



Juanita F Matthews

January 4, 1934 - December 15, 2016

Juanita Franklin Matthews, the second of nine children, was born and raised in Darlington, South Carolina. At seventeen, she left Darlington to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business at Hampton University. It was there she met and later married the love of her life, George Matthews, who preceded her in death, in August 2015. The couple would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this year.

As a military wife, Juanita spent many months alone at a time raising their young daughters while George was deployed overseas in the United States Army. While stationed in Anchorage, Alaska, she was a Girl Scout leader and Director of Religious Education. Eventually, the family settled in El Paso, Texas.

In Texas, she earned a Masters Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Texas at El Paso. She enjoyed a successful 16-year career as a first grade teacher where she earned honors for Teacher of the Year and Who's Who Among American Teachers. Adored by parents and students alike, some of whom maintained contact into adulthood, their favorite teacher, Mrs. Matthews, will never be forgotten.

She was a tough, loving and devoted, wife, mother, and grandmother, who was fiercely loyal to and protective of her family. A lover of music, classical

and spiritual, she enjoyed singing and playing the piano, crediting her Aunt Viola "Vi" Mack for her abilities. Self-admittedly, she wasn't the best dancer, although she tried, often to the amusement of her grandchildren.

Her faith in God was steadfast. Bibles, bible verses, crosses, and inspirational literature could be found in almost every room of the house. Any time one of us came to her with a problem, she'd say, "You know what I'm going to tell you to do, pray. I believe in the power of prayer." Even when illness began to rob her of her memory, she never forgot the words to "Amazing Grace" and "How Great Thou Art" which she would sing repeatedly into the wee hours of the morning.

She is survived by daughters, Melanie Matthews, Valerie Larkins, Richard Larkins (spouse), and Tracie Matthews; grandchildren; Micah Simon, Aaron Simon, Morgan Simon, Daniel Larkins, and Christopher Larkins; siblings Lena Franklin Wells, James Franklin, John Wesley Franklin, David Franklin, Louise Franklin Ratliff, Gwendolyn Franklin Hemphill, and several beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins.

"Mom", "Mommy", "Mama", "Nita", or "Granita" (as she was affectionately called by her grandchildren), thank you for loving us...we will always love you!

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Juanita F Matthews, please visit our
Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

Tribute Wall

AW

“ *Extending deepest sympathy to family and friends in this time of sorrow. Please find comfort in knowing that soon all those in the memorial tombs will hear Jesus' voice and come out. (John 5:28,29) Until that blessed day, may the GOD of all comfort grant you peace while many fond memories warm your hearts.*

A. Wingfield - December 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ *I am sorry for your loss, please accept my sincere condolences. I hope the family will find some comfort and strength in Jesus promise of the earthly resurrection(Acts 24:15)and the renewed Paradise earth, where death will be no more and no family will mourn the death of a loved one.-Revelation 21:3,4;John 5:28,29;Luke 23:43. may GOD(Psalms 83:18)grant you peace and comfort now, during this grievous time.-Matthew 5:4.*

M Jones - December 19, 2016 at 12:00 AM