



## Mrs. Mildred (Singletary) Rice

May 12, 1935 - July 18, 2018

UTICA - Mrs. Mildred (Singletary) Rice, age 83, passed away on Wednesday, July 18, 2018 and is awaiting the Resurrection. Her loving family was by her side when she passed at the Faxon-St. Luke's Healthcare Center.

Born in Kingstree, South Carolina on May 12, 1935, Mildred was the daughter of the late Silas and Lou (Pendergras) Singletary. She relocated to New York City where she was raised and educated. In January of 1953, she married Donald Rice, a union that was blessed for 65 years. Their relationship was happy and loving and they set a good example for their children. Their love was strong until their last day together.

Mildred was the Associate Director of the Utica Community Development Corporation, and later became the first manager of their urban renewal project at Kennedy Plaza. She was the Economic Development Specialist for the Mohawk Valley Economic Development Corporation which, at the time, included 5 counties. Concurrently, she continued her education in Social Science at MVCC. In her retirement years, she worked as a Flag Person wearing her stylish designer steel-toed boots and was always her elegant self. Mildred had a way with words and sincerely spoke uplifting phrases that put a bright spin on any situation. A truly stunning woman, her elegance was seen by her style and grace. She had a versatile personality, was kind, generous, and could recognize the needs of others. She was blessed with five daughters, but was a mother to many. As a mom, she always encouraged her children to embrace excellence in all their endeavors. She was a self-made

woman and taught her daughters through her words, actions, and example, that they could do anything they set their minds to. Education was paramount, and each of them complied and made mom proud.

She often traveled to visit her family and take in the sights on the way. She had an adventurous side and wanted to enjoy all the beautiful people, places, and things that the world has to offer. She was a great hostess and entertainer who enjoyed cooking multi-ethnic meals. She was also a gifted seamstress and learned the art of upholstery.

Mildred was member of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses and had a passion to preach the good news. She led by example, went door-to-door, and anytime she had an opportunity to teach the Bible, she was at her happiest. Mildred is survived by her husband, Donald; her daughters Deborah Rice-Thomas (Joe Thomas), Sabrina Rice, Diane Rice, and D. Denise Rice. She was predeceased by her daughter Angela at the tender age of 1. She also leaves her grandchildren, Brice Thomas and Donya Thomas; her sister, Alberta McLaurie, many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and her extended family of brothers and sisters from the Kingdom Hall. She was predeceased by her siblings, Pearl, Jacob, Deola, Nathaniel, Dorothy, and McKeever.

The family is grateful to Sultana Razia MD, Minela Andelija RPA-C, and the staff of the Slocum-Dickson Oncology Department. While at home she was comforted by the tremendous personal assistance she received from Sandy Linen, LPN and family friend. Her neighbors Bill and Janice Powers truly extended love and courtesy to her and her husband. Members of her congregation and neighbor Jon Andrews lovingly supported Mildred during her final journey.

Visitation will be held Monday from 4:00-6:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Mildred's Memorial Service which will commence on Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 585 Trenton Road, Utica. It will be officiated by Brother George Gray followed

by procession of the funeral cortege to Forest Hill Cemetery where Interment will take place.

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 735-2701

# Tribute Wall

AI

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Aisha - July 25, 2018 at 11:19 AM

BE

“ Barbara Ernst lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mildred (Singletary) Rice



Barbara Ernst - July 24, 2018 at 02:44 PM

BE

*I am one of Mildred's door to door persons. She was a lovely lady and will be missed.*

Barbara Ernst - July 24, 2018 at 02:47 PM

JT

“ To: Mrs. Debbie Rice-Thomas and Family.  
Bishop Kevin V. Gresham, Sr., Lady Denise  
Gresham, Officials and your entire Greater  
Cathedral Family wish to express our heartfelt  
condolences over the home going of your  
beloved mother, Mrs. Mildred Rice. May you be  
comforted by the sweet memories of the special times you shared.  
Please know that your church family will continue to lift you up to the  
Lord in prayer.



Sincerely,

Greater Saint John Cathedral  
Bishop Kevin V. Gresham, Sr.  
Senior Pastor

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Jessie Tinsley - July 24, 2018 at 01:08 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was  
purchased for the family of Mrs. Mildred  
(Singletary) Rice.

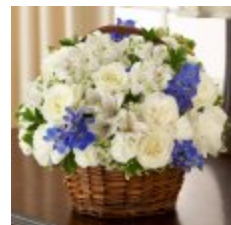


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July 24, 2018 at 11:40 AM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White  
was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mildred  
(Singletary) Rice.



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July 23, 2018 at 05:09 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mildred (Singletary) Rice.



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July 23, 2018 at 04:56 PM



“ To; Debbie Rice Thomas AND FAMILY, WE EXTEND OUR CONDOLENCES, PRAYING FOR PEACE, COMFORT, AND STRENGTH. DURING THIS DIFFICULT SEASON. WE LOVE YOU ALL. MAY THE LOVE OF GOD COVER YOU.

WITH MUCH LOVE!  
PAT, VERNESSA, JOEANNE  
&  
FAMILY

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**PAT WILLIAMS** - July 23, 2018 at 04:56 PM



“ To Debbie and Family we send our deepest condolences know that you'll be in our prayers. From the Thomas Family in Columbus Georgia

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**Catherine** - July 23, 2018 at 03:50 PM



Brittany Roundtree

“ *To Debbie and Family,*

*We would just like to extend our deepest condolences to you and your family. Your mom was truly a great woman and will be missed!*

*Although there isn't much that we can say, we hope that you find peace in knowing that SHE is at peace.*

*May God continue to bless you and keep you all!*

*Love,*

*THE ROUNDTREE AND NEWTON FAMILIES*

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**Brittany Roundtree** - July 22, 2018 at 07:06 PM

TF

“ *The Viza Family purchased the Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers for the family of Mrs. Mildred (Singletary) Rice.*



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**The Viza Family** - July 22, 2018 at 03:37 PM

CA

“ *My deepest condolences to the family. Mrs. Mildred was such a sweet lady and I felt honored to be graced with her smile and her big heart. She will always be in our hearts.*

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**Catherine Alexander** - July 22, 2018 at 10:52 AM

GI

“ Mrs Rice was a lovely human being. I attended college with her oldest daughter, Debbie. She and Mr Rice always sent boxes of snacks which were most appreciated as we studied. Mildred will truly be missed. My love to Mr Rice and their beautiful family.  
Warmly Gwendolyn Smith Iloani

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**Gwendolyn Smith Iloani** - July 21, 2018 at 09:08 AM


MN

“ To the entire Rice family, our sincere and heartfelt condolences on your loss. Diane and I have been friends for many years and while I haven't met you all, my conversations with Diane have given me insight into this strong woman and the wonderful family that she and her devoted husband raised. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time and may your memories and the lessons that she taught you sustain you through the rest of your days.

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**Mike and Barbara Gerow - Sherrill, NY** - July 20, 2018 at 07:19 AM

DD

“ My sincere condolences to you and your family Sabrina. I never had the pleasure of meeting your Mom in person so the memory I treasure the most is our friendship. Without your Mom that would never had been possible. Keeping you and your family in my prayers. 

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**Denise Dorin** - July 20, 2018 at 04:27 AM