



## PALLBEARERS

William Ruffin  
Leon Moss  
David L. Roberts  
David A. Roberts  
Curtis Wood  
David Morton

## EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,  
or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you sent those beautiful flowers,  
that we saw sitting there.  
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,  
that any friend could say.  
Perhaps you were not there at all,  
and just thought of us that day.  
Please know no matter what you did,  
we hold you in our hearts.  
Our family wishes to thank you all,  
for each and every part.

SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO

**METROPOLITAN**

*Funeral Service*

757.628.1000

WWW.METROPOLITANFUNERALSERVICE.COM

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



*Sunrise ~ April 29, 1941  
Sunset ~ February 8, 2025*

Friday Morning  
February 21, 2025 - 11:00 AM

**METROPOLITAN  
FUNERAL SERVICE**

5605 Portsmouth Blvd.  
Portsmouth, Virginia

-Officiating Minister-  
Minister Cici Carter





# ORDER OF CELEBRATION

**Musical Prelude**  
“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

**Processional/Viewing**

**Introduction/Welcome**  
Leon Moss

**Prayer of Comfort**  
Marty Miller

**Scriptural Reading**  
Candace Moss  
Tamara Bankhead

**Musical Selection**  
“Goin’ Up Yonder”

**Reflections**  
Yolanda Ruffin | Madeline Evans | Mary Roberts  
Dorothy Moss | Carolyn Wood | Elnora Ruffin  
Elizabeth Miller | Mary Richards  
April French | David Morton | Eric Carter

**Silent Reading of the Obituary**

**Musical Selection**  
“I Shall Wear a Crown”

**Words of Comfort**  
Minister Cici Carter

**Congregational Song**  
“Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand”

**Recessional**

**Place of Rest**  
Greenlawn Memorial Gardens  
Chesapeake, Virginia

**Fellowship Repast**  
Metropolitan Funeral Service  
Portsmouth Greatroom

# REFLECTIONS OF LIFE

Dr. Minnie R. Ruffin, a lifelong educator, civil rights activist, and beloved mother, grandmother, sister, cousin, and friend, passed away peacefully on February 8, 2025.

Born in Tarboro, North Carolina on April 29, 1941, Minnie pursued a life dedicated to learning, justice, and service. The third child of sharecropper parents, she was the first in her family to attend college. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in 1963, followed by a Master's Degree from Iowa State University in 1965, and ultimately a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1972. She was a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

A passionate educator, she devoted her career to shaping young minds at Fort Valley State University, Kentucky State University, Merritt College, San Francisco State University, and Morris Brown College before joining Atlanta Public Schools, where she retired in 2001.

Beyond the classroom, Minnie was deeply committed to civil rights, voting rights, and social justice. She worked on numerous "Get Out the Vote" drives in Atlanta, and was a co-founding member of Atlanta Grandmothers for Peace. She was also a member of the Metro Atlanta DSA, the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda, and Moral Monday Georgia, and she served on the board of the Georgia Coalition for Peace and Justice. She had the pleasure of working with civil rights icons Rev. Joseph Lowery and Congressman John Lewis, whom she was honored to call friends.

She actively served in several Atlanta-area Baptist churches throughout the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s. In her later years, she enjoyed watching the online services of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta and Excel Church in Jacksonville, finding comfort and inspiration in their music and their message.

Minnie was predeceased by her parents, George and Minnie Lee Ruffin, and her brothers, Joseph Lee Ruffin, John Henry Ruffin, Daniel Hayward Ruffin, and George Ruffin.

Minnie is survived by her daughter and only child, Felicitas "Cici" Ruffin Carter; her son-in-law, Eric Hunton Carter; two grandchildren, April French (Sheldon) and David Morton; two step- grandchildren, Carey Carter (Ashley) and Stephen Helin (Rakeshia); two great-grandchildren, Ayden Morton and Aubri Morton; her siblings, Mary Ethel Richards, Elizabeth Ruffin Miller (Marty), Elnora Ruffin, William Ruffin (Latonia), Carolyn Faye Wood (Curtis), Dorothy Moss (Leon), and Milton Ruffin; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.