

Acknowledgements

We, the Family of Emma R. Steele would like to thank everyone for your acts of kindness shown during our time of bereavement. Whatever part you played, whether you said a prayer, donated food, gave a card, or just stopped by to show concern, we thank you so much. May God richly bless each of you.



THE FERGUSON-RAYAM FUNERAL HOME

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REMEMBERING
EMMA R.
Steele

10.13.59 - 3.23.23

The Story of Emma Steele

Emma R Steele was born on October 13 1959 in Newark, NJ to WillieJ. and Ruby D. Steele. She left this earthly life on March 23, 2023. She was a miracle baby. Her parents were told they wouldn't have children but Emma broke the mold. She was the oldest of three children, the mother of two children, and the grandmother of six children. Her legacy will live on. Emma was always a special person. She had an infectious presence about her. No matter who you were she could always offer you a conversation and make you feel as though you've known her for years. She didn't care who you were, she would offer you a cup of tea and if she really liked you, a muffin too...and for special people she offered you a Pepsi.

Emma was spoiled by all; but especially by her father. She was the epitome of a "daddy's girl". She was her daddy's princess. Even into adulthood, she knew and would let you know "my daddy will do it for me". This was continued by her children. And her siblings. And her cousins. And her friends. All who knew her. While in elementary school, her parents were called by the social worker due to constant crying. Once the meeting was held it was determined there was nothing wrong with Emma, except she was spoiled. But all who knew her, knew this fact and loved her for it.

Emma received the Lord Jesus at an early age. She loved the Lord. Growing up in her family's church, Randall Chapel Unified Free Will Baptist Church, she served in almost every capacity. She didn't mind helping out wherever she could. She sang on the choirs, serving for a number of years as president of the RC Ensemble. She loved to sing and could sing. One of her signature songs is "Thank You Lord". She worked with the youth ministry. For many years she was the van driver for the youth choir. During this time she made sure that her children, her nephews and nieces, and all the children of the church were kept busy in church rather than the streets. She kept them busy. Often arriving home late in the night, she never complained. She loved what she did. She was a vital part in the We Can Help soup kitchen, an outreach ministry of the Randall Chapel Church. Even when she was no longer an official member of Randall Chapel, she still diligently worked with the soup kitchen. Often leaving work early so she could be in place for when she had to serve. She never complained. She loved what she did.

Emma was always very intelligent. She would often let you know that although she went to Southside High School, later Malcolm X Shabazz, she was apart of the "School Within A School" program which would later become University High School. Emma used her intelligence and worked for a number of banks in her early career life. Emma later obtained her nursing credentials and worked as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) for a number of years. Still wanting to better herself, she returned to college, after raising her children, and obtained her bachelor's degree from Kean University. After obtaining her bachelor's degree, Emma began to work for the State of New Jersey as a Senior Probation Officer until her retirement. During her tenure with the state of NJ, she was awarded numerous awards and accommodations. She was liked by most, but respected by all. She was known around the office for her compassionate heart and her quick wit. Even after retirement from the state, she returned to work, back in the bank, as a part time teller until her transition.

One of her greatest accomplishments were her pride and joy. Her sons. She loved being a mother. No matter what she did in her life, she always made sure that her children knew she had their back. Even if they were miles away. She didn't mind telling the world how proud she was of her sons. She was their loudest cheerleader and biggest supporter. She took pride in being a good mother. If you knew her, you knew of her children.

She leaves to cherish her memory her two children: Reginald W. Steele(Shirell) and Antwone T. Steele; six grandchildren Najee Davis, Kai Steele, Christian Steele, Janelle Hickson, A. Zoe Steele, and Jordan Hickson; two siblings William J. Steele and Cynthia Curtis (Reginald); one nephew Aaron Pridgen; two aunts Lucille Danzey and Ann Steele; a host of cousins, nephews, nieces, church family, work family, friends, and neighbors.

She was preceded in death by her parents Willie J. Steele and Ruby D. Steele and her nephew Andre Pridgen. She will be missed.

ORDER OF Service

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2023 | 12:00 PM
SOLID ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH | 664 CHANCELLOR AVE., IRVINGTON, NJ 07111
REV. HILTON RAWLS JR., OFFICIANT
BISHOP HILTON RAWLS SR., EULOGIST

Officiant
Hymn

Rev Hilton Rawls, Jr
When We all get to Heaven

Scripture Reading

Old Testament Scripture – Bishop Alton Little
New Testament Scripture – Min Timothy Danzey

Prayer of Comfort
Solo
Acknowledgements and Obituary
Reflections (3 min)
Selection

Rev Philip Gilmore
Sis Katherine Saunders
Sis Erika Thomas

Choir

Family Reflections

Solo
Eulogy
Benediction

Min Toby Carson
Bishop Hilton Rawls Sr

