



Edna Irene Roland

July 3, 1956 - March 5, 2024

<https://www.flipsnack.com/alcbf/edna-roland/full-view.html>

<https://vimeo.com/event/4181075>

Obituary

Edna Irene “Chunk” Roland a beloved and cherished woman, was born per midwife on July 3, 1956, in St. John Colony to Jo Irene Walker Roland and Preston Roland Jr. In May 2021, Edna was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, a rare cancerous disease that affects many African Americans. She fought a three-year battle with cancer but unfortunately, she lost this battle on March 5th, 2024.

In her early life she was raised in Dale, TX where her family resided. This large family was full of love, she was the sixth child of nine siblings. In her adolescent years she relocated with her mother and siblings to Lockhart, TX.

Edna attended Lockhart High School, where she made history as the First Black Head Cheerleader, showcasing her leadership skills and uplifting spirit. Edna was a softball player in Lockhart and Austin, TX as well as a competitor in the Miss Lockhart Junior Miss Beauty Pageant. Her involvement in the Black Seniors Association exemplified her dedication to the community and advocacy. This dedication extended to her beloved birthplace where she later worked to preserve the rich history of St. John Colony by serving on the Juneteenth Committee as Informational Historian Speaker, which showcased her vibrant spirit and commitment to her celebrating culture and heritage.

After graduating from Lockhart High School in 1976, Edna pursued further education at Nixon Clay Business College in Austin, TX laying the foundation for a successful career. Upon finishing, she moved to Austin where she dedicated herself to being a Case Review Specialist at Disability Determination Services (DDS) formally known as Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) for 36 years, demonstrating her dedication and professionalism in her work. She held herself at a high standard with class, pride, and dignity. Even after retiring, her passion for her profession led her to return as a Call Center Claimant for an additional four years, officially concluding her profession at DARS/DDS at 40 years. She loved helping people and the people she worked with, her coworkers were like her second family. She left an incredible mark on all who had the privilege of working with her.

Edna's faith in Christ was the source of all her strength throughout her journey on this Earth and that was evident based on how she constantly served the Lord. She attended Nineteenth Street Baptist Church under the leadership of

her cousin, Rev. Walker Sr. when she first moved to Austin. She later joined Agape and her longstanding membership at Agape Christian Ministries. Her commitment to her beliefs extended to her role as a member of Heroines of Jericho: Venus Armbrister Court #17, where she served diligently as Outer Gatekeeper until her passing. She will be dearly missed but fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Edna always valued family and friends over everything. She was very generous to anyone in need no matter what. She loved to cook, bake, and protect her household. In her twenties she gave birth to her first daughter Anisha Caldwell. She was a proud single mother who worked hard and went out of her way to provide for her child. While working and providing for her firstborn she met and later married McKinley Cyphers. Not so long after she had Twin Daughters, Darielle and Raquelle Cyphers. She was a devoted mother. To know her is to know that her girls were her world. Edna showed her love unconditionally, not just to her girls, but to her entire extended family and friends. She enjoyed showing her love through baking, touching the hearts and kitchens of many. She made many baked treats but her prized possession was her world-famous buttermilk pie and peace cobbler which was a favorite for anyone who had the opportunity to try.

Edna Irene Roland was a beacon of light in the lives of those fortunate enough to know her. With a smile that could light up a room and a heart overflowing with love, she touched countless hearts and left an enduring legacy of kindness, faith, and compassion. Edna would always find a way to be involved with her children's activities from fundraising, serving on the

Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and serving as the Historical Tour Guide on the St. John Colony Committee. She knew how to turn lemons into lemonade. She was full of life and loved to travel with her daughters. Whether it was for her daughter's theater trips, or league volleyball trips. She raised money to support her daughters on the following trips, including New York, Carnival Cruise, to Cozumel, Progreso, MX, Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL, Indianapolis, and many more. Even though she was an extraordinary baker and cook, her talents didn't stop there. Whether it was the performing arts or sports, Edna was very supportive and found ways to make things happen. She was also a big sports fan. Edna was known for her cheerleading spirit. She was a fan of many sports whether it was volleyball, basketball, track, cheer, and football. She would support her daughters and family at their games. Her favorite football teams were University of Texas, Dallas Cowboys, and of course her alma mater Lockhart High School. She was a proud Lockhart Lion.

Edna was preceded in death by her parents, and her brothers, Wallace Ray Swan and Kennedy Clay Roland.

Edna leaves behind to cherish her memories: Her husband, McKinley Cyphers, daughters: Anisha Caldwell, Darielle and Raquelle Cyphers, bonus children: Marticia Lee, Steven Crenshaw (Leigh), and Christopher Cyphers; her very beloved grand-dog Layla of Austin; three brothers: Harold Dean Roland, Clay Douglas Roland and James Polk Roland, all of Dale; three sisters: Margie Thompson, of San Antonio, Margaret Delores Pansy (Wallace), and Yvette Ganice Manning (Carey), of Lockhart as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and beloved friends. May she rest in eternal

peace, her spirit forever guiding and inspiring those she loved.

Cemetery Details

St John Colony Cemetery

Dale, TX

Previous Events

Public Visitation

MAR 22. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

St. James Baptist Church
3417 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Austin, TX 78721

Celebration Service

MAR 23. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. James Baptist Church
3417 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Austin, TX 78721

Tribute Wall

LD

“ *Lucy DeShay lit a candle in memory of Edna Irene Roland*



Lucy deShay - March 23, 2024 at 12:46 PM

MT

“ *Saddened by this loss. Prayers for the family and friends of Edna Roland. My deepest sympathy and condolences to all of you. Light this candle for all the light , joy and love you bought to the world . One sweet and beautiful person . We will miss you . RIH now. Lewis and Tillie Thompson Family .*



Matilda "Tillie" Lewis Thompson - March 22, 2024 at 07:06 PM

CW

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the family. RiP Edna Clemon & Sharon wilson*



Clemon & Sharon Wilson - March 22, 2024 at 06:33 PM

FR

“ *FrediaButler lit a candle in memory of Edna Irene Roland*



FrediaButler - March 22, 2024 at 05:47 PM

RC

“ *Rita Campbell lit a candle in memory of Edna Irene Roland*



Rita Campbell - March 22, 2024 at 05:39 AM

JD

“ *You and the discussion about your girls brought joy to my life. You reminded me of my Mom in the way you handled things. You both suffered. However you knew how to cope through the pain---with dignity. I hope that when you arrive in Heaven, you remember me and how I was there to send you off. You were a strong person. May you rest in the Peace you so deserve.
Love in Christ. I will remember you forever
Love in Christ and may you rest in the Peace you deserve
Julia Dobbins*

Julia Dobbins - March 21, 2024 at 11:54 PM

LR

“ *Chunk, you fought a good fight! You loved your family so much and I know you will be missed. I'll miss you too 😞! R.I.H. my sweet cousin 🙏!*

Laura Roland - March 21, 2024 at 03:43 PM

LF

“ *Laura Roland & Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Edna Irene Roland.*



Laura Roland & Family - March 21, 2024 at 03:39 PM

EW

“ *I extend my deepest sympathy & condolences to her families. She was sweet & kind person to me every time we came in contact with each other which was @ the HEB on Riverside Dr. No more pain & suffering down here, she got her wings & is now walking around Heaven all day.*



Your cousin Evelyn Mickey Hill Williams & families.

Evelyn Williams - March 20, 2024 at 05:47 PM

YG

“ *Your cousin Mary Robinson Gant purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Edna Irene Roland.*



Your cousin Mary Robinson Gant - March 19, 2024 at 03:12 PM

YG

“ *Your cousin Mary Robinson Gant planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edna Irene Roland.*

Your cousin Mary Robinson Gant - March 19, 2024 at 03:12 PM

LE

“ *Lex lit a candle in memory of Edna Irene Roland*



Lex - March 19, 2024 at 08:05 AM

NG

“ *Nelia Kerr Greene lit a candle in memory of Edna Irene Roland*



Nelia Kerr Greene - March 18, 2024 at 05:55 PM