



Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin

December 21, 1967 - July 5, 2022

Crystal Yvonne Ruffin, 54, of Peoria, IL transitioned to her final resting place in heaven at 6:36 p.m. on July 5th, 2022 with loved ones by her side.

Crystal was born on December 21st, 1967, in Peoria, IL to Sister Callie Mae Hudson and John D. Hudson Sr. who both precede her in death.

Crystal was introduced to God's Word at an early age by her mother, Sister Callie Mae Hudson and accepted Christ into her life as a member of Star of Hope Full Gospel Church. She continued this tradition, raising each of her three daughters in the Church under Bishop Johnson.

Crystal met her husband Ronald Lee Ruffin at Lincoln Middle School in Peoria, IL, when they were in third and fourth grade respectively. Their relationship grew and flourished with time as they separated in pursuit of their education, while maintaining a consistent loving and supportive relationship.

Crystal graduated from Manual High School in 1986 and then Illinois State University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science in Mass Communication. Soon after they both graduated from college, Crystal Hudson became Crystal Ruffin twenty-nine years ago on June 12th of 1993. Together Crystal and Ronald ultimately created a beautiful life and home for themselves along with their three daughters who were raised to value family above all else.

Crystal was a counselor, educator, adviser, and friend to many. Her love for God, family, and community was present in every project she took on in both her career and her volunteer work. As a two-time breast cancer survivor, Crystal spent lots of time after her own battles supporting others through their

journeys and spreading information on breast cancer detection through her volunteer work with Susan G. Komen's Peoria Memorial Affiliate. She was an active member of Susan G. Komen's Circle of Promise, and her daughters and husband followed in her footsteps by volunteering and interning alongside her to further the Susan G. Komen mission. More recently, she began her stint in the National Association of University Women (NAUW) two years ago, where Crystal created and fortified strong relationships among the women while working in the Peoria Branch's scholarship committee.

Crystal held several positions in the youth and family development sector. PCCEO Head start held a special place in her heart as she worked in various positions for more than ten years and was able to maintain relationships with several families, co-workers, and children. Her final position in her career was as a TRiO Success Coach stationed at ICC and Peoria High, where she created strong bonds with her co-workers and students alike in only four months' time. She was a deeply caring and empathetic woman who lived to spread knowledge, light, love, and laughter within her community.

Crystal's image, memory, and values will live on through her three daughters Simone Ruffin, Ciera Ruffin, and Selena Ruffin as well as the grand dog, Jax, who she showered with love his whole life. She also leaves numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins as well as other relatives who she worked to foster special individual relationships and memories with that they can cherish for years to come.

Crystal leaves her husband, Ronald Ruffin, to honor and cherish over 40 years of memories and milestones together, as well as her three daughters, Simone, Ciera, and Selena and her siblings: John D. (Annette) Hudson Jr., Rose Hudson, Sharon Buckner, and Lester (Kim) Hudson.

In lieu of flowers, the Ruffin family ask that friends and family consider donating to Susan G. Komen, as Crystal spent countless years after her own battles with breast cancer pouring into the efforts of the Susan G. Komen Memorial Affiliate to end breast cancer and support those affected in the meantime.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, July 16, 2022, at Star of Hope Missionary Baptist Church at 10:00 a.m. with visitation commencing one hour prior at 9:00 a.m. Bishop Joseph Johnson will officiate.

Crystal will be laid to rest at Lutheran Cemetery

Cemetery Details

Lutheran

914 S Pleasant St
Peoria, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 16. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Star of Hope Full Gospel Baptist Church
417 W Romeo B Garrett Ave
peoria, IL

Celebration of Life

JUL 16. 10:00 AM (CT)

Star of Hope Full Gospel Baptist Church
417 W Romeo B Garrett Ave
peoria, IL

Tribute Wall

SR

“ *Shari Rutherford lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin*



Shari Rutherford - July 23, 2022 at 10:04 AM

CR

“ *Ciera Ruffin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin*



Ciera Ruffin - July 22, 2022 at 09:31 PM

JB

“ *Joanie Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin*



Joanie Brown - July 21, 2022 at 03:59 AM

CH

“ *Prayers condolences hugs and love go out to the Ruffin and Hudson family. Crystal will truly be missed by many.*



Camille Thomas Harris - July 16, 2022 at 10:38 PM

MC

“ Mrs. Audrey Gipson, Fmr MHS Counselor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin



Mrs. Audrey Gipson, fmr MHS Counselor - July 16, 2022 at 10:55 AM

MG

“ Mrs. Audrey, Cyndi & DD Gipson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin



Mrs. Audrey, Cyndi & DD Gipson - July 16, 2022 at 10:53 AM

SH

“ I met Crystal many years ago while I worked at the Tri- County Urban league. She had a sweet caring presence to all that encounter her. During her short time at Illinois Central College I worked with her at Peoria High School. Crystal was exceptionally helpful. I will always remember her smile.

Shellie Hardimom - July 15, 2022 at 11:40 PM

DL

“ Dave And Carol Long lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin



Dave and Carol Long - July 15, 2022 at 02:45 PM

JS

“ R.I.H.P.

Joy Smith - July 14, 2022 at 10:08 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin.



July 14, 2022 at 10:02 PM

JB

“ This is still so unreal to me but I know God does not make mistakes and I know that Crystal is in heaven still directing and mentoring others.

Jacqueline Bush - July 14, 2022 at 09:18 PM

BT

“ Crystal was very special, kind and funny to me! She always had a smile on her face. She loved her Ronald and three beautiful and smart girls, of whom she was extremely proud. We spent a lot of time discussing girls. I'm gonna miss my friend!! Bev Thomas 💕💕💕

Beverly Thomas - July 14, 2022 at 01:27 AM

DJ

“ Doretha Jamison lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin



Doretha Jamison - July 13, 2022 at 10:11 PM

JW

“ Sorry for your loss, the family is in prayers. I remember when we use to sit on your grandmother's porch and eat peanuts, she would yell out the door an say y'all better get those peanuts up, an we would just laugh. You were the only friend, my mom would let me stay night with. I remember the day you laid eyes on Ronnie. We had plenty conversation about him. Rest In Peace my dearest friend. 💕💕



Jacqueline Willis - July 13, 2022 at 08:29 PM

KH

“ Kim Hudson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin



Kim Hudson - July 13, 2022 at 01:57 PM

CS

“ *Cathy Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin*



Cathy Smith - July 13, 2022 at 11:56 AM

SR

“ *Simone Ruffin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin*



Simone Ruffin - July 12, 2022 at 11:20 PM

LE

“ *“In loving memory of Crystal Y. Ruffin, my condolences to Ronald and her three wonderful daughters. I had the pleasure to work with Crystal in ~2008-2010. We traveled together for work, finding our way and laughed at every turn. We enjoyed our work and usually ended every project session or meeting thinking we were probably having too much fun! I’m a better person having known Crystal! Rest in Peace.”*

Lori Eppel - July 12, 2022 at 10:39 PM

AL

“ *Annette Lucy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin*



Annette Lucy - July 12, 2022 at 12:27 AM

CE

My sincerest condolences to the family.

Crystal Ehiemere - July 12, 2022 at 10:38 PM

KD

“ *My heart is so saddened by the news that Crystal has lost her final battle w/ cancer and has left this earth far too early for all who loved and knew her. But, I know that she is w/ her beloved Lord in heaven and is enjoying peace and absence of pain. I feel blessed to have met and become friends w/ Crystal when I worked with her at PCCEO HeadStart about a decade ago! Crystal always had a caring and generous heart, a zest for life, and a positive attitude! My prayers are with her husband, children, & other family members as they grieve and learn to live life without Crystal's physical presence. Crystal will always be present in spirit and memories though. May God help bring everyone peace and comfort over the upcoming months and yrs. --- Karyn Dean, Pediatric NP and friend/coworker of Crystal's.*



Karyn Dean - July 11, 2022 at 10:02 PM



Hi Karyn, thank you for your condolences to my aunt. I just want to inform you that Crystal did not pass away from cancer and was not battling any form of active cancer. If you could edit your comment or delete your post it would be greatly appreciated. Thanks again!

Aléja Bates - July 11, 2022 at 10:06 PM

KD

Ciera just informed me of that via FB Instant Message. I'm so sorry that I misunderstood the info in the obituary and thought that the Breast Cancer of her past had reared it's ugly head again. I haven't spoken to Crystal via FB or in person for several months since my husband and I moved to NW Tennessee in Fall of 2015. But, she was definitely a great person and coworker! I'm not sure if I can edit the comment above, but hopefully my comment will help. Again, my apologies for assuming!

Karyn Dean - July 12, 2022 at 09:28 PM

ME

“ So sorry to hear about Crystal’s passing, I went to Lincoln school with her and Ronnie, I remember her being a very smart and sweet young lady.....praying for the family.....r.i.p Crystal

Ms. Cubie Evans - July 11, 2022 at 08:44 PM

RC

“ I remember so much about her so my friend Rest In Peace

Raymond Childs - July 11, 2022 at 08:19 PM

DS

“ DEBRINA SMITH lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin



DEBRINA SMITH - July 11, 2022 at 08:13 PM



I am sorry to hear about Crystal's passing. Sending my thoughts and prayers to the family❤️

Barbara Ferguson - July 12, 2022 at 04:30 PM

NB

“ *Nettie M Bank lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin*



Nettie M Bank - July 11, 2022 at 08:02 PM

EB

“ *Emel Buckner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin*



Emel Buckner - July 11, 2022 at 07:38 PM

TS

Crystal was a childhood friend of mines, we both attended Lincoln Grade School. We played with our dolls at her grandmothers house 😊 such a sweet n nice person. RIP💕💕

tonya scott - July 11, 2022 at 10:27 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin.*



July 11, 2022 at 07:33 PM

JO

“ *Jeanette Jackson Owens lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin*



Jeanette Jackson Owens - July 11, 2022 at 06:43 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Crystal Y. Ruffin.*



July 11, 2022 at 12:07 AM