



## Mrs. Willie Ruth Askew

January 3, 1931 - August 13, 2023

Willie “Ruth” Askew came into this world on January 3, 1931, in Phenix City, Alabama, born to the loving embrace of George and Ethyl Gary. A remarkable journey unfolded, with Ruth’s life story marked by resilience, love, and a zest for living. Tragedy struck early when Ruth’s mother passed away when she was just eight years old, leading her to be nurtured by her devoted sister, Mattie “Penny” Davis, in Birmingham, Alabama.

Ruth's educational voyage led her through the halls of a Birmingham high school before she embarked on a new chapter by venturing to Detroit, Michigan, in 1950. It was in the vibrant city of Detroit that she would find love and companionship, joining hearts with James Elton Askew(Q) on September 28, 1957. The union they shared was one of profound devotion, enduring until the sad day of James' passing on March 16, 2001. Together, they nurtured two beautiful daughters, Anita and Debra, within the lively streets of Detroit.

Ruth's path was woven with care and creativity. Her primary role as a homemaker was a testament to her dedication as she poured her heart into raising her daughters. Beyond these loving duties, she found solace and purpose as a skilled seamstress in a laundry, where her hands worked wonders on fabrics with her trusty Singer sewing machine. The windows of her home were adorned with curtains and drapes bearing her artistry.

A tapestry of interests colored Ruth's life. She enjoyed bowling and was an avid bowler, had a passion for cooking, playing cards, and the thrill of gambling. The casinos of Detroit held a special place in her heart, as did the excitement of playing the lottery. Her fingers effortlessly commanded the keys of the piano, a passion ignited in the 1970s, and her love for R&B and gospel music was a testament to her soul's harmony.

Ruth's spiritual journey found a home at St. Phillips Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit, where her active presence was felt until the call of a new chapter beckoned her to Conyers, Georgia, in July 2015. There, she nestled into the embrace of her daughter Anita, creating new memories and bonds.

As the sun sets on this chapter of Ruth's life, she leaves behind cherished memories and a legacy of love. As she transitions to heaven, she joins her parents, George Washington Gary and Ethyl Gary, as well as her beloved husband, James Elton Askew. Waiting to embrace her are her sisters, Mattie Davis, Lizzie Bell Rogan, and Queen Esther Hatch.

Ruth's light continues to shine through those she held dear. Her children, Anita Askew-Bawl and Debra Ferrell (Christopher), stand as a testament to her nurturing spirit. Her sister, Claudia Mae Alexander, keeps her memory alive, while her grandchildren, Atira Maria Marshall (LaNorris), Desmond James Bawl (Amy), Christopher Ferrell II and great-grandchildren, Amiyah Maria Vaughn, and Cameron James Bawl hold onto the legacy she lovingly forged.

Among those who share in Ruth's memory are a tapestry of special friends, including Vera Willis (Waymond "Buddy"), Beverly Thomas (Donald), Edna Kimbrough (Marvin, deceased), Louis (Railroad) Ragland (Cherylle), and Faye Wallace. She also leaves behind an honorary daughter, Janice Elaine Echols, and special daughters, Eileen Coggins, Beverly Nedab, Leamona Gentry,

Carol Kessler, Kimberly Benson, Denise Bellamy, Heaven Gilmore, Clea George, Cindy Pittman, Denise Johnson-Davis and special sons, Hector Rodriguez and Keith Gilchrist. Special nieces include Linda Willis, Angie Thomas, and Kimberly Kimbrough. Special nephews include Troy Willis, and Marty Kimbrough.

Ruth's warmth radiates through generations of nieces and nephews including Pam, Palmer Jr., Tony and Harvey Alexander, Tracey Fyer, Dorothy "Dot" Garth, Bonita Dawson, Nicole "Nikki" Elam, and Melvin "Tootie" Garth. A constellation of other relatives and friends shares in her memory, a testament to the impact she made on countless lives.

Ruth's legacy lives on, woven into the fabric of those whose lives she touched. Her spirit dances on in the memories, love, and connections she nurtured, forever etched in the hearts of all who knew her.

In gratitude, the family extends heartfelt appreciation to the staff of Loving Arms Hospice, with special recognition to Bernita Hunter and Claudette Brewer, as well as Vilette Johnson Brooks, formerly of Sacred Journey Hospice. Their compassionate care and support provided comfort during Ruth's final journey.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 25. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory-Rockdale  
1999 Hwy. 138 SE  
Conyers, GA 30013

## Family Hour (6PM-8PM)

AUG 25. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory-Rockdale  
1999 Hwy. 138 SE  
Conyers, GA 30013

## Celebration of Life

AUG 26. 11:00 AM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory-Rockdale  
1999 Hwy. 138 SE  
Conyers, GA 30013

## Burial

AUG 26 (ET)

Green Meadow Memorial Gardens  
699 American Legion Rd  
Conyers, Ga 30012

# Tribute Wall



“ Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a <https://vimeo.com/event/3634507> in memory of Mrs. Willie Ruth Askew



Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc. - August 16, 2023 at 09:36 AM



“ Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Willie Ruth Askew



Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc. - August 16, 2023 at 09:36 AM

AS

*Nita and Deb*

*My sincere deep thoughts for loss of Ruth. My neighbors and friends for many years. Ruth was reflective of what a magnificent woman she was in my life. One of our warmest experience when she gave me a cup of Maxwell Coffee and I told Ruth that is most potent cup of coffee I've ever tasted. Ruth says I love Maxwell Coffee. Love Askews Forever. Aaliyah Salaam*

aaliyah salaam - August 19, 2023 at 05:33 PM

KG

*Such a wonderful home going service, prayers and love.*

**Keith Gilchrist** - August 26, 2023 at 01:56 PM

JS

“ *Jo Slaughter purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mrs. Willie Ruth Askew.*



**Jo Slaughter** - August 25, 2023 at 01:42 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Willie Ruth Askew.*



August 24, 2023 at 10:41 AM

MF

“ *Marshall, Norwood, Felder and Way family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Willie Ruth Askew.*

**Marshall, Norwood, Felder and Way family** - August 23, 2023 at 06:51 PM

MF

“ *Marshall, Norwood, Felder and Way family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Willie Ruth Askew.*



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**Marshall, Norwood, Felder and Way family** - August 23, 2023  
at 06:51 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Willie Ruth Askew.*



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August 23, 2023 at 03:59 PM

MF

“ *Some of us had the pleasure of meeting Granny, she was always full of laughter and jokes. Based on her demeanor, she was one of those people that you would say “never meets a stranger “. She had to be a special person because she helped raise an outstanding human being, her granddaughter, Atira (Tee). Our prayer for the family is that God touch you all with his healing hands and give you the comfort and strength you need to get through. You are in our hearts and thoughts.*

*The Marshall, Norwood, Felder and Way family*

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**Marshall,Norwood,Felder & Way family** - August 21, 2023 at 07:15 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Willie Ruth Askew.*



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August 21, 2023 at 10:40 AM



“ *From the Gilchrist Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Willie Ruth Askew.*

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**From the Gilchrist Family** - August 20, 2023 at 01:20 PM



“ *From the Gilchrist Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mrs. Willie Ruth Askew.*



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**From the Gilchrist Family** - August 20, 2023 at 01:20 PM



“ *Dwight & Yasmin Atkins purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mrs. Willie Ruth Askew.*



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**Dwight & Yasmin Atkins** - August 20, 2023 at 09:29 AM

MR

“ Praying God will comfort and care for you while you celebrate the legacy that lives on.  
With Sympathy  
Mary Riddle



Mary Riddle - August 19, 2023 at 06:30 PM

AS

“ Aaliyah S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Willie Ruth Askew.

Aaliyah S. - August 19, 2023 at 05:45 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Willie Ruth Askew.



August 16, 2023 at 07:02 PM

CA

“ Anita, my deepest condolences to you and your family for the transition of your Mom. You will continually be in my prayers and thoughts.



Cathryn - August 15, 2023 at 03:57 PM

SG

“ Ms Anita my deepest sympathy for your loss of your mamma. Glad you were able to spend quality time with mamma over the years. Prayers for you all in this difficult time❤️❤️❤️



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**Steven Gordin** - August 15, 2023 at 11:19 AM



“ I would like to send my condolences and prayers for the family of my close friend Mrs. Ruth at this most difficult time. We shared many good times together an she will be truly missed. Railroad and Cherylle out of Detroit, MI.



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**Charlene Raglin** - August 15, 2023 at 10:33 AM