



OBITUARY PAGE



Reverend Carrie Ruth Ray



To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the Heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

As God planned the dawn of a new day, he saw Ruth had fought a good fight and he took her home to be in His presence on Tuesday, September 14, 2010. Ms. Carrie Ruth Ray (Ruth) was the daughter of the late Beatrice Ray McNeill, and James Barney. She resided in Chicago, IL for 30 years and after a successful career as a manager at Illinois Bell Telephone Company in Chicago, she retired and relocated to St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, where she lived, worked, and played on the beach for the next ten years.

Ruth was preceded in death by one brother, Herbert Williams and one nephew, Leroy Jackson. She is leaving a legacy of love, dreams, goals, and freedom with gratitude for the universe; three sisters, Wilma Burgess of Fayetteville, NC, Joyce D McNeill of Fayetteville, NC, and Betty L. Bailey of Virginia Beach, VA; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and special friends.

Acknowledgements

We, the family of C. Ruth Ray, with humble hearts wish to express our sincere appreciation for the many expressions of love and support you have shown during our time of bereavement. May God Bless you.

~The Family~

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Dr. Mildred Jefferson



BOSTON — Mildred Jefferson, the first black woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School and a nationally recognized leader of the anti-abortion movement, has died at age 84. Anne Fox, the president of Massachusetts Citizens for Life, says Jefferson died Friday in Cambridge.

Born in Pittsburg, Texas, in 1926, the daughter of a school-teacher and a Methodist pastor, she was raised in the beautiful East Texas town of Carthage and graduated from Texas College in Tyler. She earned a master's degree from Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts. Then, she went on to become the first African-American woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School and the first woman to be a surgical intern at Boston City Hospital.

Dr. Jefferson gained renown as a clinical professor of surgery at Boston University Medical School—and over the years was awarded honorary degrees by 28 colleges and universities.

She was one of the early, visionary founders of the modern pro-life movement. A tireless servant-leader, she helped to establish more than 30 pro-life organizations, boards, and committees including the National Right to Life Committee—of which she remained the at-large director to the day she died.

Her credo was unequivocal, "I am at once a physician, a citizen, and a woman, and I am not willing to stand aside and allow this concept of expendable human lives to turn this great land of ours into just another exclusive reservation where only the perfect, the privileged, and the planned have the right to live."

Solomon Burke

(March 21, 1940 - October 10, 2010)



Solomon Burke was born to the sound of music in an upstairs room of a Philadelphia church and went on to become one of the greatest soul singers of the 1960s, renowned as among music's premier vocalists. Yet his popularity never matched that of those he influenced, contemporaries including James Brown and Marvin Gaye, a reality he accepted with grace and some frustration, colleagues said.

Burke, 70, died early Sunday of natural causes at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, his family said in a statement on the singer's website.

"This is a time of great sorrow for our entire family. We truly appreciate all of the support and well wishes from his friends and fans," the statement said.

"Although our hearts and lives will never be the same, his love, life and music will continue to live within us forever," it added. The family did not elaborate on the cause of death.

Schiphol Airport police spokesman Robert van Kapel confirmed that Burke died on a plane at Schiphol. He arrived early Sunday on a flight from Los Angeles and had been scheduled to perform a sellout show on Tuesday in a church converted into a concert hall in Amsterdam with local band De Dijk.

Albertina Walker

(August 29, 1929 - October 8, 2010)



CHICAGO (AP)—Albertina Walker, a Grammy-winning singer known as the "Queen of Gospel," is dead at age 81.

Pam Morris, a close friend and WVON radio host, says Walker died Friday morning of respiratory failure in at RML Specialty Hospital in Chicago.

Morris says Walker was "a living legend" who was responsible for launching more than a dozen careers of gospel artists.

As a young woman, she formed her own gospel group, the Caravans, and was a protegee gospel star Mahalia Jackson.

U.S. Congressman Bobby Rush says Walker was a voice for the civil rights movement. In his words, her music was "a healing balm to those who struggled for justice."

Walker was lifelong Chicago resident and member of the West Point Baptist Church. Funeral arrangements are pending.

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