

# RUTH HELEN (WILSON) WASHINGTON



Ruth Helen Washington (Wilson), a beloved and longtime titan of the Philadelphia community, passed away peacefully on May 7, 2024 in Pittsburgh, PA.

Helen was born one of four children in Sumter, South Carolina on June 29, 1925 to the late Catherine Francis Wilson and Willie Wilson. After the death of her mother at the age of three, she was brought to Philadelphia and raised by her surrogate

parents, her maternal aunt Louise Francis Dow and her uncle Joseph B. Dow.

Helen graduated from West Philadelphia High School in 1942. She then attended and graduated from Morgan State College earning a B.S. in Biology in 1946 and an M.S. in Zoology from Howard University in 1948.

Helen was employed as an Assistant Professor of Biology at Delaware State College in Dover, Delaware from 1948 to 1961 where she met and married her late, former husband (Dr.) Ulysses S. Washington, Jr. in 1951. Their union was blessed by two children, Diane and "Ukee."

Helen became drawn to teaching in an urban school, therefore in 1962 she continued her career in education as a secondary school Biology teacher in the School District of Philadelphia at her alma mater, West Philadelphia High School where she retired from in 1985 after receiving numerous outstanding teaching awards and certificates of appreciation.

Baptized at Shiloh Baptist Church, Helen was a member from 1928 to 1951. While in Dover, DE she joined and was active with Whatcoat United Methodist Church. After moving back to Philadelphia, Helen became a member of Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church and remained active until returning to her roots by joining Pinn Memorial Baptist Church in 1996. In 2019, her membership was transferred to Macedonia Church of Pittsburgh after her daughter brought her to Pittsburgh when she lost her ability to walk as a result of a fall, breaking her hip in 2018.

Helen was a devoted member of the Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter and a charter member of the Dover Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She was extremely involved with numerous community and civic organizations. She loved the creative and performing arts, played a fierce game of bridge, and advocated for all things representing truth and justice.

An unselfish woman of conviction and integrity, Helen was a Christian who knew and loved the Lord and who deeply cherished her family. She is survived by her daughter Diane Carroll (Joe) of Pittsburgh, PA; and her son "Ukee" Washington (Laurie) of Wilmington, DE; her granddaughter Alysha Carroll of Pittsburgh, PA; her grandsons Brian Carroll (Maryam) of Luxembourg, and Matthew Carroll of Pittsburgh, PA; and a host of family members and dear friends.

A one time viewing will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2024 from 6-8 p.m. at **ROSE FUNERAL HOME**, 10940 Frankstown Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235. Celebration of Life services will be held on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 11 a.m. at Macedonia Church of Pittsburgh, 2225 Bedford Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Donations may be made to the Ruth Helen Washington Scholarship at [www.desu.edu/giving/give-now](http://www.desu.edu/giving/give-now) or donations can be mailed with reference to Ruth Helen Washington Scholarship or account #7040 to the following address:

Delaware State University Foundation, Inc, 1200 N. Dupont Hwy., 2nd floor Admin Bldg., Dover, DE 19901.

**ROSE**

FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES, INC.

Bernadette L. Rose-Thihey, Supervisor

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