

MRS. RETHA PRINCE DOWDELL was born November 8, 1951, to the parentage of the late Mr. Albert Prince, Sr. and the late Mrs. Eula Mae Prince. She was educated in the public school system of Sumter County Schools. After receiving her high school diploma, Retha furthered her education at South Georgia Technical School and became a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Retha loved taking care of people and worked at various facilities to ensure that patients from all walks of life were treated with care. Retha spent over 40 years of her life doing what she loved before retiring. She was employed with Magnolia Manor, Sumter Regional Hospital, Middle Flint Behavior Center Detox Program, Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, and Phoebe Home Healthcare. Not only was Retha dedicated to her work of helping people in the medical field, but she also enjoyed helping people in the ministry telling them about Jehovah God and his son, Jesus Christ. She was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses in November of 1987.

She was married to John Dowdell and together they shared three children. As her health declined, she spent most of her time confined to her home with the assistance of her husband and other family members.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by four brothers: Master Ronnie Prince, Willie Lee Prince, Albert Prince, Jr., and Oscar Lee Prince, Sr.; her father-in-law, Tommie Lee Dowdell, Sr.; her mother-in-law, Susie Mae Dowdell; four brothers-in-law: Tommie Dowdell, Jr., Nathaniel Edge, Bobby Barthell, Sr., Rev. Marcelious Willis, Sr.; and two sisters-in-law, Dorothy Baines and Rhunette Barthell.

She is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 21 years, Mr. John Dowdell; **Devoted Children:** Stacey Nealy of Oklahoma City, OK; Jamaica Miles of Hampton, GA and Lavinia Dowdell of District Heights, MD; **Devoted Grandson:** Princeton Germany of Hampton, GA; **Brothers:** Mr. Johnnie Lee Prince of Belle Glade, FL; Mr. Sampson Prince of Ideal, GA; Mr. David (Mary) Prince; Mr. Ernest (Barbara Jean) Prince; and Mr. James (Barbara L.) Prince, all of Americus, GA; **Sisters:** Mrs. Betty Sue (Anno) Harris; Mrs. DeLois (Rev. Karl, Sr.) Wilson; Ms. Dorothy Jean Queenie; Mrs. Barbara Ann (John Arthur) Boone, all of Americus, GA; Ms. Anna Willis of Leslie, GA; and Ms. Mattie Mae Edge of Albany, GA; special **niece** who was like a sister, Ms. Rosetta Allen, of College Park, GA; **In-Laws:** Mr. Lee (Carol) Dowdell and Mr. Cicero (Essie) Dowdell of Fort Washington, MD; Mrs. Isabelle (Willie) Lucas of San Jose, CA; Ms. Rosa Sutton-Willis of Oklahoma City, OK; Ms. Ernestine Dowdell of San Bernardino, CA, and Mr. Vann Dowdell of San Mateo, CA; a host of other nieces, nephews, cousins, other friends, and her Christian brothers and sisters also survive.