



*Celebrating The Life
of
Rita Yvonne Rashidi*

SUNRISE
March 2, 1952

SUNSET
October 15, 2019



SERVICES

Thursday, October 24, 2019 — 11:00 a.m.

EARL M. TEMPLE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

2801 N. Kelley Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111

Brandon Denton
Officiating



Obituary

On March 2, 1952, Freddie, Sr. and Lorene Denton welcomed their first child, an angel, Rita Yvonne, the eldest of eight children. Rita attended Green Pastures Elementary School and graduated from Star Spencer High School in 1970.

Rita met her love, Marvin Jackson (aka Ahmed Rashidi), and they married in August 1972. In 1973, Marvin and Rita Jackson changed their names to Ahmed and Rita Rashidi to intentionally direct the path of their family. Ahmed was a proud protector of Rita, and calls her the love of his life. To this union, three unique and outstanding children were born: Ahkilah, Shani and Omari.

Rita was present for all of her children's precious moments such as basketball, band, child births, weddings and daily phone calls. She enjoyed special friendships with her children's friends and was known as a "loving jokester". She is affectionately referred to as "Tony Soprano" by her nieces and nephews. Later on, the Rashidi family was perfected with the addition of three grandchildren: Amir, A'mani and Camari Rashidi.

Rita loved photography and often exercised her talents for taking pictures, especially early in her life. She often said one of her most special moments came when she took her very first photo of Jon, her youngest brother, and the last photo of her father before his death in 1976. During the 1980-90's, Rita recorded the memories of many Star Spencer High School basketball players by taking photos at games. Her pictures are still circulating across the country. She snapped photographs for the yearbook, senior photos and others in the Spencer and Midwest City communities. She solidified her passion for photography by graduating from the Oklahoma School of Photography in the 1990's.

Rita retired as a Unit Clerk from Children's Hospital after more than 30 years of employment. Children's Hospital birthed lifelong friendships for Rita. Some of her closest work friends were Carleeta Nelson, Tami Isaac, Michael Gibson, Silvia Shirley, and Jacquetta Jackson.

Since retirement she continued to flash photos and to devote the majority of her loving attention to her children and grandchildren. She even made time to travel. Rita loved Egypt and her favorite trip with Ahmed in 2009 was deemed her "trip of a lifetime!" They toured the Museum of Cairo, Sphinx, Pyramids of Giza, King Tutankhamun's Tomb and enjoyed a boat ride on the Nile River. Visiting Egypt was one of the greatest moments of Rita's life.

Rita's memory and experiences will live on through her family as she reunites with her parents. Rita was preceded in death by her father, Freddie, Sr. (1976) and her mother, Lorene (2014).

Celebrating her transition of life are her husband, Ahmed; her children: Ahkilah Rashidi, Shani Nealy (Marcus) and Omari Rashidi; her grandchildren: Amir Rashidi, A'mani Rashidi and Camari Rashidi; her siblings: Freddie Denton, Jr. (Sharon), Glen Denton, Chinita Thomas (Tony), Bruce Denton (Felica), Brenda Moham (Rodney), Felice House (Allen), Jon Denton (Kim) and Cousin/Sister, Jettye Clark (Willie); special family members: Shontreal Daniels, Christian Tate, Wendy Howell, ZaMonte Jackson, and Naelyn Howell; the Jackson family, a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



Order of Service



Musical Prelude	Orinthal Wandick
Processional	Ministers, Funeral Directors, Family
Prayer	Brandon Denton, Nephew
Musical Selection	Sheila White-Ligans
Resolutions/ Acknowledgement	Mandisa Henry, Niece
Special Remarks	Ahmed Rashidi, Husband
Eulogy	Imam, Arif Abdullah, Masjid Mu-min
Eulogy	Rev. William Smith First Macedonia Baptist Church
Reflections of Love	Carleeta Nelson, Friend Shannon Moham, Niece Amir Rashidi, Grandson
Special Memories	Ahkilah Rashidi, Daughter Shani Nealy, Daughter Omari Rashidi, Son
Musical Selection	Sara Louis
Life Reflections Video	
Parting View	Temple & Sons Funeral Directors
Recessional	Ministers, Funeral Directors, Family

Active Pallbearers

Amir Rashidi • Brandon Denton • Cody Thomas
Lafayette Denton • Lee Louis, III • Malik Denton
Marcus Nealy • Antoine Trice • JaMaal Wallace

Honorary Pallbearers

Freddie Denton, Jr. • Bruce Denton • Glen Denton
Jon Denton • Elihue Jackson • Melvin Jackson (deceased)
Nathan Moham • Robert Jackson • Tyrome Denton

Flower Bearers

Akeisha Tilley-Denton • Chatisha Tilley
Lakesha Denton • Shannon Moham • Shelneko Northington
Shenice L. Huff • Sherita Anglin • Torayia Clark

Honorary Flower Bearers

Ada Jackson • Brenda Moham • Cedria Fair
Chinita Thomas • Felice House • Felica Denton
Janice Jackson • Nausha Jackson
Sharon Denton • Traci Hope-Louis

Interment

Hillcrest Memory Gardens
Spencer, Oklahoma

Please drive with your lights on for safety and fasten your seatbelts.

Services under the direction of:

TEMPLE & SONS FUNERAL DIRECTORS, INC.
2801 North Kelley Avenue • Oklahoma City, OK 73111
(405) 427-8321 • "We Care" — II Timothy 4:8

Acknowledgment

The family of Rita Rashidi expresses our sincere gratitude for each and every person who has reached out to us. Thank you for your warm expressions of sympathy. Your prayers, hugs and acts of kindness will remain in our hearts forever. The dedication shown by the the Douglass High School Class of 1969, Star Spencer High School Classes of 1991, 1992 and 1996 are more than we ever could have imagined! Rita would have blushed at the tremendous amount of support you have given us. Thank you and continue to pray for us. Our love for Rita/Mother/Nana goes on forever and even after that!