



Rena Blanche Sylvester

March 13, 1935 - May 21, 2026

Rena Blanche Sylvester, 91, of Metuchen, NJ - devoted wife, cherished mother, and unwavering woman of faith, was the daughter of the late Raymond Branch Hill and Willie Mae Briggs. She departed this life in the early morning hours of May 21, 2026, leaving behind a legacy defined by unconditional love, joyful service, and sacrificial devotion to her family. Born in Plainfield, NJ, she moved early on with her parents and sisters to Petersburg, VA where she was raised. She graduated from Peabody High School in Petersburg and shortly after, at age 18, she set out for New York City where she met and married Anthony Beresford Sylvester. The two eventually moved to New Jersey and went on to raise 6 children.

Rena's life was anchored by her deep love for the Scriptures, a passion she shared early and often with her children. She spent hours reading Bible stories to her young children, planting seeds of faith through colorful illustrations that would last a lifetime.

A defining milestone in Rena's life occurred in April 1975, when she fully embraced her Christian faith. In a beautiful moment of clarity, she recognized that no amount of personal effort or good works could ever earn her a place in heaven. She accepted the life-changing truth that salvation is a gift of pure grace, received through faith in Jesus Christ alone. This profound assurance shaped the rest of Rena's days and radiated through everything she did.

As a fiercely devoted wife and mother, Rena poured her heart and soul into her home, raising her children with boundless energy and patience. She lived out her faith in the trenches of daily life. Rena was the definition of selflessness, consistently and joyfully putting her family's needs entirely above her own. Her faithfulness and lifelong commitment as a parent shaped her children into the people they are today.

While Rena will be missed beyond measure by her children, extended family, and all who knew her, her family does not grieve without hope. They comfort themselves with the absolute certainty that she is far better off today, standing peacefully in the presence of her Savior.

Rena B. Sylvester was preceded in death by her husband, the late Anthony B. Sylvester. She leaves to cherish her memory, five sons: Raymond A. (Beverly) of Iselin, NJ; Vincent B.(Denise) of Atlanta, GA; Michael A. (Deborah) of Keansburg, NJ; David A. (Sandra) of Chesterfield, VA; Carl K. (Dulce) of Iselin, NJ; a daughter, Lisa Y. of Metuchen, NJ; a sister, Evelyn Windley of Petersburg, VA; eight grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Cemetery Details

Hillside Cemetery Metuchen

52 Lincoln Avenue
Metuchen, NJ

Previous Events

Church Viewing

JUN 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church
79 Market Street
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Church Service

JUN 12. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church
79 Market Street
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Tribute Wall

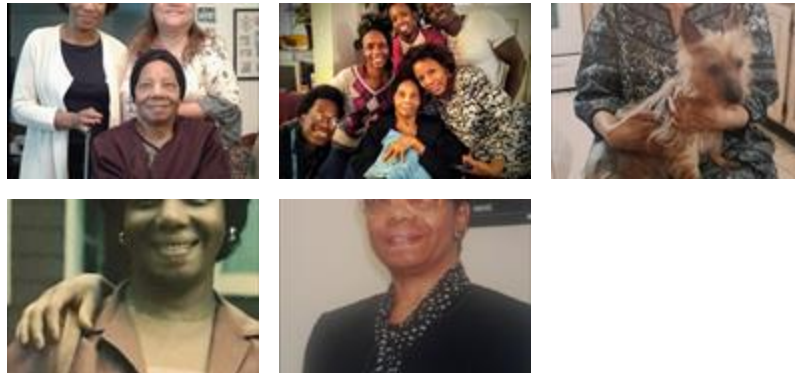
TH

“ Lisa,
Just by coincidence, walked past the gravesite today and realized it was your mom's. So had to reach out to you and family. On behalf of my family, sending our condolences on your loss. May your mom rest in peace.
There's no other, who can take the place of 'Mother.'
The Hamiltons

The Hamiltons - June 15 at 06:31 PM

AF

“ 10 files added to the album p



AFS - June 12 at 02:46 PM

LS

“ Sure do miss you mom. At the same time I know how tired you were and I am glad you've been set free to rest in the presence of Jesus. Thank you for your love and faithfulness as a mom and for valuable lessons taught to my sibs and me through the years. It was a privilege for me to be your daughter and eventually your caregiver. Thank you mom! So glad for salvation in Christ and the promise of a grand reunion one day. I love you! ❤️
- Lisa Sylvester

Lisa Sylvester - June 07 at 09:27 PM

CS

“ To such a wonderful beautiful Woman. My Mother, who I love so dearly. Thanks Mom for teaching and guiding all 6 of us. Thanks for your love, sacrifice and generosity. We look fwd to seeing you and Dad up in Glory. Sleep well for now till we see you again. Your Son, Carl Sylvester.

Carl Sylvester - June 06 at 10:12 AM

LB

Cousin Rena was such a kind and generous person. I remember seeing her at past family reunions, with her bright and gentle smile. You are now present with our Savior and are at peace. Walk around heaven and reunite with your husband. Rest well in the arms of Jesus
Cousin Linda Turner-Barnett 🙏❤️🌹

Linda Barnett - June 09 at 03:40 PM