



Mother Melba Ruth Locke

January 18, 1947 - February 18, 2026

Mother Locke embarked on her life's path on January 18, 1947. She was born in Pitt County to the late George and Rittie Morning. On Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 10:00 p.m., she peacefully departed this earthly life at ECU Greenville Hospital, as God in His wise providence closed the final chapter of her life, after a courageous battle with her medical conditions.

Mother Locke was raised by her sister Allie G. Highsmith and husband Roosevelt Highsmith at an early age. She grew up and was educated in the Pitt County Schools. She had a variety of jobs, however she spent most of her years working in textile factories as a skilled sewing machine operator. She was well known for her strong work ethic and upbeat spirit.

Mother Locke accepted Christ at an early age. During her spiritual journey she became a devoted member to Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church. Faithfully attending church, she joined the Saint Paul choir and later was appointed as a mother of the church. She was committed to the appointment as a mother until she began to experience a decline in health and her earthly body began to weaken.

Mother Locke was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, John "Tot" Locke, her three brothers and four sisters, Willie Grimes, James B. Grimes, George Morning, Jessie Hodges, Allie G. Highsmith, Dorothy Blount and Alice

Marie Maye; one grandson, O'Keefe Locke.

Mother Locke leaves to cherish her memories, her three sons, Perry Kendall Locke (Michelle), Tarboro, NC, Delrosol Locke (Antoinette), Oak City, NC, Malcolm Bryant (Toni) Orlando, FL; eleven grandchildren: Kalisha Locke, La'Chelle Locke, Marquias Locke, Tannetta Council, Kameron Dickens, Natassia Locke, Tyreek Silver, Dwayne Bryant, Juwaan Easley, Talaya Bryant and Antonio Spruill; eighteen great-grandchildren; two sisters, Annie Louise Davis, Norfolk, VA, Rosa Paige (William), Wallingford, CT; one brother-in-law, Pender Locke Jr.(Pearlie), Oak City, NC; four sisters-in-law, Cherry Wilson, Florence Bryant, Bernice Pitt, Delma Faye Outerbridge, and Clara Locke; special friends, Delores Caine, Geraldine Hall, Rose Williams, Loraine Bryant, Annie Coppage and Marjorie Perkins; a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Previous Events

Viewing

MAR 1. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Rhema Word St. Paul Church Ministries
203 W. 4th Street
Oak City, NC 27857

Celebration of Life Service

MAR 1. 1:00 PM (ET)

Rhema Word St. Paul Church Ministries
203 W. 4th Street
Oak City, NC 27857

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Congleton Memorial Mortuary - March 02 at 12:56 PM

EG

“ *Ella Garcia lit a candle in memory of Mother Melba Ruth Locke*



Ella Garcia - March 10 at 05:33 PM

SM

“ *To: Sis. Annie L. Davis & Family*
We are deeply saddened to hear about the passing of your sister, Melba Ruth Locke. Please accept our heartfelt condolences during this difficult time. We pray that God's love surrounds you and your family and that His peace, which surpasses all understanding, will comfort your hearts. With deepest sympathy and prayers May you find strength in the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ, who conquered death and gives us hope of eternal life. If there's anything we can do to support you, please don't hesitate to let us know.

– Second Calvary Baptist Church Bereavement Ministry.

Second Calvary Bereavement Ministry - March 02 at 12:25 PM

JH

“ I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of aunt Ruth.
Praying that God continues to give you
strength during this difficult time.



Julia Hunter - February 28 at 07:50 PM

EG

“ Ella Grimes sent a virtual gift in memory of
Mother Melba Ruth Locke



Ella Grimes - February 28 at 12:39 PM

WM

“ William Matthewson lit a candle in memory of
Mother Melba Ruth Locke



William Matthewson - February 27 at 09:57 AM

ZB

“ Zachary Bunns lit a candle in memory of
Mother Melba Ruth Locke



Zachary Bunns - February 26 at 10:12 PM

PO

“ So sorry for your lost. Prayers Up!

Petra Osborne - February 25 at 04:55 PM

SB

“ Shirley Berry lit a candle in memory of Mother Melba Ruth Locke



Shirley Berry - February 25 at 04:06 PM

MS

“ Unconditional Love Always Aunt Ruth



Markeeta Sansbury - February 24 at 12:26 PM

MS

“ Aunt Ruth, we will miss you and mourn you until we join you. My fondest recent memory is of us coming for Aunt Allie G's homegoing celebration and we were able to let you, my Grandma Louise and Aunt Rosa have a sleepover at the hotel together. Great times. Please give your niece, my momma Brenda a big hug. Love you, Markeeta & Kianna

Markeeta Sansbury - February 24 at 12:24 PM

AF

“ *Antionette Andrews Wheeler & Family lit a candle in memory of Mother Melba Ruth Locke*



Antionette Andrews Wheeler & Family - February 23 at 04:36 AM

IE

“ *To the Family:
We are so sorry for your loss.
Izora & Mack Ebron, Jr. and Family*



Izora Ebron - February 23 at 01:43 AM

KL

“ *KATRINA LATHAM lit a candle in memory of Mother Melba Ruth Locke*



KATRINA LATHAM - February 22 at 06:29 PM

ES

“Wow!!! Smh 😞 this is a hard blow cousin Ruth and a Mother of our church Rhema Word St Paul Ministry. Deepest condolences and prayers goes out to cousin Perry, Delrosol and my entire family. We loss a Jewel, Meba Ruth was Melba Ruth, she said what meant and meant what she said, all in love. A woman of wisdom, I will miss our visits and our talks ☐☐. No one can say first lady like did. Though saddened by your passing, we know that God make no mistakes. Earth has no sorrow that heaven can not heal. I'm praying for comfort and strength for our and Bishop Staton and our church family Rhema Word St Paul Ministry today and all of the days ahead. Blessed are they who die in the Lord. May you rest from your earthly labor and your deeds follow you. Gone but never forgotten ☐☐☐ you will always be with up in our hearts and memories. RIP Mother Melba Ruth Locke until we meet again 😞🙏



Elect Lady Elder Paulette Staton - February 22 at 10:30 AM

BH

“Love you aunt Ruth, then, now, and forever!💖
❤️🙏



Barbara Highsmith - February 21 at 08:55 PM

TM

“Our sincere condolences to the family.



Tanya Matthewson - February 21 at 03:33 PM

CL

“ Thank you for always being a kind and soft spoken woman with a love for God! I will miss you, rest in peace Aunt Ruth ❤️



Chasity Locke - February 21 at 12:46 PM

SS

My condolences to the families

Sherre Sharpe - February 21 at 04:47 PM

MA

“ Mack lit a candle in memory of Mother Melba Ruth Locke



Mack - February 21 at 12:11 PM

PB

“ Perry Best lit a candle in memory of Mother Melba Ruth Locke



Perry Best - February 20 at 11:40 AM

EH

“ *May Jesus Christ Continue To Comfort And Strengthen The Family* 🙏



Evangelist Gwen Hudson - February 20 at 08:37 AM

CS

“ *Cecily Sene lit a candle in memory of Mother Melba Ruth Locke*



Cecily Sene - February 20 at 07:31 AM

TW

“ *Praying for the family during this difficult time*



Tasha W - February 19 at 05:08 PM

CS

“ *Congleton Funeral Home and Staff wishes to express our sincere condolences on the passing of your love one. We light this candle in their memory.*



Congleton Funeral Home and Staff - February 19 at 04:47 PM

BR

I will miss you Rushie Ruth you and Allie G are together again

Barbara Rodgers - February 25 at 10:56 AM