

# CELEBRATING THE LIFE & LEGACY OF



*Joyce Laverne Ricks*

February 13, 1940 - October 31, 2025

11AM | Saturday, November 15, 2025  
Mesquite Friendship Baptist Church  
Mesquite, TX

Dr. Terry M. Turner, Pastor Emeritus  
Rev. Caleb M. Turner, Senior Pastor  
Patrick Cravens, Officiant

# Joyce's Journey



## **"A TIME TO BE BORN..."**

Winter was the season for the birth of Joyce Laverne Fugett Ricks, who took her first breath of life on February 13, 1940, in Waurika, Oklahoma, to the late Clarence and Gussie Mae Fugett. She was 11th of 15 children. Joyce accepted Christ at an early age, beginning a lifelong walk of faith and service to the Lord.

## **"A TIME TO EMBRACE AND A TIME TO PLANT..."**

Joyce was a proud 1956 graduate of Fred Douglas High School in Sherman, TX. After graduation, she began working at Fanny's Dress Shop in Las Vegas, Nevada. In 1962, she embarked on a long and distinguished career with the United States Postal Service (USPS), beginning as a Distribution Clerk. Her dedication and work ethic led her to serve in many roles—Window Clerk, Personnel Assistant, Safety Specialist, and Supervisor of Employee Services.

Joyce set her sights on a long-term goal: to become Director of Labor and Employee Relations. Through hard work and perseverance, she achieved that goal, retiring in 1999 as Director of the Tacoma MSC.

Throughout her life, Joyce called many places home—including Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Tacoma, Washington—before settling in Mesquite, Texas.

## **"A TIME TO LOVE..."**

Joyce met and married Henry James, and to this union, two children were born. She was previously united in marriage to Bobby Ricks.



She will be lovingly remembered for her strength, kindness, and unwavering love for her family and friends. Joyce was the heart of family gatherings—especially the annual Labor Day Celebration—and was always ready to open her home with warmth and hospitality. A loyal fan of the Seattle SuperSonics and the NBA, Joyce loved cheering on her favorite teams.

### **“A TIME TO DIE...”**

On October 31, 2025, Joyce was called home to be with her Lord and Savior. She was preceded in death by her beloved parents; four brothers—James, Lee Otis, Clarence Jr., and Gerald; six sisters—Ethel, Carrie Mae, Dorothy, Verna, Pearlyne, and Lois Helen; and her great-granddaughters, Denise and Danielle Sanford.

She is also preceded in death by her bonus children, Byron Johnson and LaJuana Johnson.

### **“A TIME TO CHERISH...”**

Her memory will forever be cherished by her devoted son Ron James and daughter-in-love Shay of Texas. She was preceded in death by her beloved daughter Debbie James.

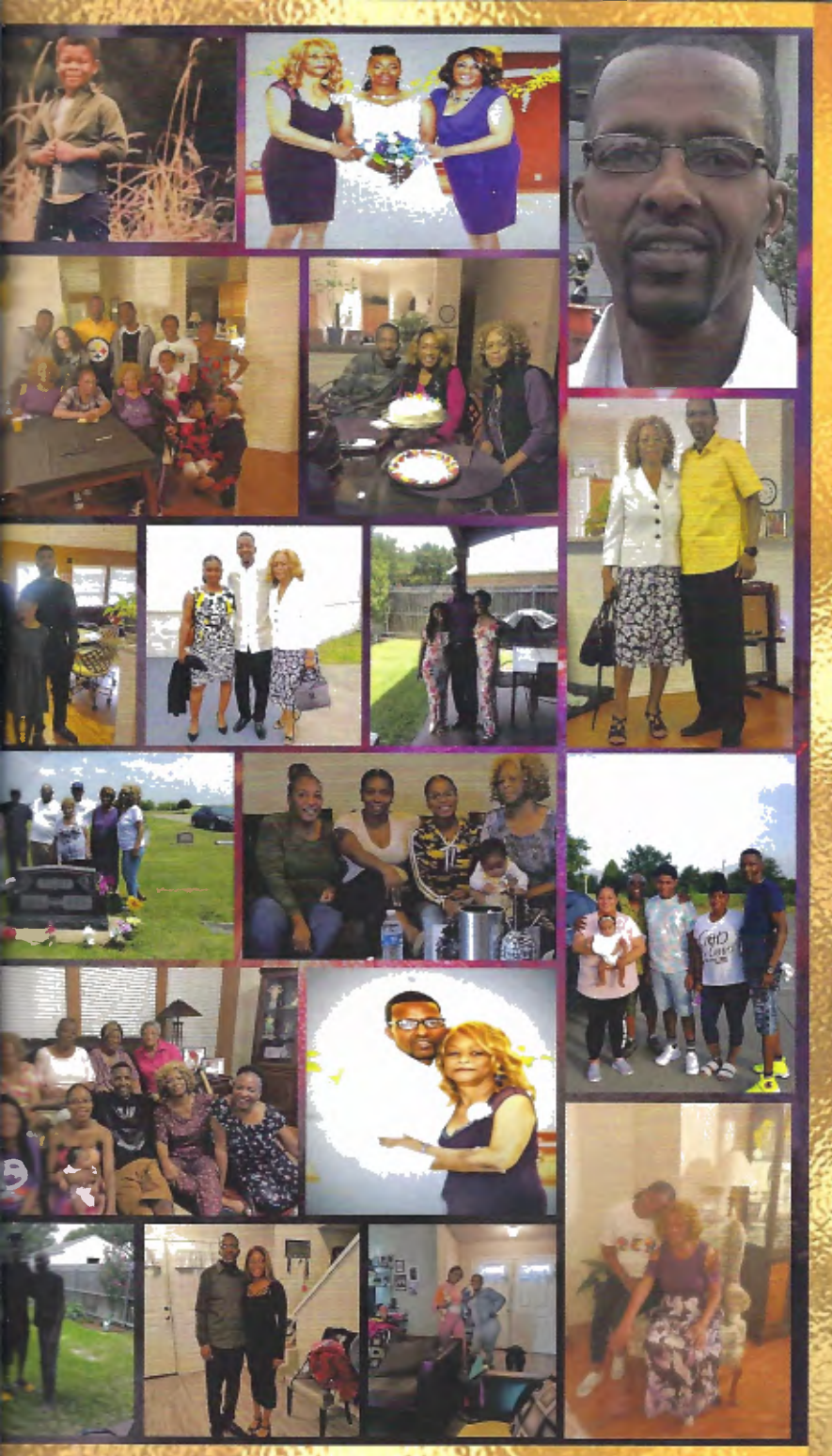
She also leaves to treasure her memory her grandchildren:

George Grier, Darius Woodson, India Rawlings, Laquisha Joyce Green, Kristi Akin, and Jaquan Hawley. Great-grandchildren: Maliah Woodson, Christin Akin, DoMonique Sanford and Delilah Sanford. Siblings: Maurice Crawford, Paul Fugett, Michael Fugett and Coy Fugett. Joyce is also lovingly remembered by her bonus grandchildren and great grandchildren: Jason Jackson (Alecia), and Leon Jackson (Rene); as well as Jace, Jacion, Jia, and JRue Jackson.

A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends will continue to celebrate the beautiful legacy she leaves behind.

*“Well done, thou good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” — Matthew 25:23*

JOYCE







*A Phenomenal Woman,  
Guided by Faith and Divine Grace*



# *A Legacy of Love and Faith*



In shadows of eternity, her spirit soars,  
A beacon of grace that forever endures.

A heart devoted, steadfast, and true,  
Loving the Lord in all she'd do.

Her prayers like rivers, gentle and deep,  
Watched over her family, their souls to keep.

Her smile, a reflection of Heaven's light,  
Guided her loved ones through day and night.

Though she's gone from sight, her love remains,  
A sacred seed that forever sustains.

In memories woven with faith's gentle thread,  
Her legacy lives—though she's in the care of God's eternal love

Rest in the arms of eternal grace,  
Forever radiant in Heaven's embrace.

A godly woman, loved and revered,  
Her life an anthem of Christ, sincere.



# Order of Service

Processional

Musical Selection.....MFB Choir

Scripture Readings

~Old Testament.....Elder Robert Fugett  
Friendly Church of God in Christ  
Sherman, TX

~New Testament.....Minister Coy Fugett  
Antioch Baptist Church  
Duncan, OK

Prayer of Comfort.....Dr. Terry M. Turner, Pastor Emeritus  
Mesquite Friendship Baptist Church  
Mesquite, TX

Musical Selection.....MFB Choir

Resolution.....Mesquite Friendship Baptist Church  
(All other resolutions will be provided to the family.)

Remarks:

Limited to five people, with each speaker allocated three minutes.

~Friends~

~Family

Memorial Tribute

Musical Selection.....Fugett Family

Words of Comfort.....Dr. Terry M. Turner

Final Viewing

Recessional

## *Honorary Pallbearers*

Brian Crawford    Norman Laurence  
Gregory Crawford    Kenneth Phelps  
Cecil Douglas    Alfred Richardson

## *Thank You*



*It is impossible to find adequate words to convey the depth of our gratitude for the sympathy, love, and support you have generously offered to our family in the midst of our loss. May God richly bless you.*  
-The Family of Joyce Fugett Ricks

## *Acknowledgements*

*Final and Most Sacred Arrangements Entrusted To*

*Cravens Funeral Home  
700 N. Crockett  
Sherman, TX 75090  
903-893-6110  
Patrick Cravens, Owner*