**15197, Clint Watson, DDS**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to thank you all for coming tonight to share in this celebration for my mother Ruth Christian’s 80th birthday. My grandmother is a very special lady and I’d like to tell you a little about her.

Grandmother has been a well-traveled woman. She has lived in a variety of places over her life. She was born in Hancock County, GA, moved to Philadelphia until she was about three, and at five moved Glenwood, GA. While her grandfather, Big Daddy, left to serve in the U.S. Army she and her family moved to Crossroads, between Dublin and Soperton to live with her grandparents. Mother started school in Glenwood, Georgia. These were rough times in this racially charged culture. She had a cross burn in front the school one night, and later the schoolhouse was set ablaze with children inside. Although the school was a total loss, no one was hurt. When Big daddy returned to Georgia in 1947 the family had happier times. Her twin sisters were born and they moved to Nebo. Mom was mainly raised in Devereux, Ga until adulthood. In addition to all the places she’s lived, she’s done some travelling for fun too. She’s traveled to Montreal Canada, New York, the Bahamas, and in recent years she made an annual Caribbean trip with her daughter Ruth. Her most memorable trip was Niagara Falls with my stepfather at about age 30

Mom worked several jobs and studied several during her lifetime. She worked in a restaurant called the “Bill Carter” washing dishes and waiting tables. Her next venture was to go to cosmetology school. Floyd Griffin's wife gave her rides to and from school. When she couldn’t afford to take the cosmetology licensing exam, she landed a job at Baldwin County Hospital, and took nursing classes with her good friends Fannie Mae, Louise and Dorothy. As students they worked for free. At the end of the class sessions the hospital refused to pay the trio and they boycotted the hospital protesting the lack of pay. Then she worked at Central State Hospital where she held several positions. Her first position was in the prison system. After a prisoner escaped and had everyone cornered, Mom and her friends feared for their lives. Next she worked in the laundry room, and later she worked in the Walker III building for 21 years, where she practiced her nursing skills and attended medication school. She and her friends Laura Willis and Roger were top students in their class. Her next position was in the Boland building for 7 to 8 years. There she met Dr. Philip, a psychologist, who encouraged her to take physical therapy classes to become licensed physical therapy. Thankfully, she was grandfathered in without having to take licensing exams. She worked this position until her retirement. As you can see, despite her challenges in her early life, she did very well for herself.

She did well personally too. Mom married dad (my stepfather), a widower, in 1972. They moved to Orange Park, Fla. in the early 80’s, and remained married until his death in 2006. Mom has always had great friends. Her best friends as an adult are Doll, Dora Clements and Fannie Mae. Her two very best friends as a child are Louise and Inez Cooper. Her friends would describe her as joyful and fun and enthusiastic. I’m sure you can all see her that way today.

Mom has always been a very active lady, and never boring. Currently her interests include the Gardening Club, selling real estate, and her morning workouts at the gym. Seriously, she still works and still goes to the gym. Her favorite TV shows are Walker, Texas Ranger, Matlock, and any horror and detective type programs and recently she’s become a news buff. She studied variety of topics in her life, but never achieved the degrees or awards. She studied cosmetology, nursing, physical therapy (license), medication school (license), and general studies at Georgia military college. Can you imagine that? In today’s world with all the pressure to have a college degree and she never achieved that, but still had a wide variety of work experience and a great life.

Faith was always very important to my mom. Her favorite verse in the Bible is the 23rd palms. She has 8 children Joe, a lawyer, Clorinde, a physician, Kathy, a therapists, Me (Clinton), a Dentist, Frank, a dental assistant, Ruth, an educator (doctorate), Robert, a delivery driver, and Chanda, an educator (para pro). She has passed on a wonderful legacy to her family.

Thank you