



## Rita Jones

December 8, 1946 - October 13, 2025

Rita Jo Jones was born on December 8, 1946 to the late Roy Lee Britt and Lettie Mae Britt in Indianapolis, Indiana.

She professed her faith in Christ at an early age and remained faithful to Him throughout her life.

She attended Indianapolis Public School #64 and Emmerich Manual High School.

She enjoyed cooking, baking, and crocheting—often blessing others with the work of her hands and the warmth of her heart. Her lemon and strawberry cakes were more than beloved favorites—they were a cherished tradition at family gatherings.

She dedicated many years to her professional career before retiring. Yet even with a full life, she always made time for others. She was the one many turned to—a steady presence and trusted voice. Her care was honest and enduring; she spoke the truth, even when it wasn't what you wanted to hear, because she loved deeply and meant every word.

During her illness, she continued to comfort others, never allowing her own pain to overshadow her compassion. She sent cards, shared kind words, and

offered well wishes, always thinking of others, even as she faced her own struggles. Despite the many challenges she faced, she remained strong, kept smiling, and always found a reason to dance.

She was special to so many—family and friends alike. To know her was to love her.

Rita departed this life on Monday, October 13, 2025. She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers; two sisters, Brenda Joyce Maxie and Shirley Britt; and three grandchildren. She truly loved and deeply missed each of them.

She leaves to cherish her memory one daughter, Michelle (Jones) Grady; two sons, Melvin Jones Jr. and Lamont Franklin; one sister, Kim Britt-Pittman (Richard); 15 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, loving family, and friends.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **25**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

New Garfield Missionary Baptist Church  
2940 East Minnesota Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46203

## Service

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

New Garfield Missionary Baptist Church  
2940 East Minnesota Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46203

# Tribute Wall

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“ *My deepest sympathy to Smokey and Lamont. Ms Rita was a beautiful lady with a warm smile. May she R.I.P*



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**Andrea Johnson "AJ"** - April 28 at 11:14 AM

“ Rita Jo Jones

*I send my deepest and sincere condolences to the family of Rita Jo Jones, My niece and devoted confidant to my brother, Michael Crowdus. Rita Jo has always been there for Michael, giving him much needed advice, or just hanging out together as a devoted niece with her uncle. She was his "Iron Fist!" Michael loved Rita Jo dearly, and she will definitely be missed by him and all who experienced her sweet kindness and loyalty, as well. I personally didn't get the opportunity to know Rita Jo after we both became adults, but I do remember the many times Rita Jo and her sisters, Shirley Ann and Brenda Joyce came to their grandmother's house, my mother know as "Mom Mable" to my oldest sister, Lettie Mae Britt's kids, for dinner on many celebratory occasions, when my family lived on Lockwood Street in Indianapolis, IN. Rita Jo's brother, Ronnie would also tag along who was always a welcoming face any time he came to visit. Giggling little girls thought he was just gorgeous, smile! He looked like a handsome movie star to us who ran around with my two older sisters: Evanderlene and Gearldine Crowdus, and my brother Roger Crowdus going to music concerts, and such. It's funny how time passes bye, but remembering the good times is always, a welcoming sight that memories will stay with us for life. My mother, Mattie Mable Crowdus, known as "Mom Mable" to Rita Jo was originally from Sulphur Well, Kentucky who cold cook a meal fit for kings and queens, and believe me she threw down at every one of those dinners: corn bread, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, dressing, collard greens, fried corn, sweet potato, and homemade biscuits. However, mom's specialties was baking pies: rhubarb, apple, raspberry and blueberry pies where most of the fruits came straight out of our backyard garden fruit trees. What was so unique at those special dinner parties, especially since we didn't have air conditioning back then, mom would have me and my little sisters, Jerry and Mary Crowdus fitch large tree branches covered with leaves to fan over the food to keep the fly's away because the screen doors were not very dependable. It is said that when you break bread with others, a beautiful truce of love and appreciation is*

*formed, and that indeed happened at those glorious family dinners that Rita Jo and her family attended. I remember when Rita Jo and her two sisters came over to visit the Crowdus' household wearing those trendy black and white loafers with their bobby socks rolled down to their ankles. How jealous I was over those loafers which my sisters and I wanted desperately to have, too. Back in the day, we could never ask mom to go downtown to purchase us those shoes, if we even whispered that thought, we would get a back handed slip. All we girls could do was hope and wait. Eventually, we got those black and white loafers, but by that time Ben Casey shirts were all the style. Guess who go those shirts first, Rita Jo and her sisters. Oh well, that was the way it was during that period in time, and we didn't complain, not to mom. My respect for Rita Jo steams from the devotion she had for my dear brother Michael Crowdus that never wavered or faltered over the years, and I loved her for that. Remembering can become great memories that are never left on a shelf; reminisce and give the glory to God for this beautiful lady, Rita Jo Jones who touched so many others life as a devoted Christian, and woman of faith. May God send his angels to wrap their wings around Rita Jo's family during these dark days to reassure them that the sun will shine again some day as those precious memories, flow freely, thinking about the many times they all had to spend with her. God Bless you all!*

*Sincerely,  
Florene Crowdus-Allen  
Charlotte, North Carolina*

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**Florene Crowdus-Allen** - October 24, 2025 at 05:58 PM

IN

“ Ms. Jones will always be a friend of hope and goodness on earth and beyond. Her tenderness for all souls, conversations of all things will remain a delightful, cherished memory. As parents we bonded, as girlfriends. When we greeted she'd say, hey girl! I'd respond, hey cutie! We knew light will shine through the most bleak of times. Our last conversation was about our faith and journey here and beyond. It was not goodbye it was a moment that allowed an elders wisdom to lead a younger soul to find peace on a journey that is everlasting in change. That moment was hard but lovingly warm. Not alarming or cold, but a lot like a moment frozen in time. I pray her family and their own families much condolences, time, and prosperity through each day and every moment of thoughts. To allow any grief or healing to process and deflect any difficulty or discomfort so they can continue forward and bless each other with the joy, hope, love, care and gift Ms. Jones instilled and willed. May her memories continue that eternal peace internally for all and forever more in heaven.



*With kindness and thankfulness,*

*Indéa, Maxine, and Maxwell*

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**Indéa** - October 23, 2025 at 03:02 PM

SF

“ Rita Jo as my momma Noline would call her would be the high of my mommy's day when she called. Momma would tell us Rita jo called me today and had me rolling laughing. She always looked forward to talking with her. We all grew up together on Minnesota St. She will be missed.

*Love,  
Cousin Bootsie ( Sherron French).*

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**Sherron French** - October 21, 2025 at 11:30 AM

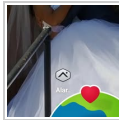
TR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

was honored to speak with you and gain your years of wisdom. I will ALWAYS love & remember you xoxo

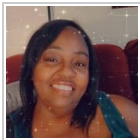


Tina Rillieux - October 17, 2025 at 01:44 AM



*Rita,  
I miss you, you've been on my mind a lot. I tried getting in touch with you and when I could not I knew something was wrong. You were always there when I needed a laugh and someone to talk to. I will always love and miss you. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.  
Love and kisses  
Natasha*

Natalia Natalia - December 24, 2025 at 09:47 PM



“ *Condolences to the family. Rita was a dear friend of mine. Rest eternally. We met in 1990 and sang in the choir together. I will always remember how you encouraged me to keep going no matter what. You will be missed.*



Octavia 'Penny' Williams - October 16, 2025 at 08:30 AM