

*I cannot say, and I will not say that she is dead. She is just away!
With a cheery smile, and a wave of the hand, she has wandered into an unknown land,
and left us dreaming how very fair it needs must be, since she lingers there
And you— oh you— who the wildest yearn, for the old-time step and the glad return
Think of her faring on, as dear— in the love of There as the love of Here;
And loyal still, as she gave the blows of her warrior-strength to her country's foes
Mild and gentle, as she was brave when the sweetest love of her life she gave
To simple things, where the violets grew blue as the eyes they were likened to
The touches of her hands have strayed as reverently as her lips have prayed
When the little brown thrush that harshly chirred was dear to her as the mocking-bird;
And she pitied as much as a man in pain— a writhing honey-bee wet with rain
Think of her still as the same, I say: She is not dead— she is just away!*

FOREVER IN OUR *Hearts* | *Rhonda Lashell Lawson Stephens* | 1965 ~ 2021

Earthly Place of Rest

EASTVIEW CEMETERY

802 Ashby Street | Americus, GA 31709

Acknowledgements

Jesus promised us they who mourned would be comforted. During our hours of bereavement, this promise has been fulfilled by you, our kind and loving “friends and neighbors”. Thank you each for coming to help us bear our grief. Your calls, visits, prayers, and kindness in acts and deeds during the passing of our loved one shall never be forgotten.

~THE FAMILY

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

Barnum Funeral Home, Inc.

217 Ashby Street, Americus, Georgia 31709

Telephone: (229) 924-2958 | Fax: (229) 924-2957

Information Line: (229) 928-2955

www.barnumfuneralhome.com

Email: barnumfuneralhome@gmail.com

Escort Courtesy:

Americus Police Department

Sumter County Sheriff's Office



Order of Service

Mrs. Rhonda Lashell Lawson Stephens

Processional.....led by Pastor Larry B. Sims, Sr.

Last Glance | Final Sealing

Hymn.....Deacon Steven Woodson

Prayer and Scripture.....Rev. Roderick Haugabook

Reflections

Class of 1984 | Darlene Gordon

As a Co-worker | Mrs. Ella Woods

Mercy Showing Ministry | Luneda Brown

As a Church Member and Friend | Deaconess Keena Clark

Family Tribute.....Latrina Patrick

Song.....Kerri Fuller-Pride
Goldie Burks

Words of Comfort.....Pastor Larry B. Sims, Sr.
Union Tabernacle Baptist Church

Acknowledgments and
Presentation of the
Heirloom Family Bible.....Barnum Staff

Recessional

Please turn all cell phones and electronic devices off
or to silent mode during the service. Thank you.

Obituary

Mrs. Rhonda Lashell Lawson Stephens

Mrs. Rhonda Lashell Lawson Stephens was born in Americus, Sumter County, Georgia on September 25, 1965, to the parents of the late Mrs. Betty Jean Ferguson Lawson and Mr. Eugene Lawson, who survives. Rhonda received her education in the public schools of Sumter County. She received a bachelor’s degree in Social Work from Albany State University, Albany, Georgia. Rhonda was employed as an Apex Case Manager with the Middle Flint Behavior Healthcare. She was a member of the Union Tabernacle Baptist Church, where she served faithfully in several capacities of the church, including the Mercy Showing Ministry and Women of Purpose Ministry. She was married to Mr. Herman Stephens.

In addition to her father, Mr. Eugene Lawson, Americus, GA, she leaves to cherish her memories: her husband, Mr. Herman Stephens, Americus, GA; three sons: Micah A, Stephens, Herman Stephens, Jr. and Sherman Stephens, all of Americus, GA; two daughters, Sherika Stephens and Brittany Stephens, both of Americus, GA; a brother, Derrick (Rasheedah) Sims of Atlanta, GA; two sisters, Christina Lawson and friend, Gerald and Briana Lawson, all of Americus, GA; eight grandchildren; her sisters-in-law, Erica Stephens, Lawanda Nelson, both of Americus, GA and Evette (Dwight) Christmas of Atlanta, GA; her aunts and uncles: Ms. Irene Holland, Bridgeton, NJ; Ms. Geraldine Ferguson, Ms. Helen Tullis, Ms. Lillie Bell Lawson, Ms. Louise Golden, Mr. Jessie (Ella Ruth) Ferguson, Mr. Roosevelt Lawson, all of Americus, GA; Ms. Carrie Brown Tampa, FL and Mr. Willie (Betty) Thomas of West Palm Beach, FL; a god-brother, Rev. Roderick (Sharon) Haugabook, Americus, GA; a host of nieces and nephews, including: Braylen, Sariyah, Laila and Jase; cousins, including devoted cousins: Jessie (Cynthia) Ferguson, Emmett (Theresa) Martin, Latrina Patrick, R. Craig Ferguson, Demeika Brown, Ronneisha Tullis, Nancy Lawson, Timothy Lawson, Corrensky Lawson, Anthony Lawson, Kiandrea Minter, Kaelyn King, Stanley Ferguson, Jamie (Rameka) Ferguson, Christopher Ferguson, Eddie Lawson and Alphonso Ferguson; friends, including devoted friends: Kerri Pride, Karen Baker, Rachel Pope, Luneda Brown, Darlene Gordon and Wendy Jackson also survive.

1965 ~ Rhonda Lashell Lawson Stephens ~ 2021