

*A Celebration of Life*  
*for*  
*Marie Roberta Cousins*



*December 21, 1957*

*December 27, 2022*

***Thursday, January 12, 2023***

*Viewing: 10:00 a.m.*

*Service: 11:00 a.m.*

Ebenezer Baptist Church  
216 W. Leigh Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Reverend Doctor Adam L. Bond - Pastor

# **Obituary**

Marie Roberta Cousins was born on December 21, 1957, to the late Wilbert H. Cousins, Sr. and the late Almeda N. Cousins in Richmond, VA. Marie answered God's call to Eternal Rest on December 27, 2022. She was not afraid because she had a long, fulfilling relationship with Him that assured her that she would no longer suffer from the troubles and cares of life on Earth. She was predeceased by brothers, Ronald B., Tyrone and Vernon B. Cousins, Sr.

## **EDUCATION**

Marie received her formal childhood education through the Richmond Public Schools. She was a 1976 graduate of Maggie L. Walker High School, where she was an excellent student and a cheerleader for the Mighty Green Dragons. Upon graduation, she matriculated to Fisk University, Nashville, TN, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science, *Magna Cum Laude*. She was determined not to delay her career in Public Administration; therefore, she gave up her summer vacation and enrolled in Penn State University, University Park, PA. She earned a Master's Degree in Advanced Study in Public Administration.

## **CHRISTIAN JOURNEY**

Marie began her Christian Journey at Fifth Baptist Church in 1964. She accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior and was baptized in 1965. She attended Sunday School and Baptist Training Union regularly. She sang in the Cherubim Choir and the Mass Choir. Marie and three close friends formed a gospel group called The Jaynettes. She was active in the Youth Organization and the Girl Scouts, where she earned a Service Badge, and a two-weeks' stay at a camp in New Mexico. Also, Marie traveled to Haiti to do mission work. On her return to Richmond following college, she began exploring non-denominational churches. She joined The Richmond Christian Center, where she sang in the choir. In 2011, she later joined From the Heart Church Ministries of Richmond. In September 2013, she transferred her membership to From the Heart Church Ministries Parent Church, located in Suitland, Maryland. This allowed Marie because of many factors, including health and safety, to live in Northern Virginia during the week and most weekends. She was actively involved in the life of the church and served in the Activities Ministry. Working with other Activity Ministry volunteers, she helped to identify, plan, and coordinate local church activities, as well as provided support to the Office of the Pastor and other ministries in carrying out events and programs.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Marie had an illustrious career as a federal public servant with the Social Security Administration (SSA). Marie strived and gave her very best every day for the public she served for over 31 years. Marie began her career as a claim representative in the Fredericksburg, VA, SSA Office, and then transferred to the Richmond (East) VA office. After sharpening her knowledge and skills

## **Obituary (continued)**

in the local offices, she accepted a Social Insurance Specialist (Analyst) position in Appellate Operations (OAO) in Falls Church, VA. This Division processes and reviews cases at the administrative appeal/court level. She continued to serve the public and expanded her SSA knowledge and experience as she moved forward, becoming a mentor to OAO newly hired employees, a Technical Assistant providing research to co-workers, managers, and administrative law judges. Marie then became a Branch Chief in OAS's Disability Branch, and then the Division of Civil Action, her last step before retirement in 2018. Marie found and made many friends in SSA, and they could count on her support, even after retirement.

### **INTERESTS AND HOBBIES**

Marie's interests and hobbies had no boundaries. Upon retirement, it appeared that she had interests that had been waiting to be released. She became an accomplished cook for family and friends, and a gardener (who knew she had a green thumb). One can imagine that hiking was a flashback from her girl scout training. She loved reading, singing, and became the 'Entertainer' during family functions, teaching the children how to cheer, impromptu fashion and household goods shows featuring her finds from estate sales, vintage shops, thrift stores, and antique shops. Marie loved her Jackson Ward community. She was a member of the Historic Jackson Ward Association, the Genealogical Society of Greater Richmond Virginia Chapter, the Black History Museum and Culture Center of Virginia, and the Virginia Museum of History and Culture.

### **FAMILY**

Marie was a wonderful and well-loved sister, niece, aunt and cousin. She left us with many cherished memories. She is survived by sisters, Lillian Y. Lampley, E. Darlene Nunery and Mamie D. Nunery; brothers, Wilbert H. Cousins, Jr., Everett D. Cousins, Ellis E. Cousins; adopted brother, Michael S. Dixon; nieces, LaConya Thorpe, Kimberly and Elisa Cousins, Patricia Cousins and Tina Lampley; nephews, Wilbert, III, Carlin Cousins, Tyrone Smith, Gerard, Vernon, Jr., Eric Cousins, Dennis, Jr., Brian and Vincent Lampley, and Tyrone and Keith Hurt; a host of great and great-great nieces and nephews; one aunt, Mamie N. McCoy; two sisters-in-law, Daisy Cousins and Sandra Cousins; adopted nephews, Keith Beavers and Aaron Jeter; devoted family friends, Diane Beavers, Angela Jackson, Ardella Payne, Catherine Taylor, Bernard Graham and William Hewlett; personal friends, Kathy Bagby, Francine Jackson, Malissa Short, Joyce Young, Denise G. Coleman, Debra Green, Janet Anderson, Darlene Scott and Mr. and Mrs. Harris Wheeler; and a host of cousins, other relatives, and friends.



# **Order of Service**

***Invocation***

***Congregational Hymn*** ..... “It Is Well With My Soul”

***Scripture Reading***

*Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 3:1-4; Psalm 121:1-8*

*New Testament: I Corinthians 13:11-13*

***Prayer of Comfort***

***Selection*** ..... *FTH Psalmist*

***Acknowledgements***

***Remarks***

*Ms. Malissa Short, Best Friend*

*Ms. Janis Allen, Friend*

*(President of the Historic Jackson Ward Association)*

*Dr. Leroy David Nunery, Cousin*

***Obituary (Read Silently)***

***Song of Preparation*** ..... *FTH Psalmist*

***Message of Hope*** ..... *Pastor James Z. Ransom*

*Pastor, From the Heart Church Ministries of Richmond*

***Call to Christ***

***Recessional***

***Interment***

*Forest Lawn Cemetery*

*4000 Pilots Lane*

*Richmond, Virginia 23222*

## MARIE

*The wonderful times of peace and joy that enveloped us as we spent quality time with you, talking, laughing, listening to you express yourself singing a hymn or other gospel song that most of us had forgotten about, or did not know the words to join in was always a source of comfort. Just knowing that you were in the house, somewhere, made us happy. All of us will cherish special moments that each of us had with you.*

*It is time for us, your Family, to say our final farewells. It is difficult; however, we are assured that you are resting comfortably in God's bosom. We believe that He will take care of you. We believe that He takes only the best. You have finished your "walk to Zion." Thank you, Marie, for being you.*

*Love Always, Your Family*



## *I'm Free*

by Shannon Lee Moseley

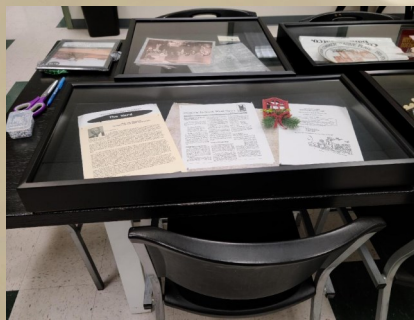
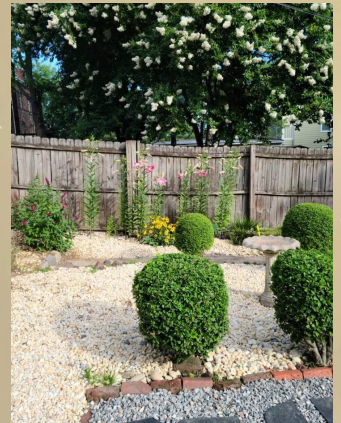
Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.  
I'm following the path God has chosen for me.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call;  
I turned my back and left it all.

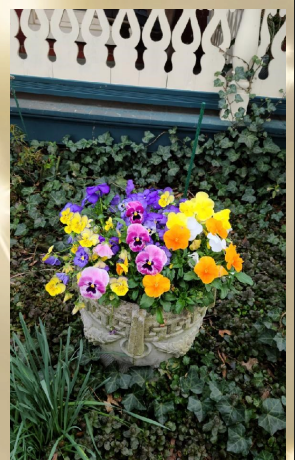
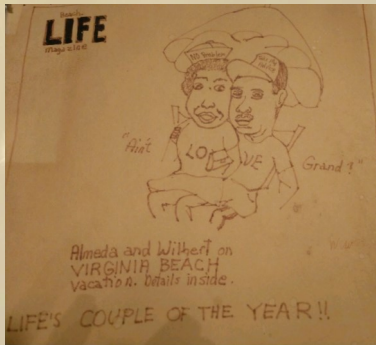
I could not stay another day,  
to laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way;  
I've found now peace at the end of the day.

If my parting has left a void,  
then fill it with remembered joys.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;  
Oh yes, these things, I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
look for the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much;  
good friends, good times, a loved ones touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;  
don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee,  
God wanted me now – He set me free.





## **Congregational Hymn**

### ***"IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL"***

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

#### ***Refrain:***

*It is well, with my soul,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

*My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

#### ***Refrain***

*And Lord, haste the day when the Faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul.*

#### ***Refrain***

## **Pallbearers**

*William Carter  
Bernard Graham  
Shallie Green  
Vicente Griffith  
Charles Hamilton, III  
Ronald Roane  
Harris Wheeler*

## **Flower Bearers**

*Friends*

## **Ushers**

*The Charmettes  
Richmond Metropolitan Chapter*

## **Repast**

*Joseph Jenkins, Jr. Funeral Home  
2011 Grayland Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23220*

## **Acknowledgement**

*We the family of Marie Roberta Cousins sincerely thank all of you for your prayers, comfort, love and support. Your many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy have been a blessing to us. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless and keep you in perfect peace!*



***Services Entrusted to:***  
*Joseph Jenkins, Jr. Funeral Home  
2011 Grayland Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23220*