

CELEBRATING HER LIFE \* HER LEGACY  
HER STORY

*Lois Arletta McCants*  
**MARTIN**



*Earthly Breath*  
Sunday, 1 August 1948

*Eternal Life*  
Wednesday, 4 January 2023

**Wednesday, 18 January 2023**

**11:00 O'clock am**

**Holmes Street Missionary Baptist Church**

**316 Holmes Street**

**Prichard, AL 36610**

**Pastor Keithraum D. Leatherwood Sr. – Officiating**



# Tribute

*"We are sad today and we will be sad for quite a while. We are not moving on; we are embracing our mourning. We are strong enough to stand tall tearlessly; We are brave enough to bend to cry. And sad enough to know we must laugh again."*

*Nikki Giovanni*



## 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

*Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*





# Order of Celebration



Wednesday, 18 January 2023  
11:00 AM



Minister Robert Paige  
Presiding

Processional / Minister and Family.....“How Excellent”

Musical Selection ..... “I Love to Praise Him”

## *Holy Scripture Readings:*

Old Testament ..... Reverend Amos Powell, Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church #2

New Testament ..... Reverend Sandy McQueen, Truevine Missionary Baptist Church

Prayer of Comfort ..... Reverend Carl Martin

Solo .....Sis. Betty Jones  
“You Are My Strength”

## *Expressions Three (3) minute limit, please*

As A Church Member ..... Deacon David Adams

Word of Comfort ..... Bishop Patrick Munnerlyn

Neighbor ..... Leon Turner, Samuel Chapel AME Church

Friend ..... Audrey A. Ezell, Truelight Missionary Baptist Church

Our Mom ..... Kesia, Robert II, and Corey

Praise Dance .....“Goodness of God” by Cece Winans .... Zoey Archible,  
New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

Condolences/Resolutions/Acknowledgements.....Sis. Phyllis Harris

Hymn ..... Amazing Grace

Eulogy..... Reverend Keithrum Leatherwood, Sr. - Pastor

Recessional ..... Ministers & Family

“Oh, Happy Day”  
“God Has Spoken, Let the Church Say Amen”







# *Her Life ~ Her Legacy ~ Her Story*

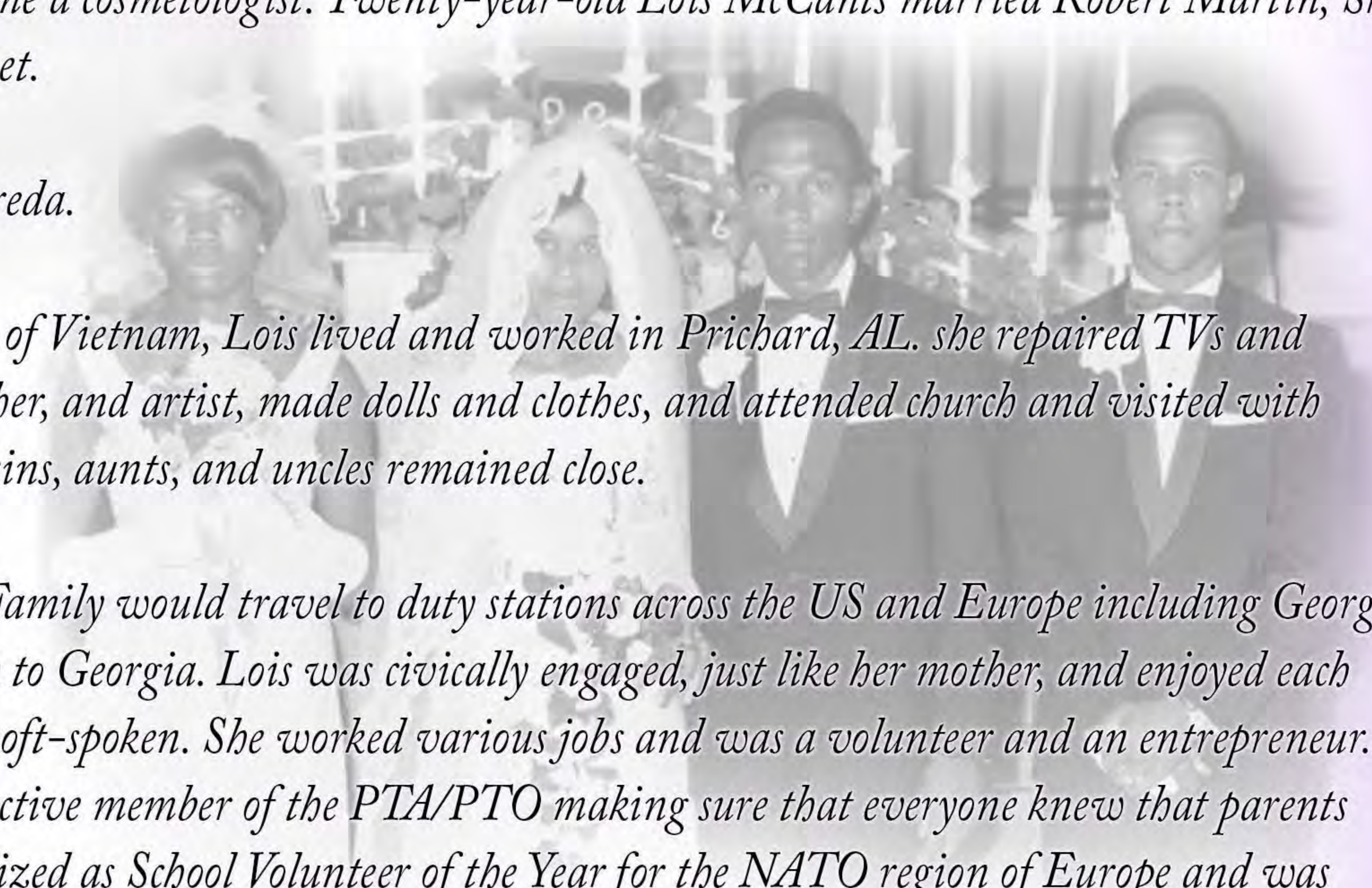


*On Sunday, August 1, 1948, Elfreda walked from N. Cedar Street to City Hospital in Mobile, Alabama to give birth to her baby girl, Lois Arletta.*

*Elfreda's daughter would live with Mama & Papa, siblings, cousins, aunts, and uncles in Coy, AL. They called Lois, "Duck." Lois attended primer school and went to Pineflat Missionary Baptist Church. Many tell the story of when they climbed the tree and "Duck" fell, how her sister, Jack, carried her across the water, and how Preacher (Adam Odom) drove. Lois told her children the story about "Mama" wrapping her in huge leaves and praying over her. Her world changed in 1960 when a train collided with a school bus taking the lives of her sister, Jack, and 5 other children. She returned to Prichard, AL with her mother and youngest sister, Meryl.*

*Lois attended Ella Grant Elementary School and her beloved Blount High School. She joined and was baptized at Holmes Street Missionary Baptist Church where Mr. Willie Harris would be her Deacon and Reverend Hatcher her pastor. Lois attended Carver Training School to become a cosmetologist. Twenty-year-old Lois McCants married Robert Martin, Sr. Thursday, June 19, 1969, at Holmes Street.*

*That fall she would lose her Ma'dear, Elfreda.*



*While her husband was on the war front of Vietnam, Lois lived and worked in Prichard, AL. she repaired TVs and electronics, she did hair, was a photographer, and artist, made dolls and clothes, and attended church and visited with family. Lois and her sisters, brothers, cousins, aunts, and uncles remained close.*

*Over the next few decades, The Martin Family would travel to duty stations across the US and Europe including Georgia, Colorado, California, Germany, and back to Georgia. Lois was civically engaged, just like her mother, and enjoyed each new city and country. Always calm and soft-spoken. She worked various jobs and was a volunteer and an entrepreneur. Lois was a Boy Scouts Den Leader and active member of the PTA/PTO making sure that everyone knew that parents were indeed teachers, too. She was recognized as School Volunteer of the Year for the NATO region of Europe and was featured in the Stars & Stripes Newspaper in the late 1980s. Lois made friends everywhere she went while supporting her growing family. She explored castles in Germany, visited museums in Paris, and even got stung by a bee while buying crystal in Yugoslavia.*

*While in Georgia, Lois worked in a local nursing home and at Hancock Fabrics. She studied photography and medical assisting at Clayton State University. Lois would visit family as often as she could and travel, work, and volunteer. She played tennis with her children and grandnieces, Heather and Chasmin. Lois had a remarkable ability to love unconditionally. She was very caring, encouraging, and supportive of so many. She would celebrate the milestones and accomplishments of those around her. She organized and coordinated events and participated in walks and fundraisers.*



*Lois told the story of her mother, Elfreda L. McCants Jenkins, and her father, Horace Wyckoff; her grandparents: John Wesley (Papa) & Susie (Mama) McCants; her ex-husband Robert Martin, Sr; her sisters: Jacqueline "Jack" McCants, Susie Kennedy, Mary McQueen (OH); her nieces: Julia Gardner and Sonja Johnson; her grandnephews: Alvin Davis, Jr. (NV), Keoni Johnson (AL), and Kansas Bright (GA); her aunts and uncles; her cousins: Jean Knowles, Clarence McCants, Wilbert McCants; Close Friends: Mary Patterson (CO), Lelia Southall and Rose Wiggins of AL.*

*After surviving an aortic dissection in 2018, the following 4 years, 3 months, and 27 days were a blessing. Our Mom, Lois was strong enough to return to attend her beloved Holmes Street, celebrations, and reunions. She was able to meet more family and host a few more Christmas Dinners. She was able to successfully coordinate the pandemic-rescheduled 2020 McCants Packer Bell Family Reunion in 2022 at the Gulf Quest Museum of Mobile. She made a heroic journey 118 days following her September 8, 2022, AVR/MVR surgery. Mom was recovering, walking the hallways, ready to go home. She told her sons about everything that would happen to her. We knew the source of her courage and strength. God made a way for her family to be with her and for her son, Robert II, and her sister, Meryl, to be by her side as she exchanged her Earthly life for her Eternal life on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 11:46 am.*



*Lois leaves to tell her story: her three devoted children: Kesia T. Martin, Robert J. Martin II, and Shane Corey Martin; her devoted siblings: Doris Robinson (IN), Robert (Beatrice) Wyckoff (AL), Alexander McCants (IN), Joel Jenkins (IL), and Meryl Jenkins (IN); her devoted nieces & nephews & their families: Anthony (Felesia), Lebaron, Jacqueline, W. Edward (Rosalyn), Henry (Martha), Mae (James), John (Nicole), Carolyn (Hugh), Michael, Shanta (Greg), Jonnie (Tim), Marlana, Toya, Terry (Jequinya), Sherry, Alleceia; her uncle in law: Rev. Amos Powell, her God Children & their families: Waddell Wiggins (AL), Stephanie (Reginale) Gray (CO); her cousins: Paul (Augustine) and Brenda, Theresa and Gayle, Diane, Kim, Shirley, Maxine, Terry, William, Douglas, Mary Ruth, Johnny Dean, Rodney, Larry, Ernestine, Roscoe, Phillip, Mylek, Helen, Otha, Elaine, Fredrick, Johnny, Bessie, Ephraim, Teresa, Valerie, Clifford, Gloria, August, Joyce, Carolyn, Heather, Kimba (Dametrius), Otha (Vanessa), Woodrow, Jr. (Andretta), Roy (Jeannette), Wanda (Bryan), Natasha (Elywn), Angela (Mike), Victor (Pat), Karen (Kevin), Bertrand, Theadoria, Raymond, Lorenzo, Caroline, Amy, Tempe, Dorothy, Linda, Josephine, Burnette, Glenda Kay, Catherine, Mary Francis, Arthur, Jacqueline, Richard, Samuel; her "bonus" family: Rev. Carl (Joyce) Martin, Andrea (Melba) Martin, Garrie (Yvette) Martin, Carl (Carolyn) Kennedy, Clementine Freeman (AL), Mary Ellis (NY), and Inez Jenkins of (D.C.); her close friends: Audra Ezell, Mary Brown Williams (AL); her Holmes Street Missionary Baptist Church family; YOU.*





### *Pallbearers*

*Robert J. Martin II ~ Shane Corey Martin*  
*Nephews & Cousins*

### *Flower Attendants*

*Nieces & Cousins*

### *Repast*

*Holmes Street Missionary Baptist Church*  
*316 Holmes Street*  
*Prichard, AL 36610*

### *Her Earthly Resting Place*

*Cemetery at Pine Flat Missionary Baptist Church*  
*25592 HWY 41 N*  
*Hybart, AL 36481*



### *Words of Gratitude*

*We extend our profound thanks to all. Your hugs, phone calls, texts, cards, flowers, and most of all your prayers will sustain us. We sincerely thank you.*

*Thank you, Kerry Bell, Alton Bell and Teresa Miller;  
Teachers & Staff, of Booker T. Washington Middle School.*

*Thank you, Select Specialty Hospital Pensacola, FL.  
We beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon you always.*

*We rejoice that Lois Arletta McCants Martin is  
with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

### *The Family of Lois Martin*

*Professional Services Entrusted to*  
*Legacy Funeral Home*  
*953 S. Broad Street*  
*Mobile, AL 36603*

