

SUNRISE September 22, 1931 - SUNSET December 8, 2023

# CELEBRATION OF LIFE

*Ruth  
Estella  
Steen*  
HOUSTON

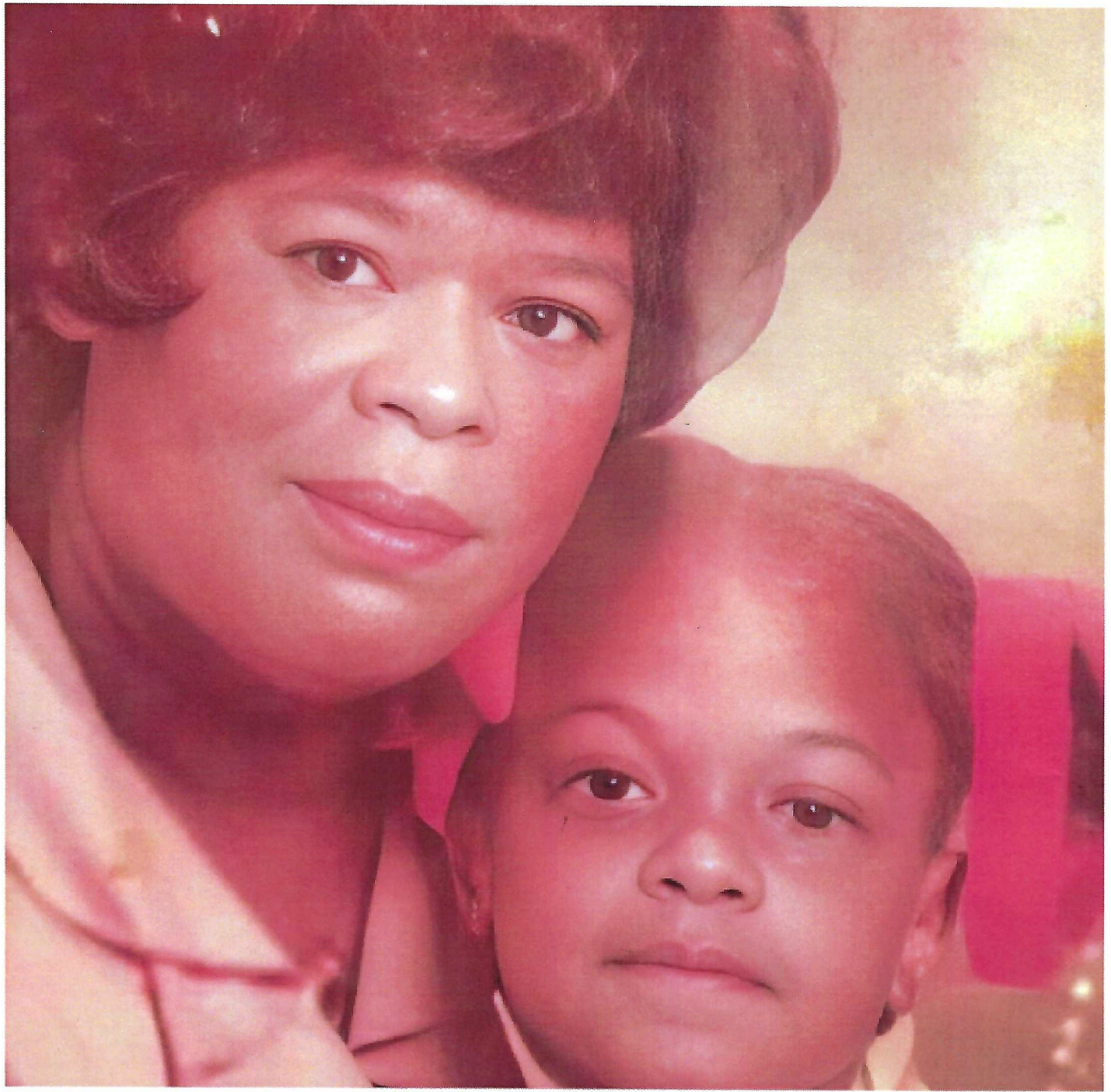
"HENCEFORTH  
THERE IS  
LAID UP FOR ME  
A CROWN  
OF RIGHTEOUSNESS..."  
- 2 TIMOTHY 4:8A, KJV

HOMEGOING  
SERVICES  
FRIDAY  
December 22, 2023  
Viewing  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Celebration of Life  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

*"I shall  
wear a crown...  
I shall see His face...  
I'm going to  
put on MY robe,  
and tell the story..."*

GREATER LOVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
1534 PECK STREET, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78210  
DOCTOR LESTER JAMES GILLESPIE, SR.,  
PASTOR/OFFICIANT

*Ruth Estella...  
Beautiful, Brilliant, Lover of God*



# A Daughter's Love



Precious  
memories



Rest well mommy



# *Celebrating the Life of Ruth Estella Steen Houston*

Ruth Estella Houston was born to Tracy Steen and Willie Ragland Steen on September 22, 1931, in the city of San Antonio, Texas. She is the fifth child born to this union.

She attended schools in the San Antonio Independent School District, graduating from Phyllis Wheatley High School. While continuing her educational journey at St. Philip's College, she excelled. Following her early graduation, she chose a "life of service", earning the designation of Licensed Vocational Nurse. Ruth Estella's Nursing career began at the Robert B. Green Hospital. This "essential worker" later served the Santa Rosa Hospital System, and ultimately rendered service to our Military community, as a Nurse in the infamous Burn Unit, of Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC). While still at BAMC, she also served families as a Nurse in Labor and Delivery.

Ruth Estella was married to Roy B. Houston. In 1977, Ruth Estella was blessed to become the mother of Traci L. Houston. She devoted her time, her talents, and her treasures, to her friends, to her family, and most of all, to her daughter, Traci Lynn.

Ruth Estella accepted Christ and was baptized at the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor S. E. Steward. For 92 years, Ruth Estella led a magnificent life, honoring God with her service, and loving her neighbors, as herself. Ruth, affectionately known as "Mother Houston", was a very active church member. She first attended Ezra Missionary Baptist Church, serving as the church's Secretary, under the leadership of Pastor William Edward Cruse. Ruth Estella ultimately found her "family", when she united with Greater Love Missionary Baptist Church. She dearly loved serving her church and her Pastor, Dr. Lester J. Gillespie, Sr. She served Greater Love until her health failed, considering nothing too good for her Lord, for her Pastor, and for her church. Ruth was also a hospitable and loving asset to her neighborhood and community, and often provided care for her neighbor's children, ensuring they made it home safely.

Ruth Estella was loved by many and was affectionately called by many nicknames. She cherished each, as they were bestowed with love. Her Nieces and Nephews referred to her as "Aunt Wootie" (pronounced Woo-Tee). Her adopted Grandsons, Ja'Marae and Jared Strogon, referred to her as "Grandma Pizza", because she made sure they had pizza (along with whatever else they wanted) EVERY time they saw her. Her Granddaughter Tiana Johnson's nickname for her was "Granny Girl", due to her unusual style. She cherished each of her Granddaughters and shared a special bond with each one. Though her nicknames were beloved to her, what honored her most was being called a "Child of God".

Ruth Estella was preceded in death by her parents Tracy and Willie Steen, her sisters, Esther Lee, Dorothy, Mildred, Vivian, Gracie, and two brothers William Harold, and Henry Tracy.

Ruth Estella leaves to cherish her memory, her Daughter, Traci Lynn Houston, and her Grand Daughters, Danica Johnson, Tiana Johnson, and Briea Houston, and her Great-Grandson, Jayceon Grier. She also leaves two sisters, Mary Jackson (Wayne) and Lena Taylor (Robert) and her Godson, Lennie Munson. Last, tho not least, "Grandma Pizza" leaves to cherish her memory, her Grandsons, Ja'Marae and Jared Strogon, a vast host of Nephews and Nieces, her beloved Pastor and Greater Love MBC Family and a great many other loved ones and friends.

*Celebrating The Life Of Ruth Estella Steen Houston*  
Doctor Lester J. Gillespie, Sr., Pastor & Officiant

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

SCRIPTURE READING  
OLD & NEW TESTAMENT

PRAYER

MUSICAL SELECTION

READING OF THE OBITUARY

RESOLUTIONS

REMARKS & REFLECTIONS

FAMILY TRIBUTE

MUSICAL SELECTION

EULOGY

RECESSIONAL

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT  
CLERGY & FAMILY

REVEREND ROBERT WHITE  
GREATER LOVE MBC  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

SUPERINTENDENT PASTOR  
JOSEPH JOHNSON  
EMMANUEL PENTECOSTAL COGIC  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

SISTER ELIZABETH STANFIELD

READ SILENTLY

SISTER GLADYS M. HODGES  
CHURCH SECRETARY  
GREATER LOVE MBC  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

SISTER KIM ADAMS (FAMILY)  
SISTER MARY STEEN (SIBLING)  
SISTER BRIEA HOUSTON (GRANDCHILD)

SISTER TRACI HOUSTON (DAUGHTER)

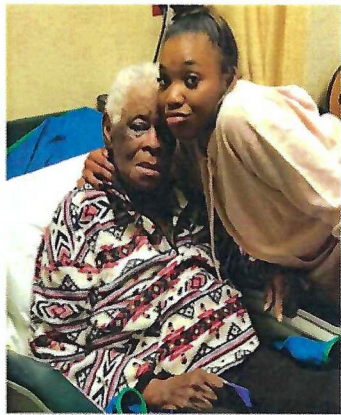
REVEREND W. G. GILLESPIE, SR.  
MASS CHOIR, WITH MINISTER OF MUSIC  
REVEREND MARK B. SPENCER  
GREATER LOVE MBC  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

PASTOR LESTER J. GILLESPIE, SR.  
GREATER LOVE MBC  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

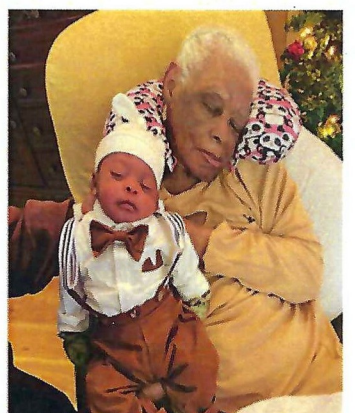
CLERGY & FAMILY

*"All of us are looking with unveiled faces at the glory of the Lord as if we were looking in a mirror. We are being transformed into that same image from one degree of glory to the next degree of glory. This comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." 2 Cor. 3:18*

# A Life Well Lived



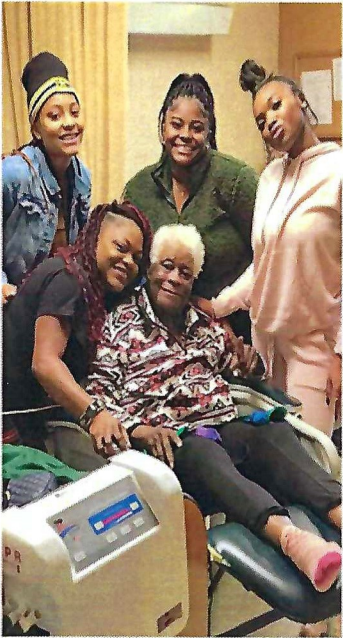
Promise I love my granny girl 💕



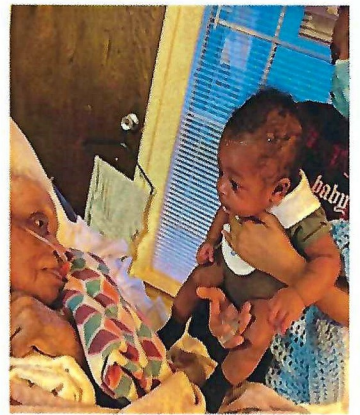
# A Life Well Lived



But nigh streaks (nr)



Granny, Mommy, Gracie  
Danica  
Easter 1998



### Active Pallbearers

Jay'Quavion Mabry  
Dennis Parks  
Byron Pittman

Michael Potts  
Ja'Marae Stroger  
Jared Stroger

### Acknowledgements

We, the Family of Ruth Estella Steen Houston, wish to express our fondest and great appreciation for the love and sympathy shown by you, our loved ones. Whether you sent a card, flowers, called us, shared words of comfort and solace, prayed for us, or simply stopped by to visit with us, know that we dearly appreciate your kindness.

May GOD bless you, and may He keep you, is our humble prayer. Truly, we can say "To GOD Be The Glory", for the great, for the wonderful, for the marvelous things HE did in the life of our most precious gift, as well as for what HE will continue to do, for us.

Thank You!

The Family Of Ruth Estella Steen Houston

Mother Houston, we praise God for you, your legacy, and the gifts you have given our Family... of brilliance, grit, and tenacity, of style and beauty, of benevolence and love and great Grace, as well as your phenomenal wit. We thank you for laughing with us, loving on us, sharing your talents with us, and blessing us.

We know you will use your ethereal voice to sing in the Heavenly Choir. To God Be The Glory for your service to Him, and, to us.

You will ever live in our hearts.

Pastor Gillespie, Sr. and your Greater Love MBC Family

### Interment

Meadowlawn Memorial Park, Inc.

5611 E. Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas 78220

Immediately following the Interment, a repast will be held at Second Baptist Church.

3310 E. Commerce Street, San Antonio, Texas 78220

### Funeral Arrangements Entrusted To:

Carter-Taylor-Williams Mortuary  
Mrs. Vera Williams Young, Funeral Director  
601 Center Street, San Antonio, Texas 78202  
Office (210)227-7311 or (210)227-7312, Fax (210)226-6617  
[www.carter-taylor-williamsmortuary.com](http://www.carter-taylor-williamsmortuary.com)

Programs made for you, with love, by Sisters Tamu M. Banks and Sara Drake.  
We Love You, Mom Houston!