



Rayfield Thomas Groce Jr.

July 6, 1922 - April 17, 2015

Rayfield Thomas Groce Jr., 92, of Goldsboro, MD passed away on Friday, April 17, 2015 at Anne Arundel Medical Center. He was born on July 6, 1922 in Caroline County to the late Rayfield T. Sr. and Mary Johnson Groce. He was affectionately known as “JR” and was the oldest surviving Groce. Rayfield received his education from the Caroline County School System. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in January 1943 serving as a surgical technician. He was honorably discharged in 1946 earning the Good Conduct medal, American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon and the WWII Victory Ribbon. On December 25, 1948 Rayfield married the love of his life Kathryn Benson. He was employed by the Federal government at the Dover Air Force Base retiring after 32 years of service. He attended the Trinity AME Church of Ridgely, where he served as an usher. Rayfield’s passion was gardening, but he also enjoyed telling stories of his childhood and other family adventures. Rayfield loved his family and was a very devoted husband, father and grandfather.

In addition to his parents he is preceded in death by his brother Irvin Groce and sister Pearl Evans. He is survived by his wife of 66 years Kathryn V. Groce, son Clark "Tony" A. Groce, Sr. (Barbara) of Camden, DE, daughter Sarena Groce Freeman(Curtis) of Goldsboro, 3 grandchildren Clark A. Groce, Jr.(Catherine), Stephanie Groce Riggins(John) and Amber Groce, 5 great grandchildren, a brother Donald Groce of New York, 7 sisters Mildred Groce of Seaford, DE, Doris Washington of Wilmington, DE, Wilsie Quails (George) of

Bridgeville, DE, Freda Harriston(Ed) of New Castle, DE, Marie Blake(Sherman) of Seaford, DE, Joan Redwood(Christopher) of Port St. Lucie, FL and Barnita Davis of Port Norris, NJ. He leaves to cherish his memories a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives, co-workers and friends. A visitation will be held on Saturday, April 25 from 11:00 AM to 12:45 PM in the Fleegle and Helfenbein Funeral Home, Greensboro. A graveside service will be held at 1:00 PM in New Union Cemetery following the visitation.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:45 PM (ET)

Fleegle and Helfenbein Funeral Home
106 W Sunset Ave
Greensboro, MD 21639
(410) 482-8914

Graveside

APR **25**. 1:00 PM (ET)

New Union Cemetery
Union Road
Goldsboro, MD 21636

Tribute Wall



“ *Rayfield Thomas Groce Jr.*

October 08, 2023 at 03:21 PM



“ *Rayfield Thomas Groce Jr.*

October 06, 2023 at 10:39 AM



“ *Cousin Kathryn,*

Cousin Jr. was a sweet and kind person. I remember the day my sister Veronica (Ronnie) and I came to see him. That day he recounted many memories about the past, our family history and his time spent as a youth with my dad (whom he reminded me of so much). We rode around the town of Goldsboro and talked about the family church and so many other things. I will always remember that day we spent at your house looking at family photos, you and he were so gracious. May he rest in peace. God bless you and the family.

*Cousin,
Marilyn Groce Hill*

Marilyn Hill - May 05, 2015 at 01:52 PM

SA

“ Daddy,

I miss you so much. I use to think that I was a very giving person, but I realize now that I am some what selfish in that I am so glad that I was your only LITTLE GIRL!! You gave so much and did so much for me that it was unbelievable. You treated us like we were your royal family. Nothing was too good for us. You were our King and Mom is our Queen. You insisted that we treat our mother as your did! You took care of us in life and still are in death. Mom will continue to be treated as if you are still here!! I love you so much and always will. No matter what is said or done, no one can ever change the bond that is so strong in our home, or they way that I feel about you. You worked so hard for us. Rest in peace. God knows you deserved it. I love you for eternity!!!

Your one and only daughter,

Sarena

Sarena - May 02, 2015 at 10:20 AM

SA

“ Dad,

I miss you so much. I use to think that I was such a giving person. It was not until you were gone that I realized that I am truly selfish, because I am SO SO glad, that I was your only little girl. You were so good to me, Tony and Mom. You treated us like we were your royal family. You are the best provider that I have ever know. You thought of us in life and death. I love you forever. I know what we had and STILL HAVE, can not be taken away by anyone. The royal family will continue on, with one less member. Tony and I will continue to treat Mom the way you insisted on her being treated. Rest in Peace. God knows you earned it.

Sarena

Sarena - May 01, 2015 at 03:26 PM

FH

“ Well big brother we have laid you to rest & boy was you wrong. You once stated that when you passed no one would remember you. The constant parade of people that came to say farewell was mind blowing. What a tribute to a great man. You big brother. They loved your song you wrote & sis Joan sang it beautiful. You were loved & admired by many. R.I.P.

Freda Hairston - April 27, 2015 at 10:59 AM

BD

“ Bruce Dean lit a candle in memory of Rayfield Thomas Groce Jr.



Bruce Dean - April 24, 2015 at 09:13 PM

DA

“ *Cousin Catherine and Family,*

May His Peace be with each of you. May the thoughts and prayers, of others, uplift your spirits and help rise you above this darkened cloud, to where there is light.

With love and respect,

Carrie Abrams

Dorphine Abrams-Rojas

Dorphine Abrams-Rojas - April 24, 2015 at 11:06 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rayfield Thomas Groce Jr..*



April 23, 2015 at 09:20 AM

CJ

“ *Carlotta Henry Johnson lit a candle in memory of Rayfield Thomas Groce Jr.*



Carlotta Henry Johnson - April 22, 2015 at 04:02 AM

CJ

Deepest sympathy for the loss of your loved. Cousin Junior lived a long and blessed life leaving good memories for all who knew him. May God bless you, guide you and comfort you during this time and always. With sympathy and love.

Carlotta Henry Johnson

Carlotta Henry Johnson - April 22, 2015 at 04:08 AM

CQ

“ Uncle Jr,

It was always a pleasure to visit you and Aunt Kathyrn, what a time of laughter hearing some of the stories that you shared, some funny and some not so funny. Nevertheless it gave me a glimpse of what you endured so that we could live free today. For that I will always be eternally grateful. So thankful you were in my life, I will miss you on this side but looking forward to seeing you again. IT'S ALRIGHT

*Love you always
Connie (your girl)*

Connie Quailes - April 21, 2015 at 09:45 PM

SB

“ *Shari Burruss lit a candle in memory of
Rayfield Thomas Groce Jr.*



Shari Burruss - April 21, 2015 at 02:09 PM

JB

“ If I had but just a penny for all the laughter, love, joy and smiles you brought into my life, I would be immensely rich!!! My heart is filled with so much happiness when I look back and reminisce on the many visits and calls I shared with you. Both you and Aunt Kathryn always made me feel special, loved and welcomed into your home and hearts – and for that, I will always be eternally grateful. Life on this side of the heaven will not be the same without you. You touched so many lives with your unique style and immeasurable sense of humor. No words can describe the emptiness I feel but I know you’re at peace. Rest in God’s sweet and beautiful paradise until our spirits reunite. Love you through eternity and beyond. Your “Little Jubees”.



*When we lose someone we love
The loss seems too great to bear
God sends us friends to comfort us
To show that He deeply cares
But in the dark hours of the night
When there’s nobody else around
When we feel the saddest and loneliest
It’s there God’s love can be found
It’s like a soothing, healing balm
To soothe our broken hearts
The healing oil poured over us
That flows into every part
We can rest secure in God’s love
And know He’s by our side
He holds us when we feel as though
A part of us has died*

Julia - Jubees - Burruss - April 21, 2015 at 12:43 PM

SI

“ *[NLT] Psalms 55:6 Oh, that I had wings like a dove; then I would fly away and rest!
Rest In Peace
All our love, Sis Doris and family*

Sis - April 20, 2015 at 07:21 PM

EH

“ *Junior thanks for welcoming me to the family.I enjoyed coming to visit & hearing all the stories & laughter from everyone.It was always a good day.R.I.P. brother in law.You will be missed.*

Ed Hairston - April 20, 2015 at 04:48 PM

FH

“ *Kathryn,Sarena,Tony,Stephanie,Amber & all the family God has taken your husband,father & grandfather. I know your hearts are heavy & the days to come are going to be hard,but knowing that he is resting in God's kingdom & watching over you bring you some comfort.He will be in your hearts always.Cherish all the time you had with him & you'll never be without him.Stay strong & blessed.Love you all.*

Freda Hairston - April 20, 2015 at 04:38 PM

FH

“ *My brother, my father figure, my best friend.God has called you home for eternal rest.I am so sad but I am rejoicing also for I know you are in a better place.I will miss our phone calls, our visits & hearing all your stories, some funny, some sad & some just plain silly.You will remain forever in my heart.The times we spent together were all special to me so I can't pinpoint a particular one.Til we meet again R.I.P.Loving you always. Sis Freda.*

Freda(Groce) Hairston - April 20, 2015 at 10:28 AM

TW

“ *Tina Watson lit a candle in memory of
Rayfield Thomas Groce Jr.*



Tina Watson - April 20, 2015 at 10:14 AM