



## Joyce Rice

July 10, 1955 - February 28, 2019

Joyce Mae Davis a.k.a. Mrs. Paul Abel Rice Sr. was born on July 10, 1955 in Nassawadox, VA to the late Olivia Davis and the late Joseph Lee Bull. She was the oldest and loved to assist her siblings in any way possible.

Joyce married Paul Abel Rice (the Love of her Life) on July 26, 1980. They were a partnership made in heaven. They met in 1979 and he was captivated by her smile and they became best friends. Paul prayed to God for a wife, and Joyce was that answer to his prayer. The Lord loaned him His angel for over 40 years. She was his Help Meet, Soul Mate, Best Friend, Partner, Advisor, his One in a Million, and Mother of his Children. Most of all his gift from God.

Joyce bore good fruit in their three children, she poured her love into them and taught them to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. She was a mother who would sacrifice anything for her children and grandchildren. She was a model of Christ-like behavior. She always spoke truth into their lives with love.

Joyce honorably served twenty-two years in the United States Army. After her retirement, she briefly worked in the private sector and returned to public service for the Office of Personnel Management and the Social Security Administration. She loved being in the position of helping others find employment. She rejoiced with each applicant when she was able to inform

them of a job offer.

Joyce never met a stranger and to know her was to love her. She shared the gospel with everyone she met by her sweet spirit and words of encouragement. She didn't have to tell you she was a Christian, you just knew it by her actions. In any conversation, she would be thanking the Lord and you quickly knew of her love for the Lord Jesus Christ. She loved to share the accomplishments of her family believing that if the Lord could do it for her He could do it for you as well.

Joyce believed studying to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth. She faithfully attended church services, bible studies, and attended Bible Study Fellowship for many years. She joyfully taught Sunday School.

She served the community through her membership in Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. and she gave back to the Veteran Community through her work with the Disabled American Veterans.

On February 28, 2019, Joyce Mae Rice transitioned from this life on earth to eternal life to be with the LORD. (Absent from the body, is to be present with the LORD.) Joyce is survived in loving memory by her husband of almost 39 years, Paul A. Rice, Sr., and their children, Aretha Franklin Smith (Jerrod), Paul Abel. Rice II, John Joseph Rice. Joyce will also be lovingly remembered by their grandchildren Arianna, and AnJuanna, along with her siblings Jean Audrey Davis, Kerry William Davis (Lorraine), Denise Marcella Merchant (Frederick), and Dianne Reid, with a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins; brothers-in-laws John Douglas Rice, Ellis Karl Rice (DeMadeline), Jerry Lee Rice, and sister-in-law Lizia Marie McCreary (Rodger); Sorors of Delta Sigma Theta, and faithful friends who loved her. Joyce was preceded in transition by her mother Olivia Davis, her father Joseph L. Bull, and brothers-in-laws Saint

Isaac Rice, and Thomas Lee Rice.

Celebration of Life Services will be held at Union Missionary Baptist Church, 2470 Bruce St, Lithonia GA 30058 on Saturday March 9, 2019 at 11:00 AM. She will be laid to rest with full military honors at Georgia National Cemetery at a later date. Family and friends may visit from 10 AM to 8 PM with the Delta Omega Omega Service beginning at 6:00 PM on Friday March 8, 2019 at the South DeKalb Chapel of Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home. Please express your condolences here on our website. Services entrusted to Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home, South Dekalb Chapel. 4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy, Decatur GA 30034. 404-241-5656.

# Cemetery Details

## Georgia National Cemetery

1080 Scott Hudgens Dr  
Canton, GA 30114

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 8. 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

South DeKalb Chapel  
4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy.  
Decatur, GA 30034  
(404) 241-5656  
[info@levettfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@levettfuneralhome.com)

## Celebration of Life

MAR 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Union Missionary Baptist Church  
2470 Bruce Street  
Lithonia, GA 30058

# Tribute Wall

PG

“ Momma Joyce as I liked to call her will truly be missed by my family and I. She was my Delta Mom. So special, so sweet, so kind! She was a constant source of encouragement and support! She loved her family and God! I give God thanks for her life and the days that we were able to spend together! Mr Paul, you and the family are in my prayers!

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**Patricia Glenn** - March 20, 2019 at 08:17 PM

SD

“ Our deepest condolences to the entire Rice family! Joyce had such an infectious love for Jesus, she encouraged my faith even though I only knew her through Aretha's stories. May the God of all comfort bring you peace as you grieve and celebrate her life. Continued prayers and much love! Scott, Mark, Charlotte, Anna, and Rebecca Davis

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**Scott Davis** - March 08, 2019 at 12:08 PM

AR

“ Brother Paul and Family,

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Joyce was truly a beautiful heart. We all will miss her dearly. Take comfort in knowing that there is one more angel above us.*

*Bro. Aaron and Fannie Robinson*



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**Aaron and Fannie Robinson** - March 05, 2019 at 07:52 PM

RW

“ *To The Rice Family:  
We Truly Loved , Admired and Respected  
Joyce. We will Truly Miss Her.  
Rudy and Gwen White-Wallace*

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**Rudy and Gwen Wallace** - March 05, 2019 at 08:34 AM