



## Anita Maxine Ross

November 29, 1933 - January 17, 2021

Anita Maxine Ross age 87, was born on November 29, 1933 in Leavenworth, Kansas to the late Maxine Williams and Carroll B Williams Sr. She spent the first 5 years of her life in Leavenworth with her mother and siblings while her father found work as a pharmacist to prepare to move the family to Chicago for a better life. Anita was the 4th of 5 children and graduated from Marshall High School in Chicago, Illinois. After receiving her high school diploma, Anita and her sister worked at Williams Prescription Laboratory, the family owned business in Chicago where she helped to deliver compounded prescriptions to the patient's homes. She wasn't satisfied in just working in the family business, so she tried her luck in applying to Illinois Bell Telephone Company. In those days, the telephone company was not hiring blacks. The night before the interview, Anita prayed and said God's will be done. When she arrived for the interview, she was given a test and aced it with a score of 98 percent. Anita was hired on the spot making her the first black telephone operator in Chicago. While working at the telephone company she initially attended Herzl Junior College and 2 years later she transferred to Roosevelt University where she received her BA in Education in 1954.

In the latter part of 1954 Anita met the love of her life Ernest Franklin Ross Jr. of Whitesboro, New Jersey at the Central Presbyterian Church of Chicago. After a year and half long-distance courtship, they married on September 9, 1956 in Chicago. After the month-long honeymoon was over, Anita moved

with her husband to Whitesboro, New Jersey where they raised 5 wonderful children and God blessed them with 51 years of marital bliss.

Anita was a pillar to her community where she played an active role in the education of her children by participating in PTA where she held several offices from Treasurer up to a two-term office of the President. She also was a charter member of the G.E.M.S. (Gracious Enthusiastic Matrons of Service) of Cape May County NJ. Through fund raisers this community organization was successful in awarding scholarships to at least 200 qualified minority students for 15 years of their existence. Anita also was an active member of The Red Hat Society, Inc. where she became a lifetime member and we cannot forget her role of a Rotary Ann of The Mid Jersey Cape Rotary Club.

Anita was a member for 50 years at the First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood NJ where she successfully raised and instilled the Word of God into her children. During her 50 years as a member of the church she held the offices of, an Ordained Deacon, Trustee, Clerk of Session for the Presbytery, and her final position of membership to the Elder Board for the Pastor until she relocated to Maryland in 2006. In 2009, Anita joined her daughter's church Greater Saint John Baptist Church now known as Greater Saint John Cathedral. She was an active member in the Senior R Us Ministry, Pray Praise and Study (PPS), and enjoyed attending church functions.

Anita was a world traveler, traveling as far west to the Hawaiian Islands, far east to Europe, far south to South America and far north to Canada. Her paradise with the love of her life was the Hawaiian Island Kauai. She also loved her road trips traveling all over the United States with her daughters and grandchildren. She was known to her family as "Anita GO Ross". It was nothing for her and her daughters to get on a bus to New York to see a Broadway Show, oh how she loved the theatre. Anita was also an advent reader where she could read 600 pages in a day. She kept busy with Search

and Crossword Puzzles, monthly Woman's World, and we can't forget the daily newspaper.

Anita will be remembered for her quiet tenderness, humility, compassion, love for life and her infectious smile that would light up a room.

Preceding her death, the love of her life Ernest Franklin Ross Jr, brother Joseph Duncan Williams, sisters Margaret Estelle Clark and Elva Theora Williams, children Maxine Estelle Stewart, and Father Ernest Franklin Ross III. She leaves to cherish and celebrate her life her oldest brother Dr. Carroll B Williams Jr., three daughters, Pearlina Carroll Ross, Juanita Jane Ross, and Tanya Denise Menefee, beloved daughter in law, Gladys Lee Ross, her 5 grandchildren, Ernest F Ross IV (Kathleen), Rachel and Joseph Cheeseborough, Hope Pearl Ross, and Thomas J Ross, 7 great grandchildren, her lifetime friends Jeanette B Richardson and Florence Pothin, devoted Nephew Eric R Clark Sr, beloved nieces, Dr. Sheila A Jefferson and Pearl T Fletcher, all of her nieces and nephews, her beloved Jones Family and a vast number of extended family and friends and last but not least her devoted Samoyed Pryce Sebastian.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Anita Maxine Ross*

October 08, 2023 at 10:45 PM



“ *Anita Maxine Ross*

October 04, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *My Aunt Anita called me every morning after my dad and mom passed on to glory. I always looked forward to hearing her sweet voice and uplifting words. Always asking about all my children and my grandson. I'll always cherish those times. I miss her.*

**Pearl Fletcher** - February 20, 2021 at 07:45 AM



“ *Tanya,*

*My condolences to you and your family in the home going of your mother whom I affectionately called "Mom". She was such a classy lady with a beautiful smile. Besides that smile, she was always dressed from head to toe! She loved to talk about the trips that she took with her family.*

*Tanya, you were such a devoted daughter to bring your mother to church for service and the senior activities. May it be a comfort to you to know that others will miss her as you will. May God strengthen you and your family.*

*Shirley Williams*

**Shirley Williams** - February 02, 2021 at 02:19 PM

NN

“ *To Juanita and Family: We are confident, yes, (A)well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. My prayers of comfort are with you and your family at this time.*  
*Nelda Norris*

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**Nelda Norris** - January 30, 2021 at 07:59 AM

DR

“ *My deepest condolences to the Ross family. From Deborah Rice-Thomas*

*Sister Ross had the sweetest smile. She always had words of encouragement for me when I saw her. Her beautiful spirit will be missed by all at Greater. May God heal your grief with with the warm memories of her love.*

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**Debirah Rice-Thomas** - January 29, 2021 at 05:08 PM

NR

*Mark and I will miss Aunt Anita. One of our favorite memories with her is when she and Uncle Junie came through Georgia and spent time with us and our little kids. I'll always remember Aunt Anita for her kindness and her patience as a mother. She was a gentle, thoughtful and positive person. She gave me a special gift that I will always hold dear. Aunt Anita is our Angel in Heaven now. Gone just for now but, never ever Forgotten.💕*

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**Nicole Evans Ross** - February 04, 2021 at 09:48 AM

SP

*My Condolences to the family, may God continue to be with you. With Love Shirley Parker*

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**Shirley Parker** - February 05, 2021 at 07:58 AM

LG

*Juanita and Family, you have my deepest condolences for the loss of your mother Miss Anita. You are in my prayers. May God bless and keep you all. Love LaTrail Graves*

LaTrail Graves - February 17, 2021 at 11:38 PM

SC

“ *Tanya and family,  
Mama Ross was a sweetheart and a class act. Her smile was contagious and her presence was warming. Your mom and loved one will truly be missed! May God grant you all peace!!!💕💕*

Sharon Curry - January 29, 2021 at 12:18 PM

RB

“ *Prayers and condolences to the Ross Family.  
May God bless, keep, comfort, and strengthen during this time and thereafter.  
Your Mom's smile and presence will be missed at Greater Saint John Cathedral.*



Rhonda Burnett-Chapman - January 28, 2021 at 04:45 AM

SS

“ *MomMom- A beautiful soul!  
I was blessed in knowing MomMom for over 20 years now! I have heard over 100x via Rachel "MomMom said hello!" Anytime she was around she definitely made sure she asked how I was doing! She showed much love and care accompanied by her large, beautiful SMILE, in welcoming me into their home, and sharing many stories about the "good ol days!". All things come to an end however, a legacy lives forever, Aunt Tanya, you have been the best example of God's word, in honoring our mother and father, you took great care of MomMom & I am grateful for having the pleasure of knowing her!*

Shanae Scott - January 27, 2021 at 10:55 AM

TP

“ Rest In Peace “Little Mama.” So sweet and stylish. Heaven has an Angel.



Toni Patton-Williams - January 27, 2021 at 08:17 AM

AA

“ You don't find persons like her anymore.  
Ms. Anita was a wonderful person.  
She was very proud of her children. And she loved them so much  
She knew how to see life.  
She will be an inspiration for me and I believe for all of us on how  
we should enjoy living.  
I remembered one time when I just came to the country. I didn't  
speak a lot of English. She gave me her car's key and said. Ale  
please take me to the gas station to put gas in my car. And we  
went. On the way I couldn't understand her so much. But I did  
understand something.  
She said: your sister Gaby call me Grandma my name is Anita like  
in Spanish. But from now on you will call me Grandma, too.  
We called her like that. And to be honest she was like our grandma  
in America.  
Every week she used to tell us stories about her sister, husban, her  
kids.  
I also remembered how happy she was on her 80s birthday. Ms.  
Anita had a wonderful family.  
They were United. They were around her all the time. And they  
know what the word family really means.  
To the family my condolences.  
Grandma is in a better place now. We will remember her forever.  
Alejandro Aguero

Alejandro Aguero - January 26, 2021 at 10:29 PM

RO

“ *Rosalind lit a candle in memory of Anita Maxine Ross*



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**Rosalind** - January 26, 2021 at 07:46 PM

RO

“ *Rosalind lit a candle in memory of Anita Maxine Ross*



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**Rosalind** - January 26, 2021 at 07:45 PM