



Leatha Brown Rowley

March 23, 1944 - February 24, 2025

Leatha (Lee) Vivian Brown Rowley was born in Ocilla, Georgia on March 23, 1944. She was the first-born child of Andrew Jackson Brown, Sr. and Viola Edith James Brown and the only one of their eight children to be born in Georgia. Andrew was a WWII Veteran and once he was discharged, participated in the Great Migration and moved his young family to Newark, New Jersey. The amazing Viola had been a schoolteacher in Georgia, but became a full-time homemaker as the family grew. Being the oldest and only girl, Andrew Jr., and William (Champ), Joseph came into the picture, Lee was her Mom's right hand when it came to taking care of her siblings and doing her share of chores. But that did not keep her from the love of reading and learning. The family moved to the "suburbs" of Vaux Hall as Gwendolyn (Jackie), Julia (Mae), James (Eddie) and Richard (HeyBoy) arrived. Lee graduated from Union High School, went to work for Prudential Insurance, married Coleridge Wiggins and along came Stacey. An opportunity arose and Lee began her career as a librarian, working at the Vaux Hall, Union and Plainfield library systems. After a quick visit to Columbia, S.C. in 1969, Lee made a decision that would change the course of her life. She became a part of the Reverse Migration and moved to Columbia, with Stacey in tow. She saw future opportunities and a chance for something better. She was right. She went to work for Bell South, quickly rose as one of the first Black Supervisors and because of her outstanding work, was recruited to work in Atlanta, GA during the AT&T divestiture in the early 1980's. The family officially moved to

Atlanta in 1984 and Lee became a Trainer, traveling across the country, sharing her knowledge within the AT&T system over the next 30 years and making many lasting friendships along the way.

In 1987, on a whim, she joined a dating service and met the love of her life, Dean Rowley. They shared the joys of discovery through learning about music, literature, culture and wed in 1989. Lee and Dean enjoyed a beautiful life together until he transitioned in 2019.

In retirement, Lee continued her love of learning and reading, which kept her going during her battle with kidney disease and as she began her dialysis journey. The team at Southwest Nephrology and DaVita Lithonia provided loving care during those years. She built relationships that kept her going and she appreciated them all. Lee's special relationship with bonus brother Charles Smith must be noted, as he took her to appointments, dialysis treatments and kept her spirits high throughout.

Lee is survived by her loving daughter, Stacey A. Wiggins; her devoted sister Julia M. Brown – DuBose; her caring brother Joseph P. Brown and his wife, Linda Brown; her dear sister-in-law Dr. Diane L. Rowley; and beloved nieces, nephews and extended family who provided love and care over the years.

Services entrusted to Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home, 4347 Flat Shoals Parkway, Decatur, GA 30034

Previous Events

Memorial Celebration of Life Service

MAR **22**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Rainbow Park Baptist Church
2941 Columbia Dr
Decatur, GA 30034-4146
(404) 288-1910

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Leatha Brown Rowley.

March 21, 2025 at 12:47 PM



“ Lavender & White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Leatha Brown Rowley.



March 21, 2025 at 12:47 PM



“ Jamila, Malik, Iceberg, Teka and KayKay planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leatha Brown Rowley.

Jamila, Malik, Iceberg, Teka and KayKay - March 21, 2025 at 11:28 AM



“ Jamila, Malik, Iceberg, Teka and KayKay purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White for the family of Leatha Brown Rowley.



Jamila, Malik, Iceberg, Teka and KayKay - March 21, 2025 at 11:28 AM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Leatha Brown Rowley.



March 21, 2025 at 09:55 AM



“ Mrs. Rouse as we affectionately called as children growing up in the neighborhood with her daughters was always kind. Her sweet and soft spoken always made me feel that she cared. My prayers are with her family, love ones and friends as they share in her passing. God's blessings forevermore!

Alecia Wright DuPree - March 20, 2025 at 06:13 PM



“ Stacey, Thank you for sharing your mother's legacy with us. She achieved so much in every aspect of her life.

We will always remember her as a loving and nurturing mom, as well as a kind and graceful woman who embraced life to the fullest.

May God bless you, and may you find comfort in the cherished memories you hold dear.~Mary Ann Cullum and daughters — Selina, Zelbra, Anita and Carla 🌹

The Cullum Family - March 20, 2025 at 08:52 AM



The Cullum Family

Cullum Family - March 20, 2025 at 08:54 AM

JF

“ Jones Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leatha Brown Rowley.

Jones Family - March 18, 2025 at 08:46 PM

JF

“ Jones Family purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Leatha Brown Rowley.



Jones Family - March 18, 2025 at 08:46 PM

AR

“ Lee and I worked together for many years at Southern Bell and became lifelong friends. She was a wonderful person who loved her family and always put others first. She was dependable, trustworthy, kind and generous as well as humorous and fun. I am proud to call her my friend.

Anne Rawls - March 17, 2025 at 03:02 PM

CM

I grew up with Leatha in Vauxhall, New Jersey, she was so kind and gentle and I always admired her immensely may she RIP...

Clifford M. Mosby - March 19, 2025 at 01:03 AM



“ *I am from Vaux Hall and graduated with Julia. And through her I became friends with you, Amos and Stacy on Facebook and have enjoyed our connections. I will truly miss you and your beautiful birthday greetings. R.I.H. Job well done. My sincere condolences to your family Michelle Washington*

Michelle Washington - March 16, 2025 at 03:40 PM