ Prying that the understanding sympathy of those who care will be a comfort to you now, and that the Lord's promise will bring you hope and reassurance in the days to come. With Deepest Sympathy
Carolyn Townsend

Carolyn Hickles Townsend - March 15, 2023 at 10:16 AM

VJ

“ Vevelyn Jackson sent a virtual gift in memory of
Mrs. Rosie Lee Shepherd



Vevelyn Jackson - March 15, 2023 at 09:05 AM



“ Tracy Jackson-Doss lit a candle in memory of
Mrs. Rosie Lee Shepherd



Tracy Jackson-Doss - March 14, 2023 at 02:12 PM

DF

“ Dianne Fields sent a virtual gift in memory of
Mrs. Rosie Lee Shepherd



Dianne Fields - March 13, 2023 at 11:32 PM



“ Claude Davis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rosie Lee Shepherd



Claude Davis - March 13, 2023 at 10:50 PM

DW

“ Dr Charlotte Wright purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Rosie Lee Shepherd.



Dr Charlotte Wright - March 13, 2023 at 11:08 AM

BW

“ Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. Proverbs 31:10. This passage of scripture summarizes the life of Sister Rosie Shepherd. She was such a kind and lovely Christian lady who always encouraged and offered words of wisdom. She was that very bright beacon of light in the Friendship Community and surrounding areas. Sister Shepherd was always willing to give of her time and performed many duties at Friendship Baptist Church. She served on various committees and believed in unity. We love Sister Rosie Shepherd and are so thankful that she loved us. God bless her children and grandchildren. We will continue to emulate her beautiful qualities and thank God for Sister Rosie Shepherd. God bless you family! Much love, Billy and Patricia Williams



Billy and Patricia Williams - March 10, 2023 at 01:27 PM

BM

It is with great fondness and wonderful memories that we share of your sweet MaDear. She was truly a warm and spiritual lady that exemplified the love of people. I met her many years ago in New York when she and her late husband visited Rubye and her family. And as the years progressed, she never lost that beautiful smile and calming demeanor that exemplified who she was. May God continue to bless and keep you. Lovingly, the Mahone Family

Brenda Mahone - March 18, 2023 at 09:59 AM

MP

“ *Mary S. Pickings lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rosie Lee Shepherd*



Mary S. Pickings - March 08, 2023 at 02:22 PM

SW

“ *Sudie Ward sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Rosie Lee Shepherd*



Sudie Ward - March 08, 2023 at 11:33 AM

VH

“ *I will always remember Mrs. Rosie as the smiling, soft-spoken, kind to everyone, lady who was always happy to be in the presence of the people of GPHBC. We all love and will miss Mrs. Rosie* ❤️🙏❤️

Vanilla Hannah - March 08, 2023 at 08:51 AM

DH

“ Dearlean Hughes lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rosie Lee Shepherd



Dearlean Hughes - March 07, 2023 at 10:05 PM

GT

“ Gracie W Tucker sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Rosie Lee Shepherd



Gracie W Tucker - March 07, 2023 at 02:56 PM

GT

Isaiah 26:3 says, "He will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in Him". Praying and thinking about you during this time of sorrow and asking God to wrap you in His loving arms and surround you in His perfect peace. Mrs. Rosie was a gentle soul and exemplified the characteristics of a virtuous woman. May you cherish all the great memories you made and call upon them to help you now and in days to come. She now rests in the arms of her Savior. We're not saying goodbye but see you later. Rest well Mrs. Rosie.

Gracie W Tucker - March 07, 2023 at 03:12 PM

BD

My sincerest sympathy to the family. I will always remember Mrs. Rosie Lee's beautiful smile and kindness when she would visit our home. I was just a child but will never forget a person as sweet as Mrs. Rosie Lee. I love that lady! I pray that God will grant each of you peace and comfort during your time of bereavement. God bless you family!

Bonnie Daniels

Bonnie Daniels - March 14, 2023 at 04:01 PM

BW

I will always remember Ms. Ruby as a very nice person. Whenever I asked her about Ruby Jewel she would always smile and say "She's fine." My prayers and condolences to the family. May God bless and give each of you strength during this difficult time.

God bless each of you!!

Bama Williams

Bama Williams - March 15, 2023 at 12:26 PM

HI

Remember that your loss is shared by family who care and that you're in our thoughts and prayers. With sincere sympathy.

Hilda Rouse and family

HildaRouse - March 16, 2023 at 04:47 PM