



## Ruth Allen

May 8, 1936 - December 30, 2023

Ruth D. Allen was born on May 8, 1936 to Arthur and Marie Durant. She was the baby girl of their seven children. As a child she was raised in the Ward of Homestead, Pennsylvania and enjoyed skating and playing softball. After the death of her mother and numerous visits to South Carolina, Ruth asked her father if she could stay with her mother's people and continue her education in South Carolina. She attended and graduated from Dennis School in Bishopville, South Carolina.

Ruth was joined in marriage to Phillip C. Allen with whom she had four children: Laretta Lynn (Peaches), Karl, Phyllis, and Arthur. She worked in the security department of the city of Pittsburgh public school system for more than 30 years. While working at Gladstone School, Ms. Allen would organize and finance after-school skating trips for the kids helping to bridge the culture gap and also giving her the opportunity to demonstrate her skating skills. These trips remain a part of the Gladstone memories of those former kids who are adults today. Her love of community and cooking would bring family, friends, and anyone who desired a hot cooked meal together to discuss community and world politics. Everyone was welcome at her table regardless of race, religion, or economic status.

Ruth, her two sisters (Ida Arrington and Sarah Dixon) and three very close friends (Ms. Pearl, Geraldine Wilson, and Patricia Hawkins) are responsible for the food pilot program that fed the children across Allegheny and connecting counties during the summer. The fruits of that program are still

enjoyed by children nationwide today.

Ms. Allen believed in being there for her family, friends, and community in whatever capacity that God allowed to bring joy, happiness, peace, and of course a full stomach. She was a voice for those who couldn't speak, an ear for those who needed to be heard, a shoulder for those who needed to lean or just cry, a girlfriend to those who needed a true friend, a hand to those who couldn't get up on their own, and a protector of those who just couldn't protect themselves for various reasons. This woman, 5 feet 4 inches in stature, was truly a force that you did not want to mess with.

Ruth Durant Allen was preceded in death by her daughter, Laurette Lynn (Peaches) Allen-Durham, 4 sisters: Katherine Durant, Ida Mae Arrington-Westbrook, Sarah Dixon, and Elizabeth Stewart; and 2 brothers: William and Arthur Durant. She leaves to mourn her passing her children: Karl and Arthur Allen of Pittsburgh and Phyllis Allen of Atlanta; her brother in-law, David Allen of Maryland; her daughter Doris Green of Pittsburgh; and her six grandsons: Barry, Donel, Karl Jr., Ishmael, Malcolm, and Dominique. She is also survived by 14 great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Ruth Durant Allen was the last of Arthur and Marie's children, so let us never forget the sacrifices that her generation made for us and the wisdom that they instilled in us as a family. The Allen children would like to leave you with this scripture, John 14:27 (NIV),

PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU; MY PEACE I GIVE YOU. I DO NOT GIVE TO YOU AS THE WORLD GIVES. DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED AND DO NOT BE AFRAID,

for Ruth Durant Allen will always be with you.

Done by order of the family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 12. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Park Place A.M.E. Church  
215 East 10th Avenue  
Homestead, PA 15120

## Service

JAN 12. 1:00 PM (ET)

Park Place A.M.E. Church  
215 East 10th Avenue  
Homestead, PA 15120

## Interment

JAN 12 (ET)

Homestead Cemetery  
Homestead, PA

## Repast

JAN 12 (ET)

Homestead Community Conference Center  
421 E 8th Avenue  
Homestead, PA 15120

# Tribute Wall

TJ

“ *The family has my deepest sympathy. Ms. Allen was a dedicated servant of people and community. I always admired her love for people especially those of us raised in Hazelwood. She was indeed a role model for outreach and family. God bless the family and may God comfort your hearts.*

*Tony Jackson*

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**Tony Jackson** - January 16, 2024 at 09:55 PM

MA

“ *Aunt Ruth, the epitome of elegance and class. I will forever treasure our talks at my house. I love you and you'll remain forever in my heart Queen.*

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**Mrs. Daryl Allen-Stinson** - January 12, 2024 at 12:39 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ruth Allen.*



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January 11, 2024 at 07:19 PM

HE

“ Heidi lit a candle in memory of Ruth Allen



Heidi - January 11, 2024 at 06:07 PM

HE

“ I have always had so much admiration and respect for Ms Allen - for her integrity, faith and courage - as well as GRATITUDE beyond words for her children, in particular Phyllis who has been my best friend for 55years - since the very first day of Kindergarten! Forever grateful to you Ms. Allen - you are the epitome of FIERCE GRACE...

Heidi - January 11, 2024 at 06:05 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ruth Allen.



January 11, 2024 at 07:18 AM

KC

“ Allen, Durant Families,  
Aunt Ruth was my sister/aunt. She had a way  
of always making you feel special. I  
remember as a very young girl she took me to  
my first ballet and to the Tea Garden. That  
was just one of many, many fond memories. Aunt Ruth would  
always lend a helping hand and she seemed to know before you,  
that you needed help. She would literally give you the shirt off her  
back. She was a gifted story teller and kept us entertained with her  
interesting "Tales from Down South." My heart hurts, and I miss my  
aunt, but I am thankful that she knew and loved the Lord, and for  
the years we were blessed to have her with us. I love you, Aunt  
Ruth. Rest in peace! ~Kathy~



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**Katherine Arrington Cornwall** - January 11, 2024 at 01:45 AM

SW

“ A great woman, our neighbor from Johnston  
ave! You will truly be missed! With deepest  
condolences Shanell Wright & the Littlejohn  
family



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**Shanell Wright** - January 10, 2024 at 10:30 PM

SA

“ Aunt Ruth I love you so much. You have always gone the extra mile  
to be a vessel of love to me. You cared about me when I needed it  
most. Thank you for all the times you have taken me to get my hair  
braided thank you for all your random acts of kindness towards me  
and my family. I can never express how much that has meant to me.  
I love you more than I ever got to express.

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**Shayla Anderson** - January 10, 2024 at 08:32 PM

PA

“ Penny - Fatimah Abdul-Hakim purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ruth Allen.



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**Penny - Fatimah Abdul-Hakim** - January 10, 2024 at 05:17 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ruth Allen.



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January 09, 2024 at 10:08 AM

BD

“ You were sooooo kind an patient with me.....I know I've been distant for a while from you guys but no matter how long I stayed away you always welcomed me an NEVER made me feel different about myself! I never felt uncomfortable or judgement I knew with you I can just be myself. I want you to know that your IMPORTANT to me I'll never forget you or how you made me feel! I love you today, tomorrow and anytime after.



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**Bridgette Dixon** - January 08, 2024 at 03:16 PM

VB

“ *To the Allen Family:  
I love you all like my own family. Your mom will be missed, but understand never forgotten. Mrs Allen bestowed a life lesson to me the last time we spoke and was something I needed hear and I loved her for that knowledge. God has her know and she's smiling down on her family. Take comfort that she loved you all and she's no longer suffering. Blessing to the family.*

*Vicki Brown*

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**Vicki Brown** - January 07, 2024 at 03:13 PM

KC

“ *Karl, Phyllis, and Arthur:  
Karl Jr., Donnel, Ishmael, Malcolm, and Domenic:  
Allen & Durant family:*

*Sending our condolences.*

*Aunt Ruth was such a pivotal part of our family. She will be sorely missed. She was loved by not only family, but a whole community. Let's keep her memory alive by continuing her kind, loving, giving spirit.*

*Love,*

*Katherine Arrington Taylor Cornwall and family.*

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**Katherine Cornwall** - January 07, 2024 at 09:22 AM

BO

“ *RWG Ms Allen. Prayers for your soul that you believed and accepted JESUS. Prayers of comfort for your family and those that loved you. Boom*

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**Boom** - January 06, 2024 at 11:32 AM

MK

“ *SENDING MY CONDOLENCES TO THE ALLEN FAMILY... PRAYERS STAYING UP* 🙏  
🙏



Manika Keys - January 05, 2024 at 11:01 AM

DF

“ *DURANT FAMILY planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruth Allen.*

DURANT FAMILY - January 05, 2024 at 10:46 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Ruth Allen.*



January 05, 2024 at 10:46 AM

AH

“ *To the Allen Family  
Sending prayers, hugs much love and  
condolences to your family. May the Lord  
cover you all with His blood. Love you always.*



Alise Hayes - January 04, 2024 at 12:53 PM

MI

“ *Martin Ingraham purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Ruth Allen.*



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**Martin Ingraham** - January 03, 2024 at 02:55 AM

MI

“ *Martin Ingraham planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruth Allen.*

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**Martin Ingraham** - January 03, 2024 at 02:55 AM

MF

“ *Martin Ingraham & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruth Allen.*

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**Martin Ingraham & Family** - January 03, 2024 at 02:35 AM

MF

“ *Martin Ingraham & Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Ruth Allen.*



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**Martin Ingraham & Family** - January 03, 2024 at 02:35 AM