

Homegoing Celebration
for
Mrs. Virginia Irene Shuff



SUNRISE

December 31, 1922
Sandy Ridge, NC

SUNSET

June 19, 2008
Mount Airy, NC

Monday, June 23, 2008
Two o'clock

St. Paul A.M.E. Church
South South Street
Mount Airy, North Carolina

Reverend James Acolatse, *Pastor/Officiating*
Reverend Dr. W. H. Morrison, *Eulogist*

Interment

Stateline Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery
Mount Airy, North Carolina

ORDER OF SERVICE

Earth's Final Glimpse	one-thirty until two o'clock
Prayer	Reverend James Acolatse
Choir	St. Paul A.M.E.
Words of Comfort	Reverend Lula Williams
Scripture Old Testament	Reverend Gladys Galloway
New Testament	Reverend Rhonda Tatum Tucker
Choir	St. Paul A.M.E.
Obituary (Read Silently)	
Church Resolution	Joann Larkins
Acknowledgements	
Family Reflections	
Solo	Cedric Fulton
Eulogy	Reverend Dr. W.H. Morrison
Committal/Benediction	Reverend Dr. W.H. Morrison
Interment	Stateline Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery Mount Airy, North Carolina
The Final Flight	Spencer Funeral Home Staff

Repast will follow in the Fellowship Hall

FLOWER BEARERS

Nieces

CASKET BEARERS

Nephews/Cousins

Professional Services Directed by

SPENCER FUNERAL HOME STAFF

824 N. Main Street, Mount Airy, NC 27030

(336) 786-4161 - (336) 786-4162 - (336) 786-4163 - Fax (336) 789-8914



THE OBITUARY

Virginia "Irene" Joyce Tatum Shuff, 85, was born December 31, 1922 in Sandy Ridge, NC (Stokes County). She was the daughter of the late Claude and Mary J. Tatum. She was one of eleven children.

She was married to the late Howard J. Shuff. They met and married in Texas during the 40's while Howard was stationed in the Marine Corp. After marriage, they moved to Mount Airy, NC and to this union three children were born. She was the proud grand/great grandmother of her grand and great grandchildren. Miss Irene, Irene ore Rene as she was called by family and close friends, graduated from Madison Colored High School (Rockingham County), Madison, NC. She extended her education with a second high school diploma (GED) in 1988 and earned her certification as a Certified Nursing Assistant in 1989 from Surry Community College, Dobson, NC. After retiring from Renfro, Inc., she worked part time as a CNA in private homes and a Domestic worker.

Irene was a faithful member of St. Paul A.M.E. Methodist Church for over sixty years. She served in various church positions: The Missionary Society (member), Trustee Board (member) and Church Treasurer; also she participated in this church ministries: Senior Choir, Sunday School and Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study Group. She was an active member of many civic and community organizations: served as secretary in the NAACP, member of the Sandy Level Community Council, and member of the Board of Directors YVEDDI (Yadkin Valley Economics Development District Incorporation), and was a member of the Lions Club. She served in these organizations until her health began to decline. We remember her as an elegant, active lady, who loved to dress beautifully, work hard, attend church faithfully, help others and was a great cook. It was her faith in God that kept her strong. Through many hardships, trials, tribulations, disappointments, tragadies and failing health (these few years of her life), her faith in "her Jesus" did not waiver. Even in death, Thursday, June 19, 2008 at Northern Hospital of Surry County, she held on to "her Jesus" as her spirit transitioned from earth to heaven. The prayer prayed that day was, "Lord, let her go peacefully and send the angels to usher her into heaven." It happened just that way-the sweet aroma of the presence of God filled her room as she went home. She loved her Jesus!

She leaves to mourn her loss, one son, Timothy Ray Shuff of the home; four grandchildren, Gary, Melissa, Derek and Tyhesia; eight great grandchildren; a brother, Clifford Tatum of Mount Airy, NC; a brother-in-law, Harold Phillips of New York; a devoted sister-in-law and caregiver, Ruia Shuff of Mount Airy and Mary Tatum of Stoneville, NC; two Goddaughters, Elaine Joyce-Norris of Mount Airy, NC and Ernestine Joyce-Daniels of Jacksonville, FL; a special friend, Shelby King; a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends. Preceding her in death are one daughter, Jean Carol Shuff and one son, Stephen Darnell Shuff and her siblings are, Essie Parson, Ethel Tatum, Shirley Miller, Maxine Phillips, Jean Carol and Eeane Tatum (twins), Hubert R. (Jack) Tatum, Claude (Preacher) Tatum, Jr. and Melvin Tatum.

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me and I'm not here to see,
If the sun should rise and find your eyes all filled with tears for me.
I wish so much you wouldn't cry, the way you did today,
while thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me, as much as I love you,
and each time that you think of me, I'll know you miss me too.

But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand,
that an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand.
And said my place was ready in heaven far above,
and that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.

But as I turned to walk away, a tear fell from my eye,
for all my life I always thought I didn't want to die.
I had so much to live for and so much to do,
it seemed almost impossible that I was leaving you.

I thought of all the yesterdays, the good ones and the bad,
I thought of all the love we shared and all the fun we had.
If I could relive yesterday, I thought for just a while,
I'd say good bye and kiss you and maybe see a smile.

But then I fully realized that this could never be,
for emptiness and memories would take the place of me.

*So when tomorrow starts without me,
don't think we're far apart;
For every time you think of me—
I'm right here — IN YOUR HEART.*



Thank You

*The loss of the one we held so dear.
It was to us a great comfort indeed,
To see you in the time of sorrow and need.
So from our hearts which you tried to help mend,
We thank you sincerely again and again
For being such wonderful friends.*

The Family of
Mrs. Virginia Irene Tatum Shuff
245 Gordon Street
Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030

IRENE

"Peace"

*Blessed are the
peacemakers,
for they shall
be called
children of God.*

Matthew 5:9