



Larue Theresa Holden

December 1, 1929 - July 21, 2022

The Life and Legacy of LaRue Theresa Holden

On Sunday, December 1, 1929, LaRue Theresa Watson was born to the late Adolphus and Lula Hinman Watson in Temperanceville, Virginia. She was the youngest of nine siblings. On Thursday, July 21, 2022, she gracefully departed from life.

LaRue grew up as a sharecropper's daughter, understanding the meaning of sowing, cultivating, and harvesting, in all seasons of her life. LaRue excelled as a student in Accomack County public schools. From there, she helped shape the future of agriculture on the Eastern Shore, in the poultry industry. She was employed with Bird's Eye and Buddy Boy's Poultry plants. In 1966, she joined the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a Civil Service employee where she served as one of the first Black health inspectors within the Eastern Shore in the Food Safety and Inspection Service Division until her retirement in 1996. She truly enjoyed her job and the fellowship with her co-workers as she always communicated the highest standards and an outstanding quality of work.

In June 1946, LaRue became the bride to "the love of her life," Donnie Lee Holden. They embraced each other in marriage for 72 years. Graced with this union was the birth of a daughter and two sons.

LaRue was a faithful member of Jerusalem Baptist Church in Temperanceville, Virginia. She committed herself to a ministry of service, as a

Sunday school teacher, choir member, youth ministry leader, and choir director. She faithfully served in these roles throughout the years. She also served many years as the financial secretary until her health began to weaken. Yet, it strengthened her soul to share of God's grace and mercy with steps of faith everywhere she went. As God ordered her footsteps, she planted a message of hope for all, coming from Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all of your ways acknowledge him, And he shall direct thy paths." In fact, she included a scripture as her closing on nearly every greeting card she sent for any occasion.

From her loving role as a devoted wife and mother and her service to others to her drive in building a career - LaRue always acknowledged that she did everything by the grace of God. In addition to her devout faith, LaRue was passionate about music, travel, and above all her family.

LaRue treasured rearing her grandsons alongside her beloved Donnie, as though they were their birth sons.

Lois, in the Bible, displayed a strong faith to her grandson, Timothy, and supporting him in ministry. Like Lois, LaRue displayed the same to her natural and spiritual offspring. As she sowed seeds of faith into their lives, she tilled alongside them, helping them reap a harvest of abundance. She honored God for allowing her to live to see it.

She had a special love for her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren as well as her nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and many other relatives and friends. She truly appreciated the great love they gave her in return. LaRue always offered her words of wisdom and encouragement for them to excel in their personal and professional lives.

She saw them excel academically, earning professional certificates, bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees. She witnessed them become productive citizens in a myriad of careers including engineering, science and technology, health and medicine, executive leadership of universities and corporations, business management and administrations, community and

social services, entrepreneurs, human resources, communications, computer science, and industrial transportation, following in her husband Donnie's footsteps.

Her beautiful life will be forever cherished with fond memories by: her daughter, Joan (Ronald) Forsythe; her son, Ronnie (Brenda) Holden; her daughter-in-law, Marva Justine Holden, and the grandsons to whom she was a mother, Tony (Belaveate) Holden and Ronnie Harmon. Joining them in her celebration of life are nine grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren, nine great great-grandchildren, sisters-in-law, Joyce Watson and Carolyn Holden, and a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

LaRue was predeceased by: her parents; loving husband, Donnie Lee Holden; son, Terry (Larry) F. Holden; granddaughter, Stacey Milbourne-Taylor and siblings, Henry Watson, Flossie Dennis, Richard Watson, Malinda Wharton, Percy Watson, Almarine Hope, Milton Watson, and Mariam Holden.

When peace like a river attendeth my way

When sorrows like sea billows roll

Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say

It is well, it is well with my soul...

SUBMITTED WITH LOVE ~ THE FAMILY

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **29**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Smith & Scott Funeral Home - Accomac
22421 Lankford Hwy.
Accomac, VA 23301
(757) 787-1068
info@benniesmithfuneralhome.com
<https://www.benniesmithfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

JUL **30**. 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM (ET)

Jerusalem Baptist Church
10011 Jerusalem Road
Temperanceville, VA

Funeral Service

JUL **30**. 9:00 AM (ET)

Jerusalem Baptist Church
10011 Jerusalem Road
Temperanceville, VA

Live Stream Broadcast on Facebook

JUL **30**. 9:00 AM.

Bennie Smith Funeral Home MD / VA

Tribute Wall



“ *Bennie Smith Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Larue Theresa Holden*



Bennie Smith Funeral Home - July 30, 2022 at 09:22 AM



“ *Bennie Smith Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Larue Theresa Holden*



Bennie Smith Funeral Home - July 30, 2022 at 09:22 AM



“ *Mike C lit a candle in memory of Larue Theresa Holden*



Mike C - August 03, 2022 at 11:50 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Larue Theresa Holden.*



July 29, 2022 at 03:18 PM



“ *1 file added to the album LaRue Holden*



Bernice Watson - July 29, 2022 at 11:36 AM



“ *Qlarant Associates and Qlarant Board purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Larue Theresa Holden.*



Qlarant Associates and Qlarant Board - July 29, 2022 at 10:15 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Larue Theresa Holden.*



July 29, 2022 at 10:13 AM

SH

“ Aunt Larue was a great woman of God. She taught me so much about faith and the love of God. She loved her family and church family. You will truly be missed.

Shonda Holden - July 28, 2022 at 11:47 PM

MB

“ Aunt LaRue always championed me, good, bad, or indifferent. I always visited her when I came home. A good and faithful servant.

Michael Byrd - July 28, 2022 at 03:34 PM

CH

“ My Condolences to the Holden Family.
Prayers for your loss. Eileen Hill




charles Hill - July 28, 2022 at 01:39 PM

PJ

“ 2 files added to the album LaRue Holden



Pamela Hope Johnson - July 28, 2022 at 09:36 AM


Ronnita
Holden

“ 3 files added to the album LaRue Holden



Ronnita Holden - July 28, 2022 at 07:22 AM

EC

“ Ms LaRue was the true example of a person with a servant heart. She always made you feel special. She was an awesome Sunday School teacher. Truly her living was not in vain. Now she can rest in the arms of our Lord. God's peace and love to you her family. You loved her but God loved her more.

Evelena Carter - July 28, 2022 at 06:33 AM

PB

“ Sharing our memories of Miss LaRue through photos with the family. Our prayers are with you. Pandora and Tycora Brown and Helen B. Chandler



Pandora Brown - July 27, 2022 at 09:23 PM

BJ

“ Brenolder Johnson purchased the [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of Larue Theresa Holden.

Brenolder Johnson - July 27, 2022 at 05:38 PM

CS

“ Carolyn(Bobbie) Holden & Francine Savage purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Larue Theresa Holden.



Carolyn(Bobbie) Holden & Francine Savage - July 27, 2022 at 01:51 PM

DS

“ It sadden me to hear of the homegoing of Miss LaRue. The greatest Sunday School teacher I ever had. I just loved her so much. Her gentle personality and warm smile always made you feel welcome even when she didn't agree with you. She would just smile and say "oh I didn't know that or see it that way. Kisses and hugs to Ms. LaRue. Prayers of comfort and deepest sympathy is extended to the family.

Darlene Savage - July 27, 2022 at 12:24 PM

AR

“ There are no words to convey how humble and wonderful this woman walked among us through these years. "Miss LaRue" as we called her, was a woman of grace and wisdom. Her memory will live on in our 💕. We loved dropping by when we visited on the Shore as much as we could. She was always ready to receive us and converse for a while. Much prayers of comfort and condolences are being extended to her family.
Michael/Anita Reid, Cleoohas/Charlene Shrieves, Carlton/Sandra Thomas and families...

Anita Reid - July 27, 2022 at 11:17 AM

AR

We would also like to add Bishop Ronnie /Gwen Collins to the Reid Condolences..

Anita Reid - July 27, 2022 at 11:23 AM

AR

Correction: Cleophas/Charlene Shrieves to Reid Condolences 🙏

Anita Reid - July 27, 2022 at 11:28 AM

RT

This lady was a great distant cousin who cared for me and changed my diapers while my mom, Betty Susan Fletcher-Tull worked. Her kind lovingness will be missed.

Rudolph Allen Tull - July 27, 2022 at 08:20 PM

SC

I enjoyed visiting Miss LaRue and listening to her lovingly share her stories about her family. She was a beautiful woman of God with a strong and kind-hearted spirit. I will miss her. My sincere condolences to Ronnie, Brenda, and the entire Holden Family.

*God bless you all,
Sam and Renee Clark*

Sam and Renee Clark - July 29, 2022 at 11:41 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Larue Theresa Holden.*



July 27, 2022 at 07:29 AM