



## Rosa Eloise Waters

June 27, 1934 - August 29, 2020

“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the spirit, that they rest from their labor; and their works do follow them.”

Rosa Eloise Franklin Waters, age 86, peacefully departed this life on Saturday, August 29, 2020. Born on June 27, 1934, in Cullen, Virginia, she was the third of six children and the first of two daughters born to the late Josephine Elizabeth and John L. Franklin.

At an early age, she professed her faith in God and joined Saint Andrews Baptist Church. From that point onward, the love of God, her family, and friends remained at the center of her life.

After graduating from Central High School in 1951, she became a student, majoring in mathematics, at Virginia Union University. While in college, she became a member of the Alpha Eta Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

During her freshman year, a friend convinced her to go on a blind date with a seminary student, Irving Waters, who remained “devotedly hers” for over forty-three years. They married in 1953 and had three daughters: Cherri, Irvenia, and Melonese. But she also opened her heart and homes to many others who she informally adopted as her own.

She served, side-by-side her husband, at three Virginia churches: Macedonia Baptist Church in Newport News (two years), Pine Street Baptist in Covington (four years), and Mount Hermon Baptist Temple (thirty-five years). At Mount Hermon, she made young people the focus of her ministry and was a founder

and leader of the Youth Fellowship and the Templeaires, a young people's choir.

Our dear Mother, Grandmother, Aunt, Sister, and friend leaves many to miss her dearly: her daughters, Cherri Waters, Irvonia Waters, and Melonese Privott; sons-in-law, Raymond Crowel and Jose Allen; grandchildren, Doris Waters, Darryl Waters, Dominique Clay, Clifton Privott, Jeffrey Allen, and Elizabeth Grace Allen; great-grandchildren, Kennedy Carter, Kahlil Waters, Boston Waters, and King Privott; remaining brothers, McCoy Franklin and Earl Franklin; sisters-in-law, Ruby Franklin and Doris Franklin; twenty-five nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews; adopted sons, William Reverly and Paris Eley; adopted daughter, Lynnell Spruill; as well as a host of other relatives, godchildren, and loyal friends.

We will miss her love, her radiant smile, and hearing her hum her favorite hymns, but will take comfort in knowing that she is at rest and will stand on the promise that she is with God.

The life celebration service will be live streamed from Mount Hermon Baptist Temple. Please visit their website on Facebook.

# Cemetery Details

## Greenlawn Memorial Gardens

3920 Airline Blvd  
Chesapeake, VA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 3. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services  
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.  
Chesapeake, VA 23323  
(757) 487-3700  
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com  
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

## Service

SEP 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mount Hermon Baptist Temple  
2901 London Blvd  
Portsmouth, VA 23707-3405

# Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Rosa Eloise Waters



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - September 03, 2020 at 07:03 PM

JD

“ Dear Cherie, Irvenia, Mel, and Family,

*Thoughts of Mrs. Waters bring sweet childhood memories to my mind. She was such a kind "neighborhood mother". Please know that my prayer is that our Lord will wrap his arms around you and give you the peace, comfort, and support you need during this time. Hold on to the happy memories. God bless you and I love you!*

*Jewell Wilson Davis  
Potomac Ave.  
Mt. Hermon*

Jewell Davis - September 07, 2020 at 03:19 PM

RF

“ In prayer for the family of Sister Rosa Waters. May your memories help to carry you through the coming days.



Rev. Joyce M Foster - September 04, 2020 at 05:46 PM

DO

“ *May the God of all comfort give you peace, comfort and guide you each and everyday.*

*Continue to hold to God's unchanging hand. Just thinking about Mrs. Eloise Waters, Rev. Waters and daughters brings such endearing, heartfelt and treasured memories of the days of my youth and teen years at Mt. Hermon Baptist Temple. I remember so very clearly Mrs. Waters' enthusiasm in working with and ministering to the youth. There was no formal Youth Department/Fellowship in place until its founding by this beautiful and handsome couple in ministry and led by Mrs. Waters. She was infused with such a love of the Lord and for the youth. My foundational years of spiritual growth and development were so enhanced by her spirit, kindness, love, devotion, wisdom, humor, guidance, grace and the multitude of youth activities and programs established. OMGoodness, Mrs. Waters, and of course Rev. were like my other parents!! Their home was a place of refuge. You could talk to her/them about anything for they always had a listening ear and shared incite and wisdom. She was a woman of high esteem who like her husband will forever be in my heart. They, too, have contributed to who I am this very day. To God Be The Glory!!! (Cherri, Irvenia and Mel, thank you so-o-o-o-o much for sharing your parents with us all!!!! Love You!!!)*

*Deborah Knight Oates  
Waldorf, MD*

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**Deborah Knight Oates** - September 04, 2020 at 10:58 AM

MB

*Sending condolences to the Water's family on the loss of your mother. Her beautiful smile will be missed at the nursing home by staff patients and visitors. She always had a smile for you when you came through the door. May God's love comfort you at this most difficult time in your life.*

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**Mary M. Brown** - September 04, 2020 at 08:44 PM



“ *With Deepest Sympathy to the Waters Family. We the St. Andrews Baptist Church Family Cullen, Va. are saddened to here the passing of our faithful member and community supporter. So sorry for your loss. Reverend (Dr.)Maurice Finney*



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**Marie Wade** - September 04, 2020 at 10:44 AM

AS

“ *To the Waters Family*  
*On behalf of the Mt Hermon Baptist Temple*  
*Youth Fellowship, that Rev. I. S Waters and*  
*First Lady Rosa Eloise Waters established,*  
*condolences for the loss.*



*The two of them was an awesome influence on the youth of the Temple. God blessed us when they came. Young and gifted with so much to offer, their Christian values and principles help to guide us into adulthood with a unfailling faith. We are who we are because they believed, supported, encouraged us. They helped us to believe in ourselves , to have faith and lean on the Lord in good times and the not so good times.*

*Mrs Waters with that great personality and warm inviting smile was our church mom. She always listened and helped us in our early spiritual walks.*

*There are not enough words to say Thanks for all that she was to so many!! We just say THANK YOU LORD FOR BLESSINGS THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE TEMPLE*

*WITH MUCH LOVE AND GRATITUDE FOR THE WORD SHE HAS DONE!,,*

*The Youth Fellowship of Mt Hermon Temple Beginners*

*Amy Eley Shields*  
*Landover, Maryland*

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**Amy Eley Shields** - September 03, 2020 at 06:26 PM



“ 24 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - September 03, 2020 at 10:56 AM



“ Sending up prayers for Melonese and family.  
May your precious memories bring you peace  
during this difficult time. Love you all.



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**Tanisha Jackson** - September 03, 2020 at 08:03 AM



“ My Condolences to the family! My friend Meloneise Privot and her beautiful children. God bless Y'all!!! Deacon Alvin Pimienta, Twine Memorial Holy Temple Portsmouth, Va.

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**Deacon Alvin Pimienta Twine Memorial** - September 02, 2020 at 08:11 PM

GJ

“ Gwendolyn Sledge Jones lit a candle in memory of Rosa Eloise Waters



Gwendolyn Sledge Jones - September 02, 2020 at 04:57 PM

DW

“ Grandma,  
We have so many memories. I can go on for days about how much time we spent together and how much you mean to me. You taught me so many things. You were always there. If my mom said no, of course you would say yes, if I caught you before I asked granddad. Thank you for all your teachings and all the time you took to show and guide me as a young lady. Thank you for the conversations we shared that are guiding me now in my adult days. I laugh at myself when I start my washer on a Sunday because I can hear you know saying... “ Now you know better than that, it’s the Lord’s Day. I love you Weezy and I know you are okay, because you told me last week when I saw you. I will share all my memories and teachings with Kennedy, because I know you would want that. You would light up when you saw her. It was like you were looking at your “Panther” (Me) all over again. I find myself saying some of the very same things to her that you would say to me..like correcting her and when she say mins instead of Mine. I love you Grandma ❤️ so so much!



Doris Waters - September 02, 2020 at 10:41 AM

DK

“ My esteem condolences to the Waters family! We are ever so grateful having known Mrs. Rosa Eloise Waters and family from our early childhood Christian Education Department at the Historic Mount Hermon Baptist Temple.

Upon the arrival of Rev. Dr. I.S. Waters and First Family, everlasting developmental youth experiences embraced all of the young people that I still cherish today - the Mount Hermon Baptist Temple Youth Fellowship. Mrs. Waters was terrific not only as First Lady but also as our new church mentor. She was always graciously kind committed to the Lord's mission. May you find comfort in knowing that her contributions to the Glory of God in ministry influenced faithful stability and comfort to all. Dr. J. Leon Knight



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**Dr. Joseph Knight** - September 01, 2020 at 05:42 PM

LS

“ You are one of the most important woman in my life. You have taught me a lot. You have worked hard for the kingdom. You earn your wings, now fly. Tell Papa hi.

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**Lynnell Spruill** - August 31, 2020 at 05:05 PM

DS

Bless her legacy, Lady Eloise was a beautiful lady with a bright smile and welcoming spirit. Linda and I enjoyed seeing her during our Sunday visits at the home center. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mel, Lynell and the family.

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**Dr James and Linda Smith** - September 01, 2020 at 11:49 PM



Mrs. Waters was part of life and part of who I am today.

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**Wesley Vann** - September 02, 2020 at 03:56 PM

MN

*And the ransomed of the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with singing: everlasting Joy will crown their heads. Gladness and Joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away Isa 35:10  
Thanking God that Aunt L was part of life . Rest in Peace  
Your niece*

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**Ms. Nance** - September 02, 2020 at 08:09 PM

AS

*To the Water's daughters, I send my deepest condolences for the earthly lost of a BEAUTIFUL CHRISTIAN LADY.*

*THE BIBLE SAYS RAISE UP A CHILD*

*So many fond memories that flood my heart and mind of my awesome youth and young adulthood at Mount Hermon Baptist Temple under the Christian leadership and guidance of Rev Irving Waters and Rosa Eloise Waters. I can not talk about one without talking about the other because they were exceptional!!!*

*They were an awesome team who mentored and supported the youth of the Temple. We become the Youth Fellowship and the First Sunday was our day to shine.*

*Learning to become a Christian was fun and exciting. Waters daughters I know u remember because u were there too.*

*We wanted to go to Sunday School, Church to listen Rev,as we called him, Baptist Training Union, Vacation Bible School, choir rehearsal, other church meetings and even the boring church meetings on a Friday night. (Smiles)*

*Mrs Waters with that sweet smile, which always reassured us, away listening. Always! When we had problems and situations that faced us we could go to them in confidence and they always listened and gave us advice on what our options were. They guided us to make good decisions that has helped to shape my life.*

*While supporting us they did with touch love when we failed to do our best and stay in faith.*

*That mentor ship along with a strong Christian home environment, has given me the strong Christian faith that I stand on today*

*And so I thank God for their presence in my life. My Christian walk is strong and blessed!!! Because of that Awesome Team and my church family.*

*AT MOUNT HERMON BAPTIST TEMPLE THEY RAISED US UP 🙏*

*WITH COMFORT AND BLESSINGS*

*AMY ELEY SHIELDS AND FAMILIES  
LANDOVER, MARYLAND*

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**Amy Eley Shields** - September 02, 2020 at 11:56 PM



*I can truly say she was the glue of Mt. Hermon Church and she will be missed by all who paths she shared. Rest in peace Mrs. Waters what a blessing to know you. Mildred McIntyre Wilson*

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**Mildred Wilson** - September 03, 2020 at 09:48 AM

PE

*Mrs. Eloise Waters was the first Super Mom I ever knew. There never were more kids than her capacity for love could accommodate. Whether it was a house full, including Cheri, Irvenia, and Melonese, or a church full, including the boys and girls from choir, BPTU, Sunday School or from the community she had time for wholesome fun, spiritual encouragement and moral instruction. I learned much about family, love, kindness and consideration from being accepted in the Waters family circle during an uncertain period in my young life. Of course, her husband (Doc), Irving Sidney Waters was, appropriately, the Super Dad to me and so many others. I owe them both a debt of gratitude that extends into eternity. God Bless you both for showing us what wonderful possibilities lay within the world and ourselves. Most of all, Mt. Hermon Temple love to you.*

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**Paris Eley** - September 03, 2020 at 08:50 PM