



Dr. Jacqueline A. Rouse

February 1, 1950 - May 12, 2020

Dr. Jacqueline A. Rouse, 70, of Avondale Estates, GA passed on Tuesday, May 12, 2020. Services entrusted to Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home, Avondale-Scottdale Chapel. 351 N. Clarendon Ave. Scottdale, GA 30079. (404)294-5500.

Georgia State University Professor Emeritus Jacqueline Anne Rouse, a resident of Avondale Estates, Georgia, died Tuesday, May 12, 2020, after a short illness. One of the nation's leading scholars on black women's history, Dr. Rouse published to great acclaim on the topic and received accolades for her groundbreaking work on such leading figures as Margaret Murray Washington, Lugenia Burns Hope, and Septima P. Clark. In recognition of her scholarship and service, Dr. Rouse received the Founding Mothers/Presidential Award of the Southern Association of Women Historians in 2016 and was an Honoree at the Cross-Generational Dialogues in Black Women's History at Michigan State University Comparative Black History Symposium in 2015. A native of Virginia with a proud family history of independent black land owners in the rural piedmont, Dr. Rouse earned her bachelor's degree in Afro-American History from Howard University. Upon moving to Georgia, she completed a master's degree in African American history from Atlanta University where, for much of the 1980s, she served as Assistant Editor on *The Journal of Negro History* under editor Alton Hornsby, Jr. She briefly returned to the D.C. area when she held an internship at the

Anacostia Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Rouse undertook doctoral training in the Institute for the Liberal Arts at Emory University where she completed her Ph.D. in American Studies. A series of teaching posts at such institutions as the Georgia Institute of Technology, Jackson State University, and Morehouse College followed before the Georgia State University Department of History hired Dr. Rouse in 1991. Once on the Georgia State faculty, Dr. Rouse became an advocate for Africana Studies at the school and served as the acting Chair in the early days of the Department of African American Studies in which she retained an adjunct appointment and continued to serve as an advisor for departmental leadership. Also at Georgia State, Dr. Rouse became a founding member of the Core Faculty for the Women Studies Institute. Throughout this time, Dr. Rouse held fellowships with the Carter G. Woodson Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence for the Association of the Study of African American Life and History, Inc., in Washington, D.C.; the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta; and Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. As a nurturing mentor of students, Dr. Rouse had few equals, in particular working with hundreds of black students, several of whom went on to secure graduate degrees, many in history. At Georgia State, Dr. Rouse personally advised to completion eleven dissertations in the Department of History written by black students and six written by white students, along with thirteen master's theses. For the Department of African American Studies, she participated in directing four master's theses along with a handful more in other departments. She retired from Georgia State in 2017. Best known for her biography of Atlanta's leading African American suffragette and founder of the Neighborhood Union, Lugenia Burns Hope: Black Southern Reformer, Dr. Rouse also joined Barbara A. Woods and Vicki Crawford as co-editors of the seminal work, *Women in the Civil Rights Movement: Trailblazers and Torchbearers, 1941-1965*. At the time of her death, she was revising a manuscript on the life of South Carolinian Septima P. Clark entitled *Nurturing Seeds of Discontent: Septima P. Clark and the Promise of Citizenship*. Community building and activism among southern

Black women were central threads in Dr. Rouse's scholarship. Active in the profession, Dr. Rouse held numerous leadership positions in many organizations from the Association of the Study of African American Life and History and the Southern Historical Association to the Southern Association for Women Historians and the Association of Black Women Historians, Inc. Longtime members of the Georgia Association of Historians may recall Dr. Rouse delivered the keynote address at the annual meeting in 1997. Dr. Rouse believed deeply in the mission of the Association of Black Women Historians and her involvement and leadership in the organization spanned many decades. From 1984-1988 she served as the Southern Regional Director and went on to lead as National Vice Director. In 1992, Dr. Rouse was elected as the 6th National Director of ABWH, guiding a growing group of scholars committed to the field of Black Women's History.

Dr. Rouse was an active member of the New Beginning Full Gospel Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia. There her joy was especially realized in her work with the Women's Ministry. In keeping with her commitment to young people, especially young women, and education she participated in fund raising for scholarships for young women. Dr. Rouse was also active in church school and shared fully in the total ministry of her church. She had faith in untraveled roads and believed whatever you asked for in prayer you would receive if you had faith. This she lived by.

Cherishing her memory and keeping her legacy alive are her sister Marian Rouse Finney, brother-in-law Samuel A Nicholas, nieces Veronica Rudd, Robyne J. Finney, Valerie Nicholas-Christian and Veronda Nicholas (also her God daughter), nephew John Henry Rouse, God son Joel Denard, Grand nieces, Brittney Noel Finney Liles, Myryah Nicholas, Jasmyn Rudd, Ashley Christian, Ayana Rudd and Lauren Taylor. Grand nephews Charles Alexander Demery (also her God son), Nicholas Taylor, and Great Grand Niece River

Leigh Liles. Many, many special “friend-family” members in the Georgia community who supported her life for forty-eight years. Thank you for your laughter, life, and love.

Dr. Rouse was preceded by her parents John Henry and Fannie T. Rouse, three brothers, John, James and Curtis Rouse and one sister Reverend Janice R. Nicholas. Until we meet again lovingly your family.

In lieu of flowers please make contributions to the Women’s Ministry Women’s Scholarship Fund, New Beginning Full Baptist Gospel Church, 923 Valley Brook Road, Decatur, Georgia 30032. In honor of Dr. Jacqueline A. Rouse contributions may also be donated to support students majoring in History or African American Studies. Donations may be directed to the Department of History and/or Department of African American Studies, George State University, P.O. Box 3965, Atlanta, Georgia 30302. Please include a note indicating the gift is a tribute in honor of Dr. Jacqueline A. Rouse. Cards may be mailed to Dr. Rouse’s sister Mrs. Marian R. Finney, 2813 Arlene Circle, Gwynn Oak, MD 21207.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 17. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home -Scottdale Chapel
351 N. Clarendon Ave
Scottdale, GA 30079

Tribute Wall



“ *Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Jacqueline A. Rouse*



Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc. - May 16, 2020 at 08:53 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Rouse. She was a thoughtful mentor (before, during and after) to myself and the other student leaders who organized the November 1992 sit-in and protests that resulted in the creation of Georgia State University's African-American Studies Department. She was immediately respected and admired by all of us students, and we all were better because of her presence in our lives.*
Lawrence Philpott

Lawrence C Philpott - September 09, 2020 at 01:52 AM



“ *Dr. Rouse set a high bar for her advisees and students. When I proved that I could meet her standards, she went far above and beyond to usher me over the finish line to earn my doctoral degree. I could never have repaid her for her support. All I can hope to do is pay it forward.*

*With Sincerity and Gratitude,
Kenja McCray*

K Foster McCray - May 19, 2020 at 06:25 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



K Foster McCray - May 19, 2020 at 06:20 PM

EF

“ *We were saddened to learn about your family loss. In times of distress we need comfort that soothes our hearts. May the peace of God guard your hearts. Thinking of you all.*

Evans family - May 19, 2020 at 05:24 AM

NM

“ Dr. Rouse, you have left a permanent mark on this earth because you literally raised generations of scholars who can now only hope to impact people the way you did. I am just glad to have been one of them. During my time as a doctoral student at Georgia State University, you cultivated a resilience and strength in me that I will carry for the rest of my life. Thank you for being my mentor, professor, and confidant.

With Love,

Nafeesa H. Muhammad

NAFEESA H MUHAMMAD - May 18, 2020 at 11:51 PM

BS

“ Words can not express the void that we will feel in our lives without Jacqueline. We are praying for you Marian, family, and friends. May you find comfort in knowing that God is always there for you. John & Bernice Sanders

Bernice & John Sanders - May 17, 2020 at 11:26 PM

DD

“ Rest in peace, Jackie! You leave behind a legacy that your family, friends and community will always remember! I will always treasure the times we have spent together from elementary school until your transition to be with the Lord. Many secrets shared and much comfort given on our journeys! You will be deeply missed, but I rest in the assurance that you are with Him! Will continue to ask God to be a fence for your sister, nieces, nephews and all who cherished you!!



Your cousin, Doris Durrett

Doris O Durrett - May 17, 2020 at 05:23 PM

DL

“ To Dr. Rouse's family and Loved Ones,

Dr. Rouse was my professor, on my comprehensive exams, my dissertation advisor, my mentor, life coach, friend and most importantly my other mother in Atlanta. I was one of her problem children and made her work hard to get me graduated from Georgia State's PhD program. She had to pray for me and fuss at me as well and sometimes in the same breath. She truly has impacted my life and in one of our last conversations she spoke about her legacy in academia and her lineage and she saw us who worked directly under her continuing her legacy.

Derrick Lanois



Derrick Lanois - May 17, 2020 at 04:54 PM

DH

“ Dear God,

I come to you humbly today on behalf of the Rouse family and friends. I know that YOUR ways are not our ways and YOUR thoughts are not our thoughts, but Lord, we are hurting because of the loss of our sister and woman of God, Dr. Jacqueline Rouse. I ask for a hedge of protection, support, comfort, and consolation for her family and friends. I ask that the loss that we are experiencing be returned with great joy in YOUR time.

Lord, YOUR word states "To be absent from the body is to be present with YOU" and we believe that right now. Sis. Dr. Jackie has fought the good fight. She has run her course in this world, and you have called your faithful servant home.

And Lord, a special prayer for her sister, Min. Marian Rouse Finney. Lord, in all instances, Sis. Jackie has cloaked Min. Marian Rouse Finney with love and she's known her presence throughout their whole existence. I am sure that Min. Marian Rouse Finney knows that Sis. Jackie belonged to YOU before she ever belonged to this world. I ask that she be reunited with her ancestors and loved ones in your kingdom.

God, I pray peace and blessings upon us all. YOU said that "In all things...Give thanks" and we are thanking you for the life and legacy of Sis. Dr. Jacqueline Rouse.

*You be blessed!!
In Jesus' name I pray,*

Dr. M. Hobson - May 17, 2020 at 02:57 PM

BB

“ *Dr. Rouse, You will be missed @ Our New Beginning FGBC and the Womens Ministry, for you were a pillow of strength and knowledge, a Godly Woman. Rest In Peace Dr Jackie*

Brenda Bell - May 17, 2020 at 02:47 PM

DH

“ *To my colleague, fellow historian, woman of God, and sister, Rest in God's arms Dr. Jacqueline Rouse! May you be reunited with our ancestors who are pleased with your work in this realm.*

Dr. M. Hobson - May 17, 2020 at 02:46 PM

MC

“ *Marian and family of Dr. Jacqueline Rouse, I send my deepest sympathy and condolences for your loss. While I did not know her personally, Marian talked about her often. She has lived well and now is at rest. Her many works will live beyond her earthly journey. God be with you at this difficult time. Although I am not there in person I stopped by the wake for a little while.*
Maggie Caples

Maggie Caples - May 17, 2020 at 02:36 PM

 Donna
Akiba
Harper

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Donna Akiba Harper - May 17, 2020 at 02:01 PM

DB

“ Dr. Jacqueline A. Rouse, Jackie, was a colleague when she worked for *The Journal of Negro History* and in the Department of History at Morehouse College. My condolences to her family and friends. I will miss her annual birthday wishes and her friendship.

Dr. Marcellus C. Barksdale - May 17, 2020 at 01:54 PM

EG

“ To the family of Jacqueline A. Rouse, I extend Deep Sympathy. Jackie was a beautiful person, a master teacher and a great scholar. I remember her as a diligent mentor to me when I was a student at Emory University.

May memories of her compassion for family and friends, her academic contributions to History and Women Studies, and her faith in God bring comfort to you now and in the future.

*Ernestine P. Glass
Professor Emerita , Clark Atlanta University*

Ernestine Pickens Glass - May 17, 2020 at 01:01 PM



“ During my first graduate course at Georgia State University with Dr. Jacqueline Rouse, she opened her lecture with the research question, “What is a Movement?” Little did I know how this question and the person posing it would shape me.

Dr. Rouse had a beautiful way of telling history. She presents it with such fluidity; with such ease that she leaves you captivated. And while she is taking you on this journey, she is dropping jewels of wisdom, analysis, and thought provoking questions that causes you to ponder over for the remainder of the day.

Over the years, she has served as my mentor. She has always offered excellent advice and once again, asking you questions, you never considered before, to help you decide the best direction you should take. I will always be grateful to Dr. Rouse. As a historian and professor, my interest in studying and writing about the Long Civil Rights Movement was shaped by her. She allowed me to see that women can and should be at the center of telling our narratives. I am honored to not only continue to build upon the scholarship she has produced over the years, but to produce the next generation of historians as I serve as a professor at Morehouse College, where she once taught.

Dr. Rouse, thank you for being a mother-scholar to those who were fortunate to have you as a professor and mentor. You have groomed us well. I will hold close to my heart, the advice you have given me. Thank you for seeing my light and giving me the confidence to allow it to shine.

Rest in Power, Dr. Rouse



Karcheik Sims-Alvarado - May 17, 2020 at 12:45 PM

MG

“ Jackie, You will be missed by so many family and friends. You dedicated your life to Education and touched many lives. May the Lord continue to strengthen your family. Having you as my cousin has been very special. May you rest in peace with Mom, Dad, sister and Brother. Love you always. Sis



Mary Oakcrum Giles - May 17, 2020 at 12:44 PM

FR

“ Dr. Jacqueline Anne Rouse, My dear beloved Cousin I cannot ever forget when you were born. You were born three days before my 15th birthday; the youngest child born to Cousin John and Cousin Fannie Rouse. Your Mother Fannie and my Mother Fannie were first Cousins who were more like sisters than Cousins. We have all shared too many memories to recount here. You, like many others in our family, followed your maternal grandmother Mariah Oakcrum Thompson and her sister Maude Oakcrum Smith and made your mark in education. There are too many accolades to recount here and it hurts that you have left us so early but my grandmother Nannie used to say that God calls the good ones early and gives the rest an opportunity to prepare and get ready. So, Jackie, you did a fantastic job in a few years and we believe God had greater work for you to do in heaven. Love, Your Cousin Florine Robinson-Amin

Florine Robinson-Amin - May 17, 2020 at 09:06 AM

AH

“ Bill and I extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. Jacqueline Rouse. Although I had not seen Jackie in a few years, I remember fondly and with great admiration the early years in the Atlanta University Center and her work with Dr. Alton Hornsby and the *Journal of Negro History*, as well her other contributions and scholarly activities with SCLHBG, ASALH and ABWH. Her commitment to teaching, scholarship and service will be well-remembered.

Alexa Benson Henderson

Alexa Benson Henderson - May 16, 2020 at 09:35 PM

LR

“ Dr Rouse you will be missed at the New Beginning Full Gospel Baptist Church. You will always be remembered for your impact in the Women's Ministry and our church. You were such a beautiful woman of God.

Sincerely, Larry and Phyllis Raines

Larry and Phyllis Raines - May 16, 2020 at 08:11 PM

DH

“ Jackie moves into Tall Oaks where my husband and I lived when she arrived in Atlanta to attend Emory. She was my “little sister.” Of course, she ran with Lugenia Burns Hope and graduated before I did!! But we took some classes together, and I chuckled about her sassy, militant comments. She was so radical that I called her *Wilhelmena Monroe Trotter* (female version of radical William Monroe Trotter).

She attended my one and only baby shower and I attended a celebration of her book—LUGENIA BURNS HOPE: BLACK SOUTHERN REFORMER—both events hosted by our “little sister” at Emory, Carolyn Denard.

Her father and my mother died on the same day in 1986, so we shared that sad anniversary.

She celebrated her 70th birthday at a Black History program, “Total Praise,” at Hillside Presbyterian Church. Afterwards, we picked up some food from This Is It. She liked their fried chicken.

Although we talked on the phone several times after that, we didn’t have another face-to-face visit. I hope to see her in Paradise.

Deepest condolences to all of the family.



Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper - May 16, 2020 at 08:04 PM

SH

“ Thanks for sharing your knowledge and being a great mentor and friend. Sincerely Shanta Hughley & family



Shanta Hughley - May 16, 2020 at 02:48 PM

DE

“ I came to know Dr. Rouse, in years past, when she worshipped at the Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia. I knew her to be a well respected scholar, but more importantly, to be a person of high moral character and deep spiritual belief. I am honored to have crossed her path as we, and other young women, strove to become better Christians and serve our Lord with the gifts that He bestowed upon us. Dr. Ross used those gifts in a way that blessed many people. Please know that others are praying for you. You loved one will be sincerely missed.

Deborah Espy

Deborah Espy - May 16, 2020 at 12:16 PM



Donna Akiba

I used to hope she would become a minister and open her own church. I loved the "real" way she shared her love of God.

Donna Akiba Harper - May 17, 2020 at 01:12 PM

EB

With fond memories, Eva Baham

Eva Baham - May 17, 2020 at 02:04 PM

JM

“ *Jan McIntyre & The New Beginning Women's Ministry purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Dr. Jacqueline A. Rouse.*



Jan McIntyre & The New Beginning Women's Ministry - May 16, 2020 at 10:30 AM

RR

“ *Thank you, Dr. Rouse. . .you have and will forever be a source of inspiration. . .we shall see you in the morning. . .
Mother Mildred B, Deacon Ramona M. and
Andre' M. Rembert*



Ramona M. Rembert - May 16, 2020 at 08:46 AM

EP

“ *Elder Lawrence Parr lit a candle in memory of
Dr. Jacqueline A. Rouse*



Elder Lawrence Parr - May 13, 2020 at 01:46 PM

EP

Rest well my friend from the (DMV) see you in the morning.

Elder Lawrence Parr - May 13, 2020 at 01:49 PM