



## Zettie Hardy Pierce

May 12, 1921 - March 28, 2016

At the blessed age of 94 years old, Zettie Beatrice Hardy Pierce, left this life and went to be with our Lord and Savior on March 28, 2016, surrounded by family and friends at the time of her transition. Zettie was born on May 12th, 1921, the oldest daughter of Booker T. Hardy and Willie Mae Hardy. Zettie and her family lived in the countryside between the cities of Cleveland and Pace, Mississippi. She began her relationship with the Lord at an early age, attending Solomon Chapel AME Church in Cleveland, MS. Zettie completed her schooling at Pace Colored School, graduating in 1935. She moved to Chicago, IL around 1940, with her first husband, and the union produced her first born son. There, Zettie flourished, becoming an active member of Blackwell Memorial AME Zion Church; and later, Penson Temple Church of God in Christ. She aided and supported her family and countless others to establish themselves in Chicago during The Great Migration. Zettie met the love of her life, Booker T. Pierce, and they married in 1953. Their union was a perfect balance of her strength and feistiness and his quiet wisdom. Together they had four beautiful children. During this time, Zettie worked as a supervisor at the Schulze and Burch Biscuit Company for over thirty years, where she retired. She also attended cosmetology school, which later came in handy when raising her three granddaughters. Retirement would not last long, as Zettie's entre-preneural spirit led her to open and operate her very own daycare center. She finally retired a second time and moved to Portsmouth, VA to spend her final years. She continued her Christian life by joining

Ebenezer Baptist Church and made the decision to be baptized. At this time, she was still very active, regularly attending the City of Portsmouth Senior Station and joining the Red Hatters Club of Portsmouth. For those who knew her or were blessed to be her family, Zettie taught many lessons including that we do not have to live a, mundane life, as she lived this long life fully. She loved blues and jazz, threw fabulous parties and barbecues, drove beautiful cars, and traveled often. She taught us that we should look out for others, as Zettie took care of everyone and was fiercely protective of her family. She taught us to work hard in this life, and she has instilled this work ethic into her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She taught us what it meant to be strong women, as she was the epitome of a family matriarch. And we, who knew and loved her, thank her for all of her lessons. Zettie was preceded in death by her loving husband, Booker T. Pierce, her oldest son, Joseph Swan; her father, Booker T. Hardy; and her mother, Willie Mae Hardy. Other relatives that also preceded her in death include her brother, Willie Lee Hardy, her sister, Marva J. Lee, and her nephew, Kenneth Hardy. Zettie leaves to cherish her life, two daughters, Jataun Pierce and Valora Pierce Baskerville (Marion); two sons, Ronald Pierce and Reginald Pierce (Debby); brother, John Hardy (Laura), and two nieces, Sharon Morgan and Sandra Hill (Warren); and a very special niece, Dorris Pierce McGill. She also leaves a great legacy with eight grandchildren, Kurt Swan (Sherry), Cheryl Bourgeois, Tanya Houston (Anthony), Tawone Pierce, Tosha Coleman (Cecil), Crystal Jones, Tamika Baskerville Bryant (Ernest), and Tiffany Baskerville Powell (Charles) and nine great-grandchildren, Shaneah Kawamba (Gray), Kurt Swan Jr., Kyle Swan, Christian Swan, Alexandra Bourgeois, Alia Joy Houston, Anthony Houston Jr., Melina Jazmin Jones, and Zoe Valora Bryant. There are also a host of other relatives and friends who love Zettie and will keep her awesome memory alive.

# Cemetery Details

## Albert G Horton Jr. Veterans Memorial Cemetery

5310 Milner's Road  
Suffolk, VA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 3. 2:00 PM - 5:00 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

APR 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ebenezer Baptist Church  
728 Effingham Street  
Portsmouth, VA

# Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Zettie Hardy Pierce



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - April 03, 2016 at 12:57 PM

OS

*Beautiful and touching. Such wonderful memories.*

OLLIE SWAN - April 14, 2016 at 08:39 AM

KS

*This presentation is simply beautiful. It's amazing how we all looked, look, or will look alike at some point in life. May Grandmas' Memory and Legacy live forever. Also, tell Daddy that I said Hello.*

*Grandson  
Pastor Kurt Swan*

ks - April 14, 2016 at 03:19 PM

LG

*Absolutely Beautiful!*

Leslie Green - April 19, 2016 at 05:16 PM

EJ

“ My condolences to the family. My daughter and I were reminiscing about how my sister took care of her at my house for 14 months so I didn't have to take out of the house. We got on the subject of her next babysitter and she googled Zettie Pierce. We found this obituary and after reading it realized she was her daycare provider.

*I met Mrs Pierce many years ago when my daughter was just 14 months old. She had an opening at her day care. She was my child's caregiver until she was ready to go to kindergarten. While in her care I was always confident that she was well cared for and loved. She made space in her garage for my daughter's Barbie car. It looked so cute parked next to hers. There were a few times I had to work late and because I didn't have a car she pulled hers out of the garage and gave us a ride home. I remember once I worked so late she gave her dinner and put her to bed. She was my wonderful gift from God. Without her things would have been a lot tougher. I will always be grateful for the gift of her.*

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**Elizabeth Jenkins** - February 27, 2025 at 01:52 PM



“ Happy birthday Granma. I thank you so much for helping me to find my purpose in life when you introduced me to day care. Also, thank you for allowing me to be in your family and having the honor of presenting to you your first two grandchildren. You will never be forgotten. Love you so much and will cherish all the memories of my time with you.

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**Ollie Swan** - April 14, 2016 at 08:43 AM



“ *Rainbow Reflections Basket was purchased for the family of Zettie Hardy Pierce.*



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April 02, 2016 at 04:47 PM



“ *41 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - April 02, 2016 at 10:33 AM



“ *Please accept my deepest condolences on the death of your mother. The death of a loved one can be traumatic for the family. However, remember the happy and fun times you shared with her. Remembering those times might be painful at first, but in time, these memories may help you to heal rather than cause you to hurt. Most importantly rely on God's Word for comfort. Pray to God to help you get through this sad time. He will listen and give you the strength needed.*

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**D. Williams** - April 02, 2016 at 05:35 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Zettie Hardy Pierce.*



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April 01, 2016 at 01:27 PM



“ *Mama, mother to us all, with such kindness and generosity of the heart, we will miss you. Thank you so much for a life filled with love of humanity.  
Rest in peace in the arms of the Almighty.  
Love to my family,*

*Jakie*

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**Jakie** - March 31, 2016 at 07:27 AM



“ *Margaret Thorne lit a candle in memory of Zettie Hardy Pierce*



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**Margaret Thorne** - March 30, 2016 at 02:50 PM



“ *Ruth C lit a candle in memory of Zettie Hardy Pierce*



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**Ruth C** - March 29, 2016 at 12:34 PM