



## Deacon Rufus Duff Jr.

April 14, 1938 - April 13, 2020

Rufus Duff Jr was born on April 14, 1938 in Round Pond, Arkansas. He was the oldest of eight children born to the late Rufus and Odell Moore Duff. His siblings were Carl Lee, Robert T., Dollie, Lennell, Lillie, Abron and Gloria.

He united in marriage to Miss Bernice Barden on March 3, 1958 and to this union eleven children were born: Carolyn, Barry, Lonnie, Jeanelle, Julius, Jackie, Donna, Martin, Angela, Rufus, and Ronnie. They made their home in Forrest City, Arkansas. Brother Rufus Duff Jr was a farmer by profession. He loved raising a garden especially, sweet potatoes and watermelons. His beloved, "Bern" passed away on December 16, 1987. Before his passing, three of his children joined their mother, Julius, Martin and Angela Faye Duff. Needing a wife and helpmeet the Lord sent to him, Mrs. Lucille Coleman and they were joined in holy matrimony on September 26, 2005. They remained faithful to their vows until the Lord God called him home.

In addition to being a dedicated husband and loving father, he was committed to the call of Christ and became a faithful member of the Salem Missionary Baptist Church in May of 1976. He was a member of the Sunday School, Deacons Ministry, and the Voices of Thunder. Each Sunday, he could be found on the first pew, Bible in hand, witnessing to the Word praising and praying to God. He was a dependable, dedicated member, who was never full of excuses or finding fault with others. He would often be found extending a

prayer, during devotion, calling on his “Heavenly, Father” and saying “mercy is my prayer.” His word was his bond. Brother Duff was a patient God-fearing man, who believed in hard work and helping others. He and his wife, Lucille, raised his grandsons, Tyler and Justin. They brought them to church every week and instilled Christian values in both of them.

Brother Rufus Duff Jr. heeded the call of the Master and transitioned from this earthly life to his heavenly reward on April 13, 2020. Brother Duff leaves to cherish his life and memories: his loving wife, Mrs. Lucille Duff; his children, Carolyn Bean, Barry Duff, Lonnie Duff, Jeanelle Duff, Jacquelyn (Ronnie) Lewis, Donna (Michael) Byrd, Rufus (Denise) Duff, and Ronnie (Marquita) Duff; his grandsons, Tyler (Shaquitta) and Justin Duff, seventeen other grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; his siblings: Dollie Hicks, Lonell Duff, Lillie Brown, Abron (Deloris) Duff and Gloria Clayton; seven step-children, a host of nephews, nieces, other relatives, friends and the Salem Church Family.

# Cemetery Details

## Forrest City Cemetery

1399 Fletcher Road  
Forrest City, AR 72335

# Previous Events

**Public Viewing - Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, to ensure safety please practice social distancing.**

APR 17. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CST )

Salem Missionary Baptist Church Life Center  
109 Haven Street  
Forrest City , AR 72335

## Outdoor Funeral Service with Social Distancing Practiced

APR 18. 11:00 AM (CST )

The Campus of Salem Missionary Baptist Church  
105 Haven Street  
Forrest City , AR 72335

# Tribute Wall

PS

“ *PHYLLIS A SUGGS lit a candle in memory of Deacon Rufus Duff Jr.* ”



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**PHYLLIS A SUGGS** - April 19, 2020 at 01:34 PM

PW

“ *Peggy Robinson Wright lit a candle in memory of Deacon Rufus Duff Jr.* ”



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**Peggy Robinson Wright** - April 18, 2020 at 09:03 AM

JJ

“ *My condolences and love to our beloved Duff family during this celebration of our very own Rufus Duff Jr. A true man of God and who was a blessing to his community and was definitely about family. God Bless and continue to love on each other.* ”

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**James Ursery Jr.** - April 18, 2020 at 08:49 AM

PC

“ *Peter Cooper lit a candle in memory of Deacon Rufus Duff Jr.* ”



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**Peter Cooper** - April 17, 2020 at 08:30 PM

PC

*Aunt Lucille, you're in my thoughts and prayers. Peter Cooper,  
Jacksonville Florida*

**Peter Cooper** - April 17, 2020 at 08:31 PM

DA

“ *Doris Alexander lit a candle in memory of  
Deacon Rufus Duff Jr.*



**Doris Alexander** - April 17, 2020 at 07:48 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for  
the family of Deacon Rufus Duff Jr..*



April 16, 2020 at 09:26 PM

IM

“ *Irene Hardrick Moore lit a candle in memory  
of Deacon Rufus Duff Jr.*



**Irene Hardrick Moore** - April 16, 2020 at 02:09 PM

ST

“ *Shirley W. Thorn lit a candle in memory of Deacon Rufus Duff Jr.*



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**Shirley W. Thorn** - April 15, 2020 at 07:24 PM

ET

“ *A truly wonderful man, his smile, he will be missed by myself and the Salem M B Church, The Tabb and Saine family.*

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**Ethel Tabb** - April 15, 2020 at 07:12 PM

LS

“ *Such a wonderful man whom I have had the pleasure of knowing since I was a little girl following behind him and my dad thinking I was a farmer also. Love You Mr. Duff and my sincerest condolences are with the Duff Family*

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**Lesley Smith** - April 15, 2020 at 01:32 PM

LM

“ *Our deepest condolences to the Duff family from the McClain, Tiswell and Smith family's*

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**Lorne McClain** - April 15, 2020 at 06:04 AM

LH

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the Duff Family. No one will feel the loss deeper than his loved ones and I pray that as God carry you through this time of sorrow you'll allow Him to guide and strengthen your steps.*

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**L. H. Hamberry** - April 14, 2020 at 09:59 PM

AW

“ Praying for the family's strength. May God surround you with peace.

Anita Wilson - April 14, 2020 at 09:42 PM

SM

“ Sorry for your loss and praying for you all, he was such a good man and I will never forget when we had our class reunion fish fry and his house! Happy Heavenly birthday Mr. Duff!



Shalanda Marlowe - April 14, 2020 at 10:02 AM

SC

“ God will strengthen the Fam & u guys will began to laugh & smile when u talk of his memories u have with him. From what I know, HE WAS A REAL MAN! RIL Mr. Rufus...



Stephanie Michelle Clark-Selph - April 14, 2020 at 12:49 AM

JP

“ Praying for the Duff family, may God comfort you all at this difficult time



joyce parchman - April 13, 2020 at 09:56 PM

PC

“ Sending condolences to the family of Rufus Duff on behalf of The Parker/Newell Family Reunion Committee, Forrest City, Arkansas. Please know that you are in our prayers.



Parker/Newell Family Reunion Committee - April 13, 2020 at 09:04 PM

DM

“ A word of comfort and of hope, that in your deepest sorrow, you will find new strength and peace of mind and courage for tomorrow.” Please know that you are in our prayers.



Sending condolences to the family of Rufus Duff on behalf of The Lincoln High School - Maroon & Gold National Alumni Association, Inc. (MGNAAI), Forrest City, Arkansas.

Delores Farr Morelon - MGNAAI - April 13, 2020 at 08:51 PM

NI

“ Deepest sympathy for a wonderful father. Prayers for the family.

Nicole - April 13, 2020 at 07:27 PM

AB

“ To the family you all have my deepest sympathy i will keep you all in prayer. Keep your heads up this is never a easy thing to do. 🙏🙏🙏



Amia Boatwright - April 13, 2020 at 06:14 PM



*Rest well unlce Duff God knows your in a better place and i know the family will miss you dealy. Tell Fay I miss her and Martin So much . Love Ya Unk.*

**Darron Mytime** - April 13, 2020 at 07:19 PM



*I always thought Mr. Duff was the best man and the strongest will man ever. Rest on Mr. Duff.*

**Monica Wiley** - April 14, 2020 at 12:48 PM