



## Ernest Marie Champion

May 8, 1938 - December 7, 2019

Marie was born on May 8, 1938 to the late Ernest & Mattie Champion in Vance County, N.C. as one of seven children. She accepted Christ at an early age and was a member of St. Peter Baptist Church. Marie was always ambitious and determined which led to her many accomplishments. She graduated from Virginia Union University in 1979 with a degree in Social Work and instilled in her children and grandchildren the value of education. Marie was a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, The Black Social Workers Association, and Cackling Hens Pokeno Club. She retired from MCV where she worked as a Social Worker. Marie loved to sew for herself and family as well as macrame`. Her creativity and intelligence will always be remembered and admired.

Marie devoted her life to helping others and inspiring everyone around her. Her kind heart and willingness to put the needs of others before her own is the reason she was loved and cherished by many. She was soft spoken and very conservative but her beauty and grace was undeniable. She was a proud member of AKA and gave so much to the community and people around her. She learned to speak French and was able to travel the world all while being the backbone and matriarch of her family. She left this world on December 7, 2019 knowing she had done everything she was supposed to do here on earth. Her body is not here but her spirit lives within her family and all the people she touched.

She is preceded in death by her husband Edward E. Brown. She leaves to cherish her memories two children, Rufus Thomas (Veola) and Darla Coppedge; sister, Isabell Rogers; Grandchildren, Jerrell and Shakir Thomas; bonus grandchildren, Davion Green and LaShandra Hunter; bonus great-grandchildren, Miniya and Quinn Green; devoted friend/sister, Jesse Roots; devoted friend and caregiver, Kenneth Jones; and a host of other friends and relatives.



# Cemetery

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**Oakwood Cemetery**  
3101 Nine Mile Road  
Richmond, VA, 23223

# Events

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**DEC 13 Visitation** 09:00AM - 08:00PM  
March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.  
2110 E. Laburnum Ave., Richmond, VA, US, 23222

**DEC 13 Family Hour** 06:00PM - 07:00PM  
March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.  
2110 E. Laburnum Ave., Richmond, VA, US, 23222

**DEC 14 Celebration of Life** 11:00AM  
March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel  
2110 E. Laburnum Ave., Richmond, VA, US, 23222

# Comments

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“ Marie was my champion and great friend whom I met at MCV Hospitals, Social Work Dept many years ago. She immediately made me feel at home and was always supportive, caring and a good teacher on all things of life. I admired her creative skills with sewing & decorating, not to mention she was quite the fashionista! I last saw her at her assistive living residence a few years ago, still doing her thing. Marie will always be a role model for loving family & friends. May she rest in peace and look down on us all as our guardian angel! Loving you, forever remembering you,  
Fondly,  
Stephonia Owolabi

Stephonia Owolabi - December 12, 2019 at 10:03 AM

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“ Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty! Marie is free now to go where she wants to go, do what she wants to do, and eat fried chicken, and drink Pepsi Cola whenever she wants! Your job is done, it is time to rest! God with us all, Nana, we love you, we will miss you. To God be the Glory, His Will will be done. His Will has been done, In the Name of Jesus Christ.



Cochise, Lin, and all the grandchildren. - December 11, 2019 at 08:43 PM

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“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - December 09, 2019 at 12:52 PM